



### **District Board Retreat Wrap-up**

The District Board of Southern Ohio met for their annual retreat on November 8 & 9th at the Brethren Retirement Center in Greenville, OH. Dr. Andrew Wright, pastor at the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren, provided leadership training. Following the training the board re-organized for the upcoming year of ministry. Pastor Larry Tyner of the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, will continue leading us as our Board Chair. Judy Boles of the Donnels Creek Church will serve as Vice-Chair. The board also called Art Fourman to complete Steve Conklin's unexpired term. One other unexpired term is yet to be filled.

The Board also spent time discerning how to best honor the decisions of our District Conference as we move forward with Outdoor Ministries and the facilities at Camp Woodland Altars. The camp will require costly repairs and updates in order to meet state recommended life health and safety standards. Our Outdoor Ministries operating budget has experienced a \$24,000.00 drop in income due to the premature ending of the lease. These two realities present us with a difficult stewardship decision. After much prayer and discussion the board made the following decisions:

- A new commission was created-- Camping and Retreat Commission. Members of The Outdoor Ministries Transition Team will be invited to be a part of this new commission. Their purpose will be to develop the camping and retreat ministry in Southern Ohio and to manage the property of Woodland Altars.
- \$100,000.00 of our reserves will be released to the Camping and Retreat Commission to make needed repairs and updates to meet state requirements for life and health safety in time for the 2014 summer camping season.
- All loans to Outdoor Ministries have been removed from the books.

### **Camping and Retreat Commission Requesting Assistance**

The newly formed Camping and Retreat Commission of the Southern Ohio District Board has begun some exciting work. Camps, retreats and events for all ages are being planned using Woodland Altars as well as some churches to accommodate a variety of needs. Upgrading the facilities at Woodland Altars is underway with the acceptance of a bid for the new heating boilers in Heritage Lodge. The chalets are being rented and generate funds to help with the costs of running the camp. Many new ideas are being explored to create a full year of experiences for the people of Southern Ohio District.

Our goal is to make the needed repairs and upgrades at Woodland Altars to meet the health and safety standards set by the State of Ohio. We will be unable to open camp unless these important requirements are met.

In an effort to more clearly define the needs and wishes of the members of Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren, a simple survey has been created. This survey will aid the commission by providing important information

→

from each individual church in the district. The gathered data will provide a composite picture of support from the district churches. From this data the commission can take steps in its work to match the directions to the desires of the churches when planning events, camps, and retreats. You can take this survey online at [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org).

### **Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Cleanup Buckets** - Donations and workers needed. We assembled 200 buckets on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2013. We continue to collect money for buckets in preparation for future natural disasters. You can donate online (requires credit card) or mail a check to the Southern Ohio District at 2293 Gauby Rd., New Madison, OH 45346. Mark "Clean Up Buckets" on the memo line.

### **2014 Annual conference**

The 2014 Annual Conference will be held in Columbus, OH July 2-6, 2014 with the Southern Ohio District being the host district. We are excited to have this opportunity to provide hospitality to our denomination including our brothers and sisters in other countries such as Africa, Spain, and the Dominican Republic. Many volunteers will be needed for a variety of ministry positions from unloading/loading, to ushering, to helping out with youth and children's events, to registration. If you would like to offer your service to the denomination in any way, you can volunteer at our website, or contact the District office.

### **National Youth Conference 2014-- Called by Christ**

2014 will be a GREAT year for the youth of our district to have the opportunity to experience Annual Conference in Columbus in early July and then NYC in Colorado later that same month. Registration for NYC opens January 3, 2014. The District Youth Cabinet would like to invite you to attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We will discuss transportation, registration and more. The meeting will be held at Prince of Peace COB at 800 E. David Road, Kettering, OH 45429. Please RSVP to Rene Gindelberger via email [renegindel@hotmail.com](mailto:renegindel@hotmail.com) or by phone at 937-620-7893. If you RSVP via email, please include the notation NYC 2014 in the subject line. You are more than welcome to bring youth, parents, advisors who have questions about NYC. We will do our best to get answers and try to find the most economical way to travel to Colorado. If you are unable to make the meeting, please let Rene know if you have youth going and/or if you need us to include you in potential travel discussions. Also - if you have a small youth group and do NOT have an advisor to go with your youth, please know that the DYC will help find a spot with another youth group so that all who are "called by Christ" can go.

*For more information on what is happening in Southern Ohio as well as more details on these events contact your church office, the Southern Ohio District ([sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org)) or you can always visit our website: [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org). In addition to this publication, we also email a monthly newsletter. To request a newsletter simply email your request to the same email address. If you would like to add your event to either the website, this publication, or the monthly newsletter please email your information to [sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) before the 15th of the month.*