



December, 2015 Southern Ohio District Newsletter Printable Version

District Board Retreat--The District Board met in retreat Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14 for reorganization and to work on plans for the coming year. Teaching sessions on reconciliation and communication were led by Todd Reish, chaplain at the Brethren Retirement Community. Ty Pyles was called to continue as Board Chair for the coming year along with Carl Eubank as vice-chair. The meetings were hosted wonderfully by the BRC with deep appreciation from the Board. Updates were shared on the sale of Woodland Altars property, approval to sell the Poplar Grove property was decided, and a process was put in place for the listening/visioning/reconciliation meetings to be held across the District.

2016 District Conference Theme --The Program and Arrangements Committee met for evaluation of our recent District conference and to begin plans for next year. "In Christ Alone" was chosen for next year's conference. May we keep our congregations and teams in prayer as they continue their ministry.

2016 Annual Conference Update 2016 Annual Conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. Early delegate registration remains the same at \$285. In terms of housing costs, in Greensboro, we will only have one hotel (the convention center and the hotel are all in one building). Our hotel rate is \$109 + 12.75% tax which makes it a total of \$121.75 inclusive. The Sheraton is also giving us free parking and free wi-fi, so there is no additional charge for those. Registration for both delegates and non-delegates will open in February.

Cookie Camp

Do you love to bake cookies for the holiday season? Would it be more fun to bake while fellowshiping with others? Join us from 9-12 Saturday, December 5 at the Salem Church to bake cookies. All ingredients will be provided. A flyer with more information is available online.

Remember BVS Volunteers this Christmas

BVS volunteers love receiving cards and greetings from Brethren congregations. Mailing labels, the latest BVS newsletter and the BVS blog can be found online at www.brethren.org/bvs/.

BVS is currently accepting applications for the winter orientation unit which will be held in Gotha, Florida at Camp Ithiel from January 24-February 12, 2016. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, please get in touch with the BVS office at bvs@brethren.org, or access the application online. The deadline for applications is December 11, so apply now.

Bruce Dillon Documentary Shown at Trotwood Church

A documentary DVD of Bruce Dillon has been developed and produced by his son, Joe Dillon. Bruce, a graduate of Cincinnati Music Conservatory in voice and was the Director of Music and Youth Ministry at the Trotwood CoB in the mid-80s to early 90s. During that time, Bruce helped to produce six dinner-theater musicals. *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, *The St Judas Passion*, and *Godspell* to name a few. The documentary was developed by Joe Dillon the son of Bruce and Sandy, in memory of his father.

The documentary will be shown at the Trotwood CoB on Sunday, December 27 at 6:00 PM The public and

sister congregations who would have known Bruce and attended one of the dinner theater productions are invited. A fellowship time will follow the documentary.

2016 Church Planting Conference

Dates: May 19-21, 2016
Location: Richmond, IN – Bethany Theological Seminary
Theme: @HIM #hope #imagination #mission
Website: www.brethren.org/churchplanting

Facebook: [Church of the Brethren Planting Network](#)

Registration: Opens in January 2016, online only

Regular fee: \$129

Early bird, through April 15: \$119

First timer, through April 15: \$99

Bethany or Brethren Academy student: \$79

Housing: This year housing **will not be included in registration fees**

Arrangements have been made to hold rooms at Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn for a special conference rate, but attendees must make their own reservations!!

Schedule: The conference begins with registration at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 19 and concludes at noon on Saturday, May 21.

Meals: Lunch on Thursday and Friday will be provided. All other meals are at the participant's expense

More info: Brochure available online. Contact Randi Rowan at rrowan@brethren.org for printed copies. Feel free to duplicate on your own.

New Offering: *Discernment Event* – following this year's conference, a 24 hour discernment retreat will be held for people considering church planting. Led in part by Stan Dueck, this will be a time of personal reflection and self-assessment around the call to become a leader for church planting. Details will be forthcoming, but think of individuals that might benefit from this extra time to further consider their call. The timeframe will be to begin around noon on Saturday, May 21 and conclude by 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. An additional fee will be charged. Attendance will be limited.

Our goal is to have 150 church planters and supporters in attendance!

Disaster Ministry Updates

Spotswood, NJ Project Move

BDM's work with Superstorm Sandy recovery is in its final weeks. The project will be moving from Spotswood, NJ the end of January. The Monmouth County Long Term Recovery Group stated that BDM worked on 54 of their 74 cases. Thank you to all the weekly volunteers who went to NJ, and to those whose provided financial support.

2016 BDM Trip Schedule - Sign up for a 2016 BDM trip! S. Ohio will have crews serving February 14 - 20, April 24 - 30, and November 27 - December 3 at a site to be opened in either Wise County, VA or Harts, WV. May 28 - June 5, June 18 - 26, and July 9 - 17 crews will go to Loveland, CO. The September 3 - 11 and October 8 - 16 trips will go to another newly opened site. Please share these dates with your congregation. To sign up for a trip, call Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. S. Ohio BDM looks forward to sharing God's love by helping disaster survivors in 2016. Come join in the ministry!

Sewing Bee for Church World Service – Mark your calendar for Saturday, Jan. 9 at 9:00 AM for our next Sewing Bee. It will be at Eaton Church of the Brethren, 1407 N. Barron Street. Sewers need to bring their sewing machine for sewing school bags for CWS kits. Lunch will be served.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other in prayer. [Click here](#) to download the 2015 Prayer List for Congregations.

--As the world begins to comprehend the magnitude of the recent terror attacks in Paris, Church of the Brethren general secretary, Stan Noffsinger is calling the church to prayer for those affected by extremist violence in Paris, and around the world. Brethren are encouraged to bring into the sphere of prayer all people affected by violence--those hurt and killed in the terrorist attacks in Paris and the bombings that occurred in Beirut, Lebanon; Communities in northeast Nigeria that are still suffering from violence; the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and those affected by continuing fighting in South Sudan and Darfur; the people of Syria and Iraq and Afghanistan who have suffered years of war; those caught up in an escalating situation in Israel and Palestine; the people hurt and killed by gun violence in the US; the children fleeing gang and drug-related violence in Central America; and other places around the world where violence seems to prevail.

-- We offer our prayers for the ongoing racial unrest across our country with recent demonstrations and protests on college campuses. May the peace of God guide us toward whole and healthy relationships among all people.

--John Edwards, pastor of Emmanuel congregation retiring

-- Daniel Fullen has resigned as pastor of Good Shepherd. Daniel has accepted a call to full time chaplaincy in Newark, OH

--Jim and Linda Vandermark's daughter, Amanda, breast cancer

--John Huffaker, recovering from broken hip

--Brent Driver, recovering from cochlear implant surgery to restore hearing after falling from scaffolding. Continued prayers for Brent and for the Trinity congregation leadership as they work their way through this.

--Olivet Congregation, discerning next steps.

--Wolf Creek Congregation, preparing for restart.

--Possibility of new church start in Lexington, KY.

--Potential new ministry in Poplar Grove building

--There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please contact Dave if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.