



District Board Retreat

At their recent retreat, the District Board spent considerable time looking at our purpose for ministry. Discussion centered around two questions: "What is the purpose of the District?" and "Why does it matter?"

We see ourselves as one large church that meets in more than 50 different locations. We believe we exist to help each of them effectively continue the work of Jesus—peacefully, simply, together. Four areas have been identified that we feel are most important to strengthen as we assist each of our congregations become healthy, vital influence in their communities: Empowering Congregations, Empowering Leadership, Empowering Emerging Ministries, Empowering existing ministries. For more information, visit our website www.sodcob.org.

Emergency Financial Aid for Nigerian Church

At their fall meeting, the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board approved up to \$1.5 million to begin funding an emergency response fund to the church in Nigeria. An allocation of \$500,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund was approved. The board also decided to commit \$500,000.00 from reserves and up to another amount of \$500,000 from reserves as a matching challenge to donors. The Southern Ohio District Board has approved a donation of \$10,000.00 from District reserves (recently increased through receipt of some assets from the recently closed Poplar Grove congregation) to the Nigeria Crisis Fund which will be matched by an amount set aside by the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. ***The Board is asking congregations and district individuals to consider gifts to this special fund as well.*** More information about EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), including how this money will be used can be found at the denominational website (brethren.org).

Camping and Retreat Commission Updates

Summer Camp 2014 Wrap up video is available on YouTube. To view or download and use for promotion of next year's summer camping program, simply go to YouTube.com and search for "Southern Ohio District Youth Camp 2014." Registration will open sometime the beginning of 2015. Be watching for more information.

Youth Winter Adventure--Still looking for a Christmas gift for the youth on your Christmas list! Here's a great idea. Why not send them to the Winter Adventure on January 17-19, 2015 at Camp Wilson in Bellefontaine Ohio

Sponsored by Camping and Retreat Commission Southern Ohio District and led by Jon Keller and Seth Hendricks, the daily schedule will include meals,



worship, tubing, tobogganing, skiing, hiking, devotions, games, etc. Unsure about skiing? There will be lessons for beginner through advanced skiers. Still unsure? Spend your time hiking, tubing, or tobogganing instead of skiing.

Ask your church office for a brochure with more information including cost and how to register.

Disaster Ministry Updates

Urgent Need for Volunteers--Brethren Disaster Ministries continues to work in New Jersey with Superstorm Sandy recovery. **December 7 - 13** there is an urgent need for workers at Toms River, NJ. Currently there are only two volunteers from Shenandoah district signed up. We are hopeful of sending workers, for there is much to be done with the Sept. 1 deadline for completion of twelve houses. We already have one person who is available to go and willing to be a driver. Please consider this opportunity and share it with others. We are also needing volunteers for our regularly scheduled trips of **January 11-17** and **February 15-21**. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or email SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Sewing Bee--We have already purchased the school supplies, and now we need to sew the school bags! On Saturday, January 24, come join brothers and sisters as we sew school bags for Church World Service School Kits. A Sewing Bee is scheduled to begin at 9:00 AM at the Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine. Others are invited to bring scissors for cutting out bags or baby gowns. Lunch will be served.

Donations Needed for Cleanup Buckets--Funds for Church World Service Cleanup Buckets are needed as we look toward March 2015 for our next assembly date. Donations may be given through the Southern Ohio [sodcob.org] website. Checks may be sent to:
District of Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren
2293 Gauby Road
New Madison, OH 45346

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.