

## **2015 District Conference: "Toward a 20/20 Vision"**

This year's District Conference will be held October 9 & 10 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren. The theme is "Toward a 20/20 Vision". Conference this year will be quite different since it features six different workshop opportunities. The conference will be both inspirational and informational--not only for pastors, but for all church leaders and other persons interested in seeing their congregation develop a vision to reach out into their respective communities--offering their neighbors and friends the opportunity for a transformed life through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Registration will be open soon. In the meantime, we invite you to visit our website to see what workshops are being offered. As workshop descriptions become available, they will be posted here.

### **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.

### **Special Worship Service Invitation**

On Sunday, August 2nd at 6:30 PM, Chaplain Rich Carlson, from the Dayton Dragons, will be speaking at Bear Creek Church of the Brethren. Chaplain Carlson will be sharing about his experience growing up in the gangs of New Jersey and how his inner-city ministry, Power of Three Ministries, is changing the lives of Dayton area youth. This promises to be an evening filled with hope, love and promise. Make plans to join us. The program is free with a free will offering being taken, and refreshments to follow. [Bear](#)

### **Camping and Retreat Commission Update**

**Summer Camp, 2015** is in progress and going well. We will share information in upcoming newsletters.

### **Summer Bike Ride**

You are invited to join fellow bikers on a leisurely bike ride on July 19. *It begins on Dayton Street in Yellow Springs at the Yellow Springs Village Office and Police and Community Center at 2:00 PM.* (This is a correction to former information given out.) Parking can be at that location or at Subway or Peach's Grill but we will meet at the above parking lot to start the ride. The ride ends at Young's Dairy. There is no registration fee but you will want to bring money for a sweet treat at the end of the ride! The event is sponsored by the Camping and Retreat Commission. Click here to download a flyer with all of the details.

### **Golf Outing**

Our Camping and Retreat Commission will sponsor their annual golf outing on August 8, 2015 at Beechwood Golf Course. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Camping ministry of Southern Ohio District. If you don't golf, you can still support the ministry by sponsoring a hole.

Please join us to make this our most successful Golf outing yet!

**Women's Retreat** is August 28 and 29, at Bergamo Center. It is an early retreat that it avoids NOAC and other conflicts in September.

The theme is FEEDING YOUR BODY, FEEDING YOUR SOUL, with Kris Ankeny. Kris Ankeny is a registered dietitian who is currently the Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Reid Hospital in Richmond, IN. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, she and her husband Curt have resided in Clayton, Ohio for the past twelve years. Kris is from the Quaker tradition but has attended Happy Corner Church of the Brethren since moving to Clayton and is active in many ministries there.

The retreat will feature many new ideas about taking care of ourselves, sharing talents, making a tasty concoction, and building up the sisterhood of the women in the District. Mark your calendars for this exciting, inspirational, engaging time. Go to our website or check with your church office for a registration form.

**Men's Retreat Held May 15-17, 2015** -- What does it mean to be a disciple? This was one of the central questions in the Bible study led by Ken Oren during Men's Retreat 2015. More on this question later. This year's Men's Retreat (MR), held at our district's Camp Woodland Altars from May 15-17, 2015, had some of the familiar faces and feelings of the Retreats in past years but yet there some new and sobering aspects as well. The men stayed in the chalets which, due to unfortunate circumstances, was a deviation from the traditional lodging at Heritage Lodge. Fourteen men attended this year's retreat and though our numbers were less than in past years, they were eager to engage in fellowship with each other, praise God, and learn from Pastor Ken who brought the spiritual direction for the weekend.

Pastor Ken is currently the pastor at Pittsburg COB and is heavily involved with the KAIROS prison ministry. The theme of the weekend was being a disciple. Brother Oren made it clear that there are several aspects to being a disciple and that as humans, we have the ability to be discipled by several things. Often times as Christians we tend to be disciples of the wrong things such as social media, technology, sinful desires, money etc. and yet while we are slow to recognize this in our lives, we are called to cast these things to the side and follow our Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. As the disciples of Jesus walked so close to him that literally the dust from his feet fell on them, we can apply this intimate picture to our own spiritual walk with Christ.

This thought provoking Bible study brought insight from all of the men in attendance and challenged us to reflect on our own walks with Christ. It also allowed the men to share their personal experiences with the rest of the group which was a powerful time. The blessing of the Lord was truly on that place.

With the change in lodging and meeting place, there were also several changes made to the standard schedule of the weekend but the men were able to adapt well. All meals and all but one devotion time were held in one of the small chalets. When faced with the option of splitting up the group for devotions and meals the brothers were more than willing to rub elbows with each other rather than separate which was a testament to the unity of the group which was a beautiful gesture.

The activities of the weekend included corn hole, hiking, football, puzzles, cards and lots of story-telling. Saturday evening brought with it the traditional and almost legendary farkel game which Lloyd Denlinger managed to sweep all three games played earning him bragging rights for the upcoming year. On Sunday morning we said our goodbyes and reluctantly took leave from that place. With the knowledge that this group may never again be able to gather on the grounds of Woodland Altars, we took every opportunity to take in our surroundings and praise God for the blessing of possessing the camp for occasions such as this retreat.

The overarching take away for MR 2015 as well as all other years was the love the men have for each other and show each other. Keeping in mind the perfect love that Christ has for us, Men's Retreat provides men of all ages to practice this love with each other albeit far from perfect. We are grateful for this opportunity and look forward to what the Lord has in store for us next year in 2016.

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### **Adams County Property Updates**

We've set up a special page on the website where you can view any information on the Adam's County Property including a blog page where you can ask questions or join the discussion.

### **Prayers for Nigerian Church and the Kidnaped Girls**

Updated information can always be found on the Church of the Brethren website:  
[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

### **Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Ice Cream Social Fundraiser** - August 1 at Happy Corner COB from 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM. There will be great food, great fellowship, and lots of ice cream! Special this year is homemade ice cream in various flavors, made by Tim Sheaffer. long term BDM project leader. It's the same delicious ice cream he makes for us on BDM trips! Come buy a ticket for "Share-a-Meal." Bring the coins you've been saving, or pick up a coin collection jar for the upcoming year. Mark your calendar, invite a friend, and plan to attend! All proceeds benefit S. Ohio BDM, as we serve disaster survivors.

**New Windsor Trip** - Have you helped with CWS Kits or Clean Up Buckets and want to see the next step in the process? Now is the time to register for the October 26 - 30, 2015 trip to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. 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. Registration deadline is July 17.

**Sewing Bee** - July 25 at 9:00 AM at Eaton COB, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers bring your sewing machine for sewing school bags. Others may bring scissors to cut out gowns for baby kits. Bring a sack lunch or McDonalds is next door. The cooks are on vacation this month!

**Hygiene Kits Needed** - With the earthquake in Nepal, Church World Service needs hygiene kits. S. Ohio BDM is responding to this need. Congregations and individuals are invited to contribute, so that items can be purchased in bulk for \$5 per kit. Donations may be given through the Southern Ohio [sodcob.org] website. Checks may be sent to: District of Southern Ohio Church of the Brethren, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Please designate that the gift is for hygiene kits.

**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.

### **2015 Annual Conference Sunday!**

Join congregations and individuals from around the country as we worship together as one virtual church on Annual Conference Sunday--July 12, 2015.

All congregations are invited to come together in celebration during the Sunday morning worship service at Annual Conference by sharing in the worship webcast. You can broadcast the service live to your church and worship with thousands of other Brethren!

Click the webcasting link under "In Tampa" on the Annual Conference website or click here for additional information and instructions. You can join in at any time or restart the broadcast from the beginning. You can also comment and chat online with the webcast coordinator.

A bulletin will be available in mid to late June to download and print from the Annual Conference webpage.

Business Sessions and Worship Services on the Web All Annual Conference business sessions and worship services will be streamed over the internet. The schedule for all web broadcasts is as follows:

Saturday, July 11

7:00-8:30 Opening Worship

Sunday, July 12

9:45-11:30 Annual Conference Sunday Morning Worship

2:00-4:30 PM Afternoon Business Session

Monday, July 13

8:30-11:30 Morning Business Session

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Business Session

7:00-8:30 Evening Worship

Tuesday, July 14

8:30-11:30 Morning Business Session

2:00-4:30 Afternoon Business Session

7:00-8:30 Evening Worship

Wednesday, July 15

8:30-10:30 Closing Worship

Click the webcasting button on the Annual Conference homepage or [click here](#) for additional information and instructions. You can join in at any time or restart the broadcast from the beginning. You can also comment and chat online with the webcast coordinator.

There is a cost to provide these webcasts. Viewers are asked to consider making an online donation to help make the ministries of our church known through these webcasts.

## **New! Annual Conference App**

We are very excited to announce a revised Annual Conference App. With the 2015 Annual Conference App, you can:

- Plan your conference with a custom schedule
- New this year! Google Calendar integration lets you keep track of AC events in your personal planner
- New this year! Stay updated with push notifications
- Navigate the conference with maps of the Tampa Convention Center and Marriott meeting rooms
- Find your way to local attractions with the area map
- View profiles of speakers and exhibitors
- Stay informed with news and Twitter updates.

Join us at the 2015 Annual Conference July 11-15 in Tampa, Florida--and download this app to enhance your experience! [Click here](#) to get the app. [Click here](#) to register for Annual Conference.