

December, 2022
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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District Board Meets, Reorganizes

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Board met on a beautiful snowy day for their annual retreat on Saturday, November 12 at the Eversole Church of the Brethren. This was the first meeting of the board which included the new members which were affirmed at our District Conference.

The Board would like to thank Pastor Mark and Sarah Bowman, along with the Eversole Congregation, for their gracious hospitality which included donuts in the morning and a tasty soup and sandwich lunch.

Stan Dueck, Director of Organization Leadership for the Church of the Brethren led the morning portion of the retreat as we officially began the visioning process for the district. The Visioning Team consists of Sarah Friedrich from the Living Peace CoB, Staci Peterson from Cincinnati CoB, Gail Stevenson from Lower Miami CoB, David Balmer from Flat Creek/Mud Lick CoB, Karen Garrett from formerly Bear Creek CoB, as well as our Board Chair, and Nick Beam, District Executive as ex-officio members. A youth is still being sought to round out the team.

The board would like to ask that you please pray for this team as they will be very active in gathering and discerning information as they discern God's direction in formulating a new vision for our district. It will be very important to hear from as many congregations, pastors and others as we move through this process. All congregations will be contacted at some time during the process. We implore you to please respond as this will impact the district as a whole, not just the largest churches, the best givers, or those in the geographic center of the district. We need to hear everyone's voice! Watch for more information after the visioning team meets again in January.

After lunch, the board reorganized for 2023 with Todd Reish and Mike Yingst being called again to serve as chair and vice-chair. Please keep the board and the visioning team in your prayers for the coming year as they serve in God's name.

Camp Sugarwood Hosts Cookie Camp and Winter Blast

Cookie Camp is just around the corner. This fund raiser helps keep the cost of Winter Blast as low as possible. Orders are due and can be made through each church's ambassador or by calling Karen Dillon at 937 238 6909. Cookie Camp will be held at the Salem Church of the Brethren on Friday, Dec. 9, First Shift 12:00 - 5:00 pm, Second Shift 6:00 - 9:00 pm, and Saturday, Dec. 10, Third Shift 9:00 - 1:00 pm, Pick up cookies 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

Lots of volunteers are needed to make the cookies on Friday and Saturday. Anyone can come, even for just a short time. The help makes the work load much lighter with many hands. The only things needed are mixers for the cookie dough. All other supplies will be provided. Since we are baking lots of cookies using large, hot cookie sheets, it is not a safe place for children.

Cookie Camp is an opportunity to share in the work of this fund raiser while having time to chat with new and old friends. There will be milk, coffee, and tea to go with all the sampling of cookies. Come and join in the fun!



Winter Blasts Registrations Now Open

Registrations for the upcoming Winter Blasts are now being accepted. Forms will be posted on the district website, or contact your church's ambassador or church office. Elementary (K - 5th) Winter Blast is the weekend of January 13-14, with a paying adult. Middle School, Junior High, and High School (6th - 12th) is the weekend of January 20, - 21. The cabins and Schweitz Center are all waiting for us to come back to Cricket Holler for a lot of fun and fellowship. All the arrangements for swimming have been made for a great pool time. Movies, games, activities, devotions, crafts, and much more are planned for everyone's enjoyment during this special time together! Send in your reservation for this winter getaway to Karen Dillon as soon as you can.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates

Appreciation Dinner – The annual BDM Appreciation Dinner was held on October 29 at Oakland Church of the Brethren. Seven first-time rebuild volunteers were recognized and presented a hammer engraved with their name. The Sledgehammer Award for the outstanding rebuild volunteer was awarded to Wayne and Nancy Kopp, who have been on many trips, served as trip leaders, and are Disaster Project Leaders. Service awards were presented to Barb Brower and Rudie Easterling for their work with Church World Service (CWS). Barb coordinates sewing bees and the making of bags for school kits. Rudie is the chief buyer of supplies for CWS buckets/kits. They have spent countless hours in dedicated service. Thank you to all who have served and supported the ministry of S. Ohio/KY BDM!

CWS Presented Award – At the Appreciation Dinner Church World Service honored S. Ohio/KY BDM for the dedicated support that has been given throughout the years. Consistently school kits, hygiene kits, and cleanup buckets have been assembled and sent to CWS for distribution to those in need. Burt and Helen Wolf accepted a framed CWS picture on behalf of S. Ohio/KY BDM.

2023 Rebuilding Trips – Demonstrate Christ's love by putting faith into action! Reserve your slot on a BDM rebuilding crew in 2023. The location for the BDM site will likely be tornado recovery in western Kentucky. Transportation, housing, food, tools, and leadership are provided. A flyer with the 2023 trip dates is available on the district website, or contact your church office. Call/text Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com to join a crew.

Prayer Needs

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. The 2021 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the District website.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

- For the people whose lives have been affected by Hurricane Ian.

- For those digging out from the snowstorm in New York.

-For Cleve Bowling who is on the pastoral team at Flat Creek/Mud Lick who has cancer in his throat and voice box.

-For those in Puerto Rico and Florida recovering from the recent hurricanes.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear, for the families who have lost loved ones, and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition:

- **Greenville**— Pastor Ron Sherck resignation as of June 19
- **West Alexandria**—Pastor Brody Rike resignation as of May 15
- **Oakland**--Andrew Wright, interim
- **White Cottage** continues their agreement with a neighboring congregation to supply pastoral services during a time of transition and discernment.
- **New Carlisle**--Tara Hornbacker, interim
- **Prince of Peace**-- John Sgro, interim
- **Trotwood** -- Rusty Curling, interim
- **Lower Miami**--Tracy Knechel Sturgis, interim
- **Beavercreek** -- Sandy Jenkins, interim pastor
- **Donnels Creek** -- Jim Chronister providing pulpit fill
- **Pleasant Hill** -- Fred Bernhard, interim
- **Trinity** — Arnold Collett resigned effective Dec. 3
- **Olivet**—Daniel Fullen resigned

- 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 Nick 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.