

## **Summer Camp Registration is now open**

Having just experienced the third snowiest winter on record leaves us all longing for signs of spring and warmer weather. Southern Ohio District's Camping and Retreat Commission is excited to announce that registration for summer camp is now open. Visit our website for more information, including our theme, complete descriptions of available camps, a schedule and registration forms. We are thrilled that we have been able to reduce our fees for week long camps and hope more children will be able to take advantage of this unique experience.

Many of our camps will be held at the Cricket Holler Boy Scout Camp, 6675 Brantford Rd., Dayton, OH. Since we have not held camp at this location in the past, you are invited to an open house on May 4 from 2-4 PM. Please take this opportunity to visit the facility and familiarize yourself with all that this venue has to offer.

Volunteers for counselors, cooks, and more will be needed for our camp season to be successful. A volunteer form is available on the website. Please consider spending one week this summer helping Southern Ohio provide our children rich opportunities for discovery, learning, fun, adventure, spiritual growth, friendship and prayer.

## **Woodland Altars Chalet News and Updates**

Mother Nature has challenged all of us this winter. The same weather patterns hit Woodland Altars just like the entire Miami Valley. During the coldest days at the camp, many pipes in the chalets were frozen and burst. Winterizing them had not happened because people were using them into January.

The burst pipes caused damage in Chalets 1, 3, and 5. Chalet 1 received the greatest damage, because the whole first floor was flooded. When professional restoration team members were about to remove the saturated insulation in the crawl space, a bat infestation in hibernation was discovered. The bats presence prevented any work in the area to be continued until they leave naturally.

Luckily, Woodland Altars has good insurance. Much of the damage was covered by our policy. However, not all the replacement and work needed to be done was insured. An example would be the kitchen cabinets in Chalet 1. While the ruined, lower cabinets would be replaced by the insurance, the top, hanging cabinets above were not damaged. The countertop and sink also came through unharmed. Yet if we only replace the lower kitchen cabinets, the appearance of the chalet would be drastically compromised.

The CRC has made some decisions about the renovations to be made in the chalets where pipes were burst. Not using the money from the insurance company would be foolish. Since the insurance would only cover about half of the costs, the CRC felt going ahead with the renovations was going to be beneficial to the camp and all who come for a stay in the chalets. The extra renovation costs would come from the district and donations people send.

The following is a short list of the most important renovations taking place. The three first floor bathrooms will receive new flooring, low flow toilets, vanities, sinks, and faucets and a new coat of paint. Chalets 1 and 5 will have new flooring in the kitchens and main living areas. The three chalets will also have their entrances updated. Chalet 1 kitchen cabinets will all be replaced with a new countertop. The sink and faucet are still good enough to be placed back into the new counter. Some other minor repairs to ceilings and walls would also be completed.

The CRC has made a commitment to keep the chalets open from now until after the hunting season next fall. This means people can rent the chalets for weeks, weekends, family reunions, special getaways, and time away from the demands of daily life. We are encouraging interested groups or individuals to contact the camp to set up reservations. Rates are as follows:

**Church of the Brethren members:**

Weekends (Friday, Saturday)	\$90 per day
Week Days (Sunday - Thursday)	\$70 per day
Entire Week	\$500 per week

**Non-brethren**

Weekends (Friday-Saturday)	\$125 per day
Week Days (Sunday-Thursday)	\$100 per day
Entire Week	\$700 per week

Spring and summer are great times to enjoy the beauty of Woodland Altars. Mother Nature is a little gentler during these seasons. Won't you consider spending a restful time with her at Woodland Altars? Your support by using the chalets will have a very positive impact on you and the camp.

Reservations are ready to be taken. Contact Vonda at:937-588-4411 ext. 21 or 23.

## **District Conference**

**Conference theme:** "We are God's servants working together"

### **Happy Corner Church of the Brethren October 10 & 11**

The theme for our upcoming conference is "We are God's Servants working together." Conference will be held on October 10 & 11 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. Mark your calendars and plan to attend then be watching for more details in upcoming months.

**Attention Caregivers!** Are you the primary caregiver of a loved one who has demanding health issues? Southern Ohio District Camping and Retreat Ministry is interested in serving **you**. We have made arrangements with the Brethren Retirement Community Shuff Adult Day Care Center in Greenville, OH to offer **you** a day set aside for **you** while your loved one is cared for by professionals who are trained to deal with a wide variety of adult health issues. This Caregiver's Day will be August 2, from 9 AM-6 PM. The event will offer educational opportunities and free time for the caregiver. We hope you will take this opportunity as a caregiver to find renewal, relaxation, and network with others who share the same responsibilities, rewards, concerns, and joys that you do. Cost for the day is \$50 for both participants and includes a light breakfast and dinner which the loved one and caregiver will share together. You will be on your own for lunch. Registration for the event will open in May.

**Ethics Training**--The Southern Ohio District will hold a mandatory Ministerial Ethics refresher class for all licensed and ordained ministers on April 26, 2014 from 10 AM-6PM at the Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, OH. Please pre-register on our website ([www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org)) Cost for the training is \$20.00 which includes a required book and lunch. Failure to attend this mandatory training may place credentials in jeopardy.

## **Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates**

### **Upcoming Trips to Tom's Run, NJ:**

April 13-15– 6 volunteers still needed.

May 15-31--4 volunteers still needed. .

**Sewing Bee**-- Saturday, April 12 at the Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 Barron St. location beginning at 9 AM. Bring your own sewing machine. Lunch will be served. We will be sewing School Kit bags. We have 400 cut out and ready to be assembled. For those who don't sew but would still like to help out, we will also be assembling dust masks to include in clean up bucket kits.

**Clean Up Bucket Kit Assembly** May 8th at 7 PM at the Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 Barron Street location. Our goal is to assemble 400 buckets so many hands will be needed. At this point, we need \$5000.00 to purchase supplies for these 400 buckets. If you would like to contribute financially to this ministry click [here](#).

**Brethren Helping Hands** has completed work at Mullen House at Bethany Seminary. The Mullen House was purchased by the seminary to provide affordable housing for seminary students. 17 different volunteers from Southern Ohio worked a total of 62 days or 378 hours. Thank you to everyone who gave time and energy to assist Bethany to provide housing for our future leaders.

Brethren Helping Hands is now looking for our next project. Visit our website for more information about the type of project they can work on as well as how to suggest a project for consideration

## **Annual Conference 2014 will celebrate courageous discipleship**

Annual Conference 2014 General registration for the 2014 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in Columbus, Ohio, on July 2-6 is now open. The theme, "Live as Courageous Disciples," is from the New Testament letter to the Philippians.

"We are hoping that families within driving distance who can't come for the whole Conference will at least join us for the weekend," said Conference director Chris Douglas. Click [here](#) for more information including how to register your family, a full conference schedule, and hotel and motel lodging information.

As the host district, we could still use volunteers to serve in many different ways. Click [here](#) if you would like to volunteer.

**As the host district, we could still use volunteers to serve in many different ways. Volunteer form can be found on our website [www.sodcob.org](http://www.sodcob.org).**

Future locations for annual conference:

2015-Tampa, Florida

2016-Greensboro, NC

2017-Grand Rapids, MI

2018- Cincinnati, OH

2019-San Diego, CA

## **Youth have a month to register for National Youth Conference before the price goes up to \$500**

Youth and advisors only have one month left to register for this summer's National Youth Conference (NYC) before the price goes up to \$500 on May 1. All participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible to avoid a late fee. For all information regarding the conference, visit [www.brethren.org/NYC](http://www.brethren.org/NYC) .

NYC is an event for senior high youth and their advisors, held every four years. All youth who have finished ninth grade through one year of college are eligible to attend. The week of NYC includes worship services twice a day, Bible studies, workshops, small groups, hiking, service projects, and outdoor recreation. NYC is held on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo. For more information including how to register go to <http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/>

**The Church of the Brethren Young Adult Conference (YAC)** will be held May 23-25 at Camp Brethren Woods near Keezletown, Va. With the words from Jeremiah 29:11 as a focus, participants will address the theme “Coming Home: For I Know the Plans I Have for You