

June, 2021
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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Move in Our Midst

An Invitation to Participate

By Glenn Timmons

I grew up in the Cedar Grove church. For a small rural church, we were fortunate to have three women who weekly led the congregational singing. Alice Moore-organist; Miriam Moore- pianist; and my mother-Treva Timmons- chorister. I never learned to read music but I was blessed with a good “ear,” which means I learned by rote to sing harmonies along with a congregation that robustly and unashamedly sang its faith in worship. One hymn that was a part of my formation was “Move In Our Midst,” with words by Kenneth Morse and music by Perry Huffaker. I remember driving to West Milton as a teenager, and Perry Huffaker directing a district chorus that filled the sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon with music, capped with the singing of “Move In Our Midst.” It is the hymn that has become an “anthem” for the Church of the Brethren. “Move in our Midst” is the theme of our 2021 District Conference.

It was first said by Peter to the early followers of Jesus on the Day of Pentecost. “In the days to come, I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophecy, your young people will see visions and your elders will dream dreams.” (The Inclusive New Testament)

While the images and narratives of the 24 hour news cycle the last fourteen months have been painful, in the days to come, I believe we are being/have been prepared with God’s help to see visions as windows of our future; of dreams that will pull us forward; with goals as the vehicle that can get us there. This year’s District Conference theme does just that. It invited the Spirit of God to: “Move In Our Midst.”

The Spirit is already moving, a new day is being born when:

- ◆ A congregation pauses to pray, to discern what God is up to in their congregation, then charts a course in following God into a new venture.
- ◆ Our District has two/three Commissions that use the gifts and interest of volunteers, developing community while engaging in meeting human need of our neighbors. (Climate and Racial Justice)
- ◆ A congregation has the courage to ask for help, or when we can get beyond our isolation of “singing solo” and build bridges that help us to “sing in harmony.”

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District has a chorus of sisters and brothers who are taking the lead to inform, resource and come along side those who are ready to address the “fetters that bind,” to lift the “weight of its wrong,” and with the Spirit of God to “love with heart, soul and mind” once again. It is your support -- relationally, financially, spiritually that make this possible. It makes this real, Thank you.

Move In Our Midst is a song we sing, a song we want to live by. In preparation of our October District Conference, we encourage you to join the chorus by prayerfully finishing the following phrases in your own words:

“ A new day is born when...”

“ In the days to come, I will...”

Send your responses to the district email at sodcob@brethren.org. We will see that they find their way to the delegate body.



Please consider making a pledge, or a donation in one of the following ways.

1. Go to the district website at www.sodcob.org and click on the “Ambassadors for Christ” link to make a commitment for a future donation.
2. Donate now by check. Please mark Ambassador's Club on the memo line. Send your check via mail to:
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren,
P O Box 785
Greenville, Ohio 45331
3. Contribute monthly by going to the district website at www.sodcob.org and click on the donate now tab. This will walk you through the process of making a monthly deposit using your credit card.
4. You also can make a one time donation using your credit card in the same manner.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Dayton BDM Site – Volunteers at the Dayton site are repairing a tornado damaged home on Greenbrook Drive in Trotwood. This home has seen major progress in the past month, after work was halted when the contractor disappeared. The family of six is so looking forward to being able to return home after two years of living apart. Through “The Tornado Survivors Pathways to Home Ownership Program”, two houses are being rebuilt. The first is on Marlin Avenue and the other on Natchez Avenue, both in Trotwood.

Volunteer in Dayton – Volunteers are needed at the Dayton BDM site for two days, Thursday and Friday, July 1-2. There are also openings throughout the summer when groups don't have a full crew. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome! Leadership and tools will be provided. Lodging and meals are provided at the housing site on S. Smithville Road, Dayton. If volunteers prefer, they may spend nights at home and join the crew each morning. Volunteers need to be at least fifteen years old, unless they go with a parent or legal guardian, and then they may be fourteen. To volunteer or for more information, call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

S. Ohio/KY BDM has volunteer opportunities throughout the year. A flyer with all the 2021 trip dates can be found on the district website.

Sewing Bee – There will be work for both sewers and non-sewers at the June 26 Sewing Bee. It will be held at 9:00 AM at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Sewers will be making school bags for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine and an extension cord. Non-sewers will be preparing school kit items for the assembly this summer. Bring a sack lunch and come for a time of service and fellowship. For more information call Barb Brower at 937-336-2442. A flyer showing all the 2021 Sewing Bee dates and locations can be found on the district website or inquire at your church office.

Ice Cream Social – Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 7, 4:00 – 7:00 PM at Happy Corner COB. Come for supper, pie, and ice cream. There will be Share-A-Meal tickets for sale and an opportunity for turning in coin jars. All proceeds benefit the work of BDM.

Golf Scramble – On Saturday, August 14 the annual Golf Scramble will be held at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville. An informational brochure with a registration form and hole sponsorship information can be found on the district website or inquire at your church office. This event is sponsored by the S. Ohio/KY District Camping and Retreat Ministries and BDM. Send all registration and sponsorship forms and money to Kevin Dull 554 Westbrook Rd., Brookville, OH 45309. For more information contact Kevin at (937-604-3285), montpres57@gmail.com.



Bethany Seminary seeking Coordinator of Computing Services

Bethany Seminary is hiring a new Coordinator of Seminary Computing services (along the lines of an IT director) on campus. The Coordinator of Seminary Computer Services is responsible for planning, leadership, and management of the use of IT services at Bethany Theological Seminary, including the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and Earlham School of Religion in support of the schools' missions. Areas of responsibility include support for technology in classrooms, network infrastructure, hardware, software, and related services. Click here for a full position description and details including how to apply. Bethany Seminary seeking Coordinator of Computing Services

Pleasant Hill 50th Anniversary Celebration Date Change

The Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren is changing the date of its 50th Anniversary Celebration. It was originally planned for June 6 but because of ongoing concerns about meeting in person and a few other things, we have decided to move it to August 29. August 29, 1971 was the actual date of the initial dedication of the new building so it will be 50 years to the day when we celebrate the 50th anniversary.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer.

- ◆ Shootings and other violence continue in many parts of our country. May we offer our prayers in support of those communities directly affected by these acts of violence and to an end of such violence.
- ◆ We rejoice with Trent and Carrie Smith on the birth of Rafferty Rue Smith (8 lbs. 12 oz., 20 1/2 inches long) on April 22. However, Carrie has experienced some gall bladder issues and is in consultation with doctors on next steps in treatment.
- ◆ As the situation with the coronavirus continues, may we remember those affected by this outbreak. There are many changing directives, regulations and recommendations affecting our country and way of life, may we remember all those adjusting to this changing world.
- ◆ May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition - the **Constance** congregation has decided to formally close their operation as a congregation, this decision was recognized at the District Board meeting. May we offer prayer support to the members of this congregation. Andrew Wright is serving as interim at **Oakland**. Fred Bernhard is serving as interim pastor at **Brookville** during this time of transition; their profile has been posted. **White Cottage** has entered an agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment. **Donnels Creek** has been using pulpit supply and is continuing in a search process. Tara Hornbacker is serving as interim at **New Carlisle**. Tim and Katie Heishman have announced their resignation as pastors of the **Prince of Peace** congregation for later this summer; Dave is in contact with Prince of Peace leadership on next steps during this transition.

There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact Dave if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.