



# Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
MARCH 2017

## Spring Area Clergy Meetings

### Finding Creative Ways to Work at Race Relations

We live in a world saturated with racism – much of it below the surface of our awareness. Come as we learn about what the church can and should bring to race relations within our communities.

James (Interim Pastor – Lake Breeze) and Sandra Washington bring a richness of experience and knowledge as they lead this workshop. CEU 0.2 credit provided for clergy. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP so our hosts churches know the amount of refreshments to provide. Please see the attached flier for details.

You may register with the District Office by calling 419-281-3058 or send an email to [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org) and mentioned the date and time you plan to attend or you can also register online at:

<http://nodcb.memberzone.com/events/calendar/2017-03-01>

## Water Street CoB

It is with sadness that we share that on February 26<sup>th</sup>, the Water Street Church unanimously voted to close the church. Water Street (known for many years as the Kent Church of the Brethren) has a rich tradition of ministry and service. They have faithfully sought to worship God and serve both God and neighbors since it was planted in 1904 by the Akron Springfield COB.

March 26<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday for worship services at the church. A fellowship meal will follow as the congregation has a time of appreciation for Pastor Denny Fox and his wife Brenda who have served so faithfully. It will be a time to celebrate memories and ministries of the church as well.

The dissolution/disorganization of the Water Street church will come to the District Conference delegates in July for approval. The district will assist during this time of transition.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **March 4—Nominating Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH**
- **March 11—District Board Meeting, Dupont CoB, Dupont, OH**
- **March 16—Central Committee Meeting, Hartville CoB, Hartville, OH**
- **March 18-29—Area Clergy Meetings, See Flyer for Locations**
- **March 25—Teacher's Appreciation Day, Ashland First CoB, Ashland, OH**
- **March 25—Youth Service & Fun Day, Inspiration Hills Camp, Burbank, OH**
- **April 7-8—Sr. High Spring Rally, County Line CoB, Harrod, OH**
- **June 28-July 2—Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI**
- **July 28-29—District Conference, Hartville CoB, Hartville, OH**



# CLERGY-SPOUSE RETREAT

The 2017 Clergy / Spouse retreat, held February 19-21 at the Holiday Inn in Perrysburg, was well received by the 42 who attended. The retreat provided a good balance of organized activities and free time, of worship and recreation. There was plenty of time to go to the club car for snacks and playing games. Many of the clergy and their spouses gathered in the room to talk, play games, or just to be among friends.\* There were opportunities to swim, play ping pong, play pool. And there were vast amounts of food!

The retreat began with an informal gathering around the registration table in the hall way before entering the dining hall on Sunday evening. After the meal was served there was a 15-minute introduction and sharing time and closed by a short devotion with scripture reading, prayer and a hymn. Monday morning, the retreat was set with two sessions by our invited presenter Jason Barnhart. The topic was on "Serving

## BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST WEBINAR

**70 percent of people 65 and older will need long-term care. Are you prepared?**

***Sign up for Webinar, "The Ins and Outs of Long-Term Care" — April 6, 2017***

That's a big number. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 70 percent of people age 65 or more will sometime in their life need care for 90 days or longer. That means whether you are young or old, the odds are high that there will be a time sooner or later when you will need long-term care. With the Baby Boomers coming into retirement age, the need for long-term care facilities is rising, pushing up the cost of such care. Are you prepared for this?

Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust can help.

Register for the LTC Planning Webinar

**"The Ins and Outs of Long-Term Care"**

*Introducing and explaining long-term care insurance.*

*What is it? Who needs it? What are the options? What are the basic costs?*

Thursday, April 6, 2017, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m., 30 minutes with live Q&A to follow.

Register here for the "The Ins and Outs of Long-Term Care."

To register for the **10 a.m. morning session** and **7 p.m. evening session**—Go to the Brethren Benefit Trust website: <http://www.cobbt.org>.

Don't miss this chance to learn more and begin to prepare for your future needs.

Without Apologizing". The reflecting session focused around stillness and solitude.

Monday afternoon provided free time. We gathered for the evening meal. An impromptu hymn sing followed, with amazing four-part harmony.

During the closing session on Tuesday, Jason spoke mostly on solitude. During his presentation, the room next door to us began to play loud music with heavy drum beat. Jason continued to speak and finished with prayer. We then went into a worship time with a moment of silence. The drums were still beating and the music was loud. Tina Hunt led in a short devotion. Jim Gorrell led the group in singing "It Is Well," then closed by singing "The Lord's Prayer". After we were done there was no music or drums sounds from next door.

Overall the Clergy / Spouse retreat was a relaxing time and a time to renew the spirit. Thank you to each church who made provision for their pastor to attend. Special thanks to our hosts Vaughn and Miriam Loose (Mansfield), Max and Sis Canfield (New Philadelphia), and James and Sandra Washington (Lake Breeze) for coordinating this event and for the spirit of hospitality they fostered during our time together.

\*Overheard: A hotel visitor peeked into the hospitality room where the pastors and spouses were rather noisily gathered to see what all the commotion was about. He turned with a shocked expression and said "I thought it was a bunch of rowdy kids in there!" He looked even more shocked when someone shared that it was a room full of preachers!

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ARE YOU A DR, NURSE PRACTITIONER, RN, LPN, OR EMT?**

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids is looking for DR.'s, RN's, LPN's and EMT's who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Dr. Rosalie McBride of Northern Indiana District is coordinating the First Aid Office this summer in Grand Rapids and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: [rosalie.l.mcbride@gmail.com](mailto:rosalie.l.mcbride@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN SERVICES**

We need your help, even if you are willing to donate some of your time for part of a day or all of conference.

If you would like to help with Ages infant-Pre-K please contact:

Katie Polzin, Email: [kpolz2011@gmail.com](mailto:kpolz2011@gmail.com)

If you would like to help with Grades 3-5 please contact:

Jenny Deweese, Email: [brootdeweese@aol.com](mailto:brootdeweese@aol.com)



## CLERGY VISITS

During April and May Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive, will be visiting with each active and retired Ordained Minister, Licensed Minister, Lay Speaker, and Interim Pastor. These visits will be a time to share about your ministries, your hopes and concerns moving forward, to hear how the District can be helpful to you and your congregation, and to pray together. You will receive a schedule by mail and/or email in the next few weeks. If there are days/times that do not work for you, it would be helpful if you would email that info to [krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org) or call/text her cell 330-612-2086 so we have that information as we finish the schedule. Kris is visiting in churches each Sunday as a way to meet/connect with every congregation, so there is no plan to meet with church boards during this round of visits.

### DISTRICT OFFICE STAFF SCHEDULE

Interim District Executive Kris Hawk takes Wednesday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or [krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org)

Administrative Secretary, Julie Watson is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 am—3 pm. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org)

Youth Coordinator, Esther Harsh is in the office on Mondays. She can be reached at 330-880-7161 or [esther@nohcob.org](mailto:esther@nohcob.org)

## COMMUNICATION

One of our goals at the District Office is to continually increase the effectiveness of our communication with each congregation. One suggestion we have received is to contact the individual in each church (in addition to the pastor) responsible for that area. The forms from the denomination give us the Church Board, Deacon, and some ministries information. It is important that these forms are completed as they comprise the mailing/emailing list for important information to be shared with each church. In addition to the information listed on the forms, it would be helpful to know the people filling each of the following positions within your local congregation. You can send names and contact information (address, email, phone) for these positions to [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org) or mail to the District Office.

- Camp Representative
- Disaster Response Representative
- BVS Representative

Thank you for helping us improve the effectiveness of communication within the District!

## SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The District Executive Search Committee posted the position with the Church of the Brethren General Offices in early January. The committee is in the process of accepting applications through March 9th. We are pleased to hear that several applications have been submitted and are encouraged that God is at work through this process as we move forward to the future. Updates will continue to be posted in the upcoming Pastor's Memos and District Bulletin handouts. Thank you!

## AKRON/CANTON AREA LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE 2017

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Theme</u> - God's Promises through the Cross (from Max Lucado's book <i>He Chose the Nails</i> )
March 5	Akron First	Kris Hawk	God's Promise in the Crown of Thorns - Matthew 27:28-31, 46
March 12	Center	Tobin Crenshaw	God's Promise in the Nails - Luke 23:32-34, Colossians 2:14
March 19	Eastwood	Wayne Scott	God's Promise in the Sponge - John 19:28-30, Hebrews 4:15-16
March 26	Reading	Mark Kell	God's Promise in the Tomb - John 19:38-42, John 20:6-9
April 2	Eden	Festival of Choirs	



Northern Ohio District  
District Conference July 28-29, 2017  
Hartville Church of the Brethren  
Moderator: Patrick Bailey  
Featured Speaker: Josh McDowell

This year, District Conference will be hosted by the Hartville Church of the Brethren.

Moderator Patrick Bailey (North Bend) has chosen “Be Thoroughly Equipped” as the theme with a focus on 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5.

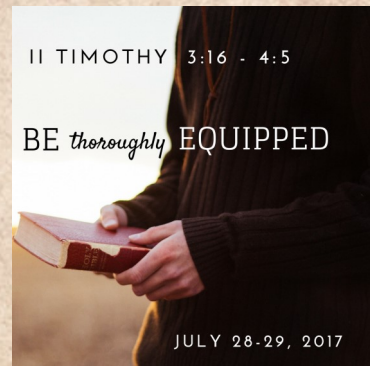
This year’s conference will feature Josh McDowell who will speak at both evening worship services and meet with the youth on Saturday morning!

Conference registration will open April 1, 2017. But we anticipate larger attendance with such a well-known speaker. That, coupled with other events that will be happening in Hartville at that time, lead to a recommendation that **lodging reservations should be made early.**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Hartville, 1.3 miles from the church. All the rooms are suites and feature a 2-person sofa bed in addition to the King or Queen beds. You can receive the Northern Ohio District group rate by calling (330) 587-4347.

Other hotels are available 15-20 minutes from the church. Camping is also available.

You can find all the lodging information at [http://www.nohcob.org/upload/documents/district\\_conference/hotels\\_and\\_campgrounds\\_2017.pdf](http://www.nohcob.org/upload/documents/district_conference/hotels_and_campgrounds_2017.pdf)



### Pre-Conference Workshop “Addictions”

Presented by Kyle Kershner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS from Sojourners Counseling Service

Friday, July 28th 1:00 - 4:30 pm

All are welcome to come and learn about this timely topic that affects all of us – and our ministry to our communities. Clergy CEU’s will be provided.



### Josh D. McDowell

A trailblazer for truth and relationships, Josh McDowell has been at the forefront of cultural trends and ground-breaking ministry for over five decades.

Josh shares the essentials of the Christian faith in everyday language so that youth, families, churches, leaders and individuals of all ages are prepared for the life of faith and the work of the ministry. This included leveraging resources based on years of experiences, new technologies and strategic partnerships.

Since 1961, Josh has delivered more than 27,000 talks to over 25,000,000 people in 125 countries. He is the author or co-author of 147 books, including *More Than a Carpenter* and *New Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, recognized by *World Magazine* as one of the top 40 books of the twentieth century. Josh’s books are available in over 100 different languages.

Josh and his wife, Dottie, are quick to acknowledge that after their love for the Lord, family is their greatest joy and top priority. They have been married 45 years and have four wonderful children and ten beloved grandchildren.

Josh McDowell Ministry is a division of Cru (the U.S. division of Campus Crusade for Christ International).



# Pastoral Placement

## Congregations actively in the search process:

**Bethel** – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Brook Park** – *Tom Michaels* serving as interim. Search Committee completing profile.

**Dupont** – Searching for youth pastor. Profile complete.

**Eden** – *Wayne Scott* serving as interim. Search Committee working on Congregational profile.

**Pleasant View** – *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim. Interviewing.

**Water Street** – *Denny Fox* resigned as pastor effective 3/26/2017.

**Woodworth** – *John Polanski* serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

## Congregations that have not yet begun the search process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

**East Nimishillen** – *Matthew Reed* serving as interim. Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

**Lake Breeze** – *James Washington* serving as interim.

**Lakewood** – *Gene Wyse* serving as interim. Not actively seeking at this time.

**Maple Grove** – *John Ballinger* serving as interim until 2/2018.

# Inspiration 2017

## Generations

NOAC Psalm 145:4

## National Older Adult Conference September 4-8, 2017

Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina

NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Registration link: <http://www.brethren.org/noac/registration.html>

# District Prayer Calendar

## February 26—March 4

Marion CoB (Pastor Rick Hicks) and Mohican CoB (Pastor Paul Bartholomew and Associate Pastor Chad Palmer)

## March 5—March 11

Mount Pleasant CoB (Pastor Bruce Jacobsen) and New Philadelphia CoB (Pastor Max Canfield)

## March 12—March 18

North Bend CoB (Pastor Patrick Bailey) and Owl Creek CoB (Pastor Charles Barnhill)

## March 19—March 25

Painesville CoB (Pastors John & Sondra Bocchieri) and Paradise CoB (Pastor Terry Vaught)

## March 26—April 1

Pleasant View CoB (Interim Dr. Byron Hawbecker) and Poplar Ridge CoB (Pastor Ben Polzin)

# A New Life to Celebrate!

Congratulation to Mark and Laura Kell (Center) on the birth of their daughter, Lily Kathryn, on February 20. Lily weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 19-3/4 inches long at birth. Lily joins brothers Ben (4 ½ years old) and Jonathan (2 years old) in making this a very busy household!



# Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins this year on Sunday, March 12. Be sure to set your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday night, so you won't be late for worship on Sunday morning!



## NEW WINDSOR DAYS

The Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD, has served a vital role in our denominational witness to the world for over seventy years. It has been the primary sire for Brethren Volunteer Service training, numerous workshops, Disaster resourcing projects, and much, much more. The main campus area of New Windsor has been sold to Shanghai Yulun Education Group and it is expected that the transfer of ownership will take place within a few weeks. This sale does not effect the “lower campus” across the highway from the main campus. The warehouse buildings will continue to operate at the Brethren Service Center and will house disaster Ministries, Children’s Disaster Services, the Material Resource program and SERRV Distribution center. In order to celebrate the memories of the main campus and to have a sense of “farewell”, New Windsor Days are being held on March 17-19 at the Ziglar Hospitality Center. This is an open invitation for anyone who has ever volunteered or been part of the New Windsor experience to come for a celebration reunion and a walk down memory lane. Participants are asked to bring photos, momentos, and stories to share. Activities begin on Friday evening, March 17th and conclude on Sunday morning, March 19th. Special rates are being offered: \$60 per person for meals and lodging. Reservations are due by March 10. For further information, call the center at 410-635-8700, or send an email to [mgrossnickle@brethren.org](mailto:mgrossnickle@brethren.org).

## WE HAVE THE MEATS

That's what Inspiration Hills says when they look in their freezer full of bulk beef, hamburger patties, beef dogs, bacon, and breakfast sausage. What some companies view as advertising dollars, Paris & Washington Insurance Company views as an opportunity to reinvest in communities. Every summer they invest endless hours at the local fairs and extend their money and resources to purchase the animals raised by 4-H and FFA participants. They direct the processing of their purchases and invest more of their time directly distributing pounds of meat to countless different organizations and charities. Camp Inspiration Hills is one of the lucky organizations and charities to have found a friend in Paris & Washington. How did a Minerva-based company end up sending meat to Burbank, Ohio? Kelly Palmer who manages Paris and Washington is the son of Carl and Ruth Ann Palmer of Freeburg Church and Uncle to Chad Palmer who is associate pastor of the Mohican Church of the Brethren and provides spiritual leadership at the camp. Kelly's wife, Martha Palmer, also very active in the company, is the daughter of Howard and Ruth Ann Dickerhoof of Freeburg Church and niece to the late Ervin and Edna Martin and Ray and Esther Doerschuk, all of which were active not only in church but in the camp as well. So thank you Paris and Washington for sowing into the lives of the youth in our community and the future of Camp Inspiration Hills.

## Attachments

- Racism Workshop Brochure (Area Clergy Meetings)
- Bulletin Insert 3-5-2017
- Teacher's Appreciation Day
- Women's Spring Retreat
- Baptism Theology Brochure
- Webcast Healthy Boundaries 101

Northern Ohio District Fellowship Commission  
Invites Deacons, Teachers, Pastors, Youth Leaders to:

### APPRECIATION DAY

at Ashland First Church of the Brethren

Saturday, March 25, 2017

10:00 am until 2:00 pm

Join us for a day of fellowship with others in thankfulness for your ministry to our churches. We will have a panel discussion and share resource ideas for Christian Education Ministries. Go to the district website [www.nohcob.org](http://www.nohcob.org) to make your reservation.