



**Southern Ohio District
Church of the Brethren**
Working Together . . . Empowering Disciples

January 2014

You are amazing!!!!

- Nine new folks have begun their journey as licensed ministers.
- We rejoiced with three new ordained ministers.
- Three of our congregations have entered Education for Shared Ministry.
- A second "Shoes of the Fisherman" event was held, resulting in two folks making the decision to pursue set apart ministry.
- Our "Empowering Disciples" workshops focused on finance.
- A Pentecost service celebrated diversity.
- More than half of our congregations attended our initial kick-off event for Vital Ministry Journey.
- A new project was recognized at 10 Wilmington Place.
- Over 70 folks attended an Intercultural Training event preceding our District Conference.
- A special District Conference to look at re-vitalization of our Outdoor Ministries and the facility at Woodland Altars.

You are appreciated! All of the District Ministries mentioned above were completely funded, and primarily planned and facilitated through the donations of time and financial resources of congregations and individuals like you.

Your gifts also inspire our hopes and dreams for the future.

- ◇ For instance, imagine what it would mean to our district and our congregations if we could offer seminary scholarships for our newly licensed ministers.
- ◇ Imagine if we could offer financial assistance for our bi-vocational pastors so that they can participate in quality continuing educational events which would in turn help them as they lead their respective congregations.
- ◇ Dream with us as we think about the possibilities if we could offer financial assistance to new church starts.
- ◇ What if we could offer grants to congregations who are interested in revitalizing their ministry to their community.
- ◇ Just imagine a thriving Camping and Retreat Ministry where new leadership is being called, and long time Christians are refreshed to return to their ministry locations.
- ◇ The good work done through your support and partnership with Southern Ohio District ministries changes lives throughout Southern Ohio and Kentucky, and the possibilities for growth are endless. Our church is blessed, and our God is good.
- ◇ If you are excited about the possibilities for ministry in Southern Ohio, and if you'd like to see them expand, why not make a gift today?



- ◇ And thank you! It's truly a blessing to serve in ministry alongside sisters and brothers like you.
- ◇ From all of the Southern Ohio Staff, the District Board, and the Commissions and Committees of the Board, have a very Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

To make a year-end, tax-deductible donation to Southern Ohio District ministries you can mail a check to 2293 Gauby Rd., New Madison, OH 45346. Checks must be dated before December 31, 2013. You can also donate online using a credit card at our website (www.sodcob.org)

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. If you have youth going and/or if you need us to include you in potential travel discussions please contact Rene Gindelberger by phone at 937-293-9496

Or via email at renegindel@hotmail.com. 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.

Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates

This Christmas season we are often focused on giving gifts. Have you considered giving a gift of your time? Through Brethren Disaster Ministries, a week of your time can spread Jesus' love and help survivors of Super Storm Sandy. A year after the storm, there are still many who need a helping hand in repairing their home. You can join a crew of S. Ohio volunteers that will be working Jan. 12-18 or Feb. 2-8. For more information contact Burt and Helen Wolf at 937-287-5902.

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.

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) or you can always visit our website: 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 before the 15th of the month.