



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

April 2015

Gifted by God . . . Called by the Church . . . Empowered by the Holy Spirit--The Council of District Executives is sponsoring a conference for congregational leaders May 14-16 at the Frederick Church of the Brethren in Maryland. The conference entitled, "Gifted by God, Called by the Church, Empowered by the Spirit", is for congregational leaders to provide tools and resources to assist congregations to become healthy, vital, growing communities of faith. Arrangements are being made for CEUs for ordained ministers. We may try to organize a bus to go to this event. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend this gathering, and encourage several leaders from your congregation to come as well. Watch for more information on the CODE Leadership Facebook page.

Adam's County Property Update The Woodland Altar's Appraisal is in. It can be seen on our website www.sodcob.org. Negotiations with the Nature Conservancy as well as with Friends of Woodland Altars are in process. These details will be presented for approval at a Special District Conference. We will not meet the target date during the first quarter of 2015 but hope to have information for a meeting soon. A blog page has been set up on our District website. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or comments please feel free to join in the discussion.

New District Mailing Address

Due to safety concerns, we've decided to no longer have our mail delivered to a rural mail box. Our new mailing address is P O Box 785 Greenville, OH 45331. Please make adjustments to your data base to reflect this change.

Prayers for Nigerian Church and the Kidnaped Girls Updates can be found at www.brethren.org

National Older Adult Conference *September 7-11, 2015, at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina. Registration is now open. More information can be found at www.brethren.org/NOAC*

Disaster Ministry Updates--The **Brethren Disaster Ministries' Appreciation Dinner** is planned for Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 6 PM at the Troy Church of the Brethren. Our theme this year is "Past, Present, and Future". This is an annual event where we recognize and "thank" those dedicated folks who help on BDM work projects, help with the BDM Ice Cream Social and other fundraisers and/or support BDM in any way – know that your help is very much appreciated! If you would like to join us for dinner and an evening of inspiration and fellowship, please RSVP to Mary Weikert - Telephone: 937-667-8155 or Email: maryfweikert@frontier.com
Sewing Bee – May 2 at 9:00 AM at Eaton COB, 1407 N. Barron Street. School

Bags will be sewn for kits being sent to Church World Service. Sewers bring your sewing machine. Others may bring scissors to cut out gowns for baby kits.

Sites in New Jersey and Colorado - The Superstorm Sandy recovery will continue at Spotswood, NJ throughout 2015. The Toms River, NJ site is completing six new builds, and is unable to start an additional six houses because the necessary permits haven't been issued. This site will close May 2. A new site will then open in May in Greely, Colorado, providing recovery from severe flooding of September 2013.

Volunteer Trip Opportunity – The next trip opportunity to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy Recovery is May 24-30. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or click here to email.

New Windsor Trip – October 26 – 30. Registration is open for a trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. This trip is especially for those who have an interest in BDM, but aren't able to go on trips doing construction. Three days will be spent working with Church World Service kits and for SERRV. Lodging and meals will be in Zigler Hall. Please click here for more information and a registration form.

Congregational Visits

Would your congregation like to learn more about Brethren Disaster Ministries? We welcome the opportunity to come to your church to share about BDM. We are available for programs of varying lengths. For more information or to schedule a visit, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Camping and Retreat Commission is gearing up for another camping season with camps for everyone. All camps will be held at Cricket Holler, except for Quilting Camp which will return to Bergamo Retreat Center.

Family Camp is new. We will be sharing the Fourth of July weekend at Cricket Holler. People can come for a day or the whole weekend. Some can camp in tents, RVs, cabins, under the stars or just return home for their own beds. Lunch, supper, and snacks will be shared together, but breakfasts are on your own. Highlights will include family Bible study, games, free time, swimming, campfires, singing, seeing fireworks, and eating together. What a special time this will be honoring a national holiday with church friends and family! Come and join in the celebration and fun.

Volunteers are NEEDED. Camp counselors, cooks, Bible study leaders, singers, campfire builders, dish washers, crafty people, storytellers, and even warm bodies are all needed to make camp an exciting and wonderful place to be. Volunteers can be sued for as little as an hour or as much as a week or more. Please look over the list of dates to find the time you could serve in this vital camping ministry.

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.

