

## **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. We invite you to visit our website to see what workshops are being offered.

Registration is open online. Delegates *and Non-delegate attendees must register*. Non-delegates may attend this conference at no charge although donations for the meals will be accepted. Child care will be available. Please fill out the appropriate online registration form if you will require child care so that we can make appropriate plans.

### **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.

## **Camping and Retreat Commission Updates**

### **Lives are changed at camp!**

A first-time young camper turned to his grandmother and said, "Grandma, I think we should do this again next year!" This was after the camper had been at camp about an hour. He still felt the same way at the end of his first camping experience.

Summer camps have concluded on a high level of enthusiasm and spiritual renewal. Everyone, campers and staff, experienced life in a faith-based environment that made them feel welcomed and loved as they ate, hiked, sewed, sang, laughed, prayed, and explored how to gain power from the Holy Spirit. All campers who registered were able to attend camp even though some adjustments were made. Creative Arts camp combined many talented people working to offer interests that campers chose to express themselves in photography, music, art, woodworking, drama, crafts, and nature study. The new family camp was especially exciting for all ages. From the participants a strong group of volunteers have come forth to lead in the planning for next year's family event. The quilting camp created a unique quilt for Charlene Foster from some of the many T-shirts she has collected over the years in her role of camp leader.

Many thanks go to the special people who helped with the financial support of camp this year. The New Carlisle Church of the Brethren made a very generous donation that paid over a third of the costs for food at camp this summer. Several other people made individual donations that also went to camp support. Scholarships made it possible for six campers and a family to attend camps.

### **Adult Bible School**

Do you remember what Bible school was like when you were a child? There was fun, new friends, learning together, and enjoying a great time of being at church. This year there will be

two sites for Adult Bible School. We are expanding to meet the needs of our district and make Bible school closer to everyone. New Carlisle Church of the Brethren and Salem Church of the Brethren are both hosting Bible school at their churches during the week of Sept. 28 through Oct. 2, 2015, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day. There will be singing, Bible study, crafts, special interest sessions, recreation, and a light lunch served. The fellowship and opportunity to meet with others from the District will make Bible school just as enjoyable as you remember and even maybe a little better since we will share lunch together. You can pick the site you prefer. Both churches are looking forward to welcoming you for the week.

### **Disaster Ministry Updates**

**Volunteer Trip Opportunity** – Volunteers are needed for a Nov. 15 – 21 trip to New Jersey for Superstorm Sandy Recovery. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Burton Wolf at 937-287-5902 or [click here to email](#).

**Ice Cream Social Fundraiser** – Thanks to everyone who supported BDM on August 1 at Happy Corner COB. There were about 400 in attendance. There was delicious food, pie, and ice cream. Tickets for “Share-a-Meal” were on sale, and coin collection jars were emptied. Soon the final bills will be turned in, and we’ll report the amount raised. All proceeds benefit S. Ohio BDM, as we serve disaster survivors. What a blessing to work and fellowship together as the District of S. Ohio!

**Support S. Ohio BDM by visiting Chili’s Restaurant** – Thank you to all who visited Chili’s at designated locations in Ohio and Richmond, IN. Vouchers can be used the last three weekends in August. If our sales reach \$500, they will donate 15% of the total amount to Southern Ohio BDM. If you’re reading this newsletter in August, you still have a chance to participate. [Click here to print the voucher](#). This fundraiser is for August 13 - 16, August 20 – 23, and August 27 – 30.

**School and Hygiene Kits** - The assembly of 500 school kits is scheduled for August 29 at 10:00 AM at 1407 N. Barron St., Eaton, OH. In July 500 hygiene kits were assembled. These kits will go to the warehouse in New Windsor, MD until they’re shipped to the point of need.

### **Posted on the Brethren Service Center website on July 31, 2015:**

The Church of the Brethren Material Resources program has loaded two 40-foot containers filled with Hygiene Kits and School kits, and shipped them to aid Syrian refugees fleeing from the violence afflicting the Middle East. This shipment was arranged by the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in partnership with Church World Service (CWS), reports Material Resources office coordinator Terry Goodger.

There is a need, and S. Ohio BDM thanks you for your support! A donation of \$5 enables us to buy supplies for one hygiene or school kit. Donations may be given through the Southern Ohio [[sodcob.org](http://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 CWS kits.

**Sewing Bee** – Come on Oct. 3 at 9:00 AM to 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. Lunch will be served.

**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](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

### **Walter Beachy visits Brethren Heritage Center**

Brethren Heritage Center is proud to announce the widely accomplished Anabaptist historian Walter Beachy on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 7 pm at Brethren Heritage Center, 428 N Wolf Creek St, Brookville Ohio. Walter Beachy is a published author of “Living In the Light”, his theme on how to live here on earth while expecting the Lord’s return. Originally his text was a series given at a Mennonite Kansas Bible conference where the leadership thought it should be published so the vision can be a reality.

Walter Beachy came from an Amish family of 12 raised in Plain City, Ohio. He and his brother attended a local Mennonite revival and shortly converted. He attended Rosedale Bible College, ordained in 1960, married Mary Jane in 1955 they had 5 children currently have 19 grandchildren. He pastored until 1999 when he retired at 65 years old. Walter’s life has been dedicated to researching and teaching the history of the Anabaptist movement, including their doctrine and theology.

Walter Beachy will be at Brethren Heritage Center at 7 pm on Friday, Sept 11, 2015. The Center is located at 428 N Wolf Creek St, Brookville, Ohio.

Any questions and directions call 937-833-5222.