

Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
DECEMBER 2017

Each Congregation to Receive Funds from the Hottle Grant Distribution

In 2016, the District Conference delegates approved a 4% distribution annually from the Hottle Fund to be available for grants to congregations for projects that impact their community outreach. This year, \$40,000 in grants were distributed!

The delegates also directed that the unused grant money be distributed equally to the congregations (45 churches and 2 fellowships). In December, each congregation in the Northern Ohio District will be receiving a check in the amount of \$858.15 to be used without restriction. These funds represent the balance remaining from the 2017 Hottle Memorial Fund grant distribution.

We would be glad to hear how your church uses this money so we can share that information in the next Herald.

Youth Leader Training on Sexual Integrity/Pornography to be held January 6, 2018:

Youth are bombarded with messages about sexuality; many of them harmful messages that sabotage healthy relationships and ignore the spiritual intimacy for which we were created. How can the church provide a different perspective in a way that can be heard?

A "How To" session on talking to youth about sexual integrity and pornography. Join us to hear from guest speaker, Bill Quigley, Youth Ministry Professor from Malone University. [Doctorate of Ministry, Master of Divinity]. Included will be small group discussions, a bundle of take-home resources, a time of sharing, and refreshments. Pastors and parents welcome. Cost: \$10. Registration required. Register on line at nohcob.org/youth or call the District Office at 419-281-3058.

Mark Your Calendar

- **12/8-9—Jr. High Winter Rally, New Philadelphia CoB, New Philadelphia, OH**
- **12/9—Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH**
- **1/6—Youth Leader Training, District Office, Ashland, OH**
- **1/13—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH**
- **1/13-14—Sr. High Leadership Series #2, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH**
- **1/27—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH**
- **2/10—Buckeye Brethren Institute: Introduction to Pastoral Care, District Office, Ashland, OH**

2018 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

February 18-20, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, Ohio

Our District Clergy-Spouse retreat will be held February 18th-20th at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg (Toledo area). This is a time for relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. The food and facilities are great, but the fellowship is even greater! Andy and Laura Hamilton will provide leadership for this event.

Dr. Laura Hamilton is Co-Founder and Director of Tender Shepherd: A Ministry of Soul Care. She holds a Master of Arts in Clinical Pastoral Counseling through Ashland Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry in Formational Counseling also through Ashland Theological Seminary. Andrew Hamilton is Co-Founder of Tender Shepherd: A Ministry of Soul Care. He is an ordained Pastor in the Church of the Brethren serving at Stevens Hill Community Church of the Brethren. He holds a Master of Divinity through Ashland Seminary in Ashland Ohio and a Master of Philosophy from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

Buckeye Brethren Institute, Upcoming Classes

Introduction to Pastoral Care (MS)
Instructor: Tom Zuercher

Meeting dates: January 13, 27, and February 10, 2018; 9:30am to 3:30pm

This course is designed to provide an overview of pastoral care from two perspectives: 1) the internal perspective of the personality traits, skills, talents, and habits of the individual as they relate to pastoral care, and 2) the external perspective of congregational routines and situations that raise expectations and assumptions of pastoral care.

This class is available to those interested in the ministry and to licensed ministers moving towards ordination. Ordained and Commissioned clergy can also take this class for CEU's (1.5 CEU's for attendance at all three Saturday sessions) at a cost of \$25.00.

Visit our webpage nohcob.org/BBI to register or for more information.

Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. Costs are \$325.00/couple, \$250.00/single, One day registration: \$130/couple, \$65.00/single. Flyers with registration forms will be mailed out to clergy later this month.

You may also register online at nohcob.org/retreat.



Andy & Dr. Laura Hamilton,
Steven Hills Community CoB

Wayne Scott Installed as Pastor at Eden CoB

Sunday, October 29th was a day of great joy as Wayne Scott was installed as the Pastor at the Eden Church of the Brethren. Pastor Wayne was also commissioned in the Church of the Brethren on this Sunday morning. He had served for almost two years as Interim Pastor at Eden before being called as part-time pastor. Wayne is ordained in the United Methodist Church and works as a chaplain for Medina County Hospice.

Wayne and his wife, Tricia have four daughters: Abigail (24 - graduate of Baldwin Wallace Univ.), Elizabeth (21 and a Senior at Otterbein Univ.), Lydia (18 and a freshman at Baldwin Wallace), and Esther (16 and a sophomore at Perry High School).

Wayne writes "add my profound thanksgiving to God and God's People for this wonderful blessing. And thanks to YOU, and to Eden, and to the District



Wayne and Patricia Scott

Board, and to Mark Bowyer (for preaching on my installation Sunday), and to family and friends who shared in that day. And my profound faith that God has wonderful things in store for Eden, and for the entire District (in my humble opinion) -- never lose faith! The BEST days of God's Church are always AHEAD!!"

Prayer Calendar

November 26—December 2

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Tom Zuercher) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)

December 3—December 9

Bethel CoB (Interim David Wyant) and Black River CoB (Pastor Mark Teal)

December 10—December 16

Bristolville CoB (Pastor Fred Keener) and Brook Park Community CoB (Interim Tom Michaels)

December 17—December 23

Center CoB (Pastor Mark Kell) and Chippewa CoB (Pastor Bill Eley)

December 24—December 30

County Line CoB (Pastor Tom Dearth and Associate Pastor Chris Ewing) and Defiance CoB (Pastor Gene Yenser)

December 31—January 6

Dupont CoB (Interim Steve Heilshorn) and East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley)

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Ashland Dickey – *Tom Zuercher* retiring in August 2018. Search Committee reviewing pastoral profiles.

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

East Nimishillen – *Carolyn Kuryn* serving as interim. Profile complete.

Pleasant View – *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim. Search Committee reviewing profiles.

Congregations that have not begun the search process of have chosen not to seek at this time:

Bethel – *David Wyant* serving as interim.

Dupont – *Steve Heilshorn* serving as interim.

Lake Breeze – *James Washington* completes his ministry on December 3rd.

Lakewood – *Gene Wyse* serving as interim.

Maple Grove – *John Ballinger* serving as interim.

Woodworth – *John Polanski* serving as interim.

Special Circumstances:

Jonah's People Fellowship – *Scott Hall* serving as interim while *Barry Belknap* is undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

Ross – *Jerry Holscher* is providing pulpit supply while *Keith Stoller* is on medical leave.



Prayer posted in the hallway at Brook Park. Written by former pastor Merve Cripe.

Our Heavenly Father,
As the noisy storm brings rain
to a dry and thirsty land and
swells the streams and lakes
with fresh, pure water,
So let your Spirit saturate
Our lives until we are filled
to overflowing
And carrying that fullness to
Parched souls and empty
lives.
In the name of Christ,
Amen
Written by: Reverend Merve Cripe

Disaster Relief Kits

As we seek ways to help those that have been impacted by the recent hurricanes, Brethren Disaster Ministries is collecting Emergency Clean-Up Buckets and Hygiene Kits on behalf of Church World Services. Many churches in our District have already initiated the assembly of Clean-up Buckets and Hygiene Kits. Please consider being a part of this important outreach. Use this link (<http://cwskits.org/>) to discover more about the contents and assembly of these kits – or call the District Office if you need instructions mailed.

We will arrange delivery to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor to save your church the shipping cost. Please contact the Northern Ohio District Office 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org by December 15th to arrange for us to pick up your kits for delivery. We have already received over 320 hygiene kits and 14 buckets to transport! Thank you!



Buckeye Brethren Institute Receives Accreditation from Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership



Left to Right: Steve Simmons, Ministerial Chair; Paul Bozman, Ministry Education Director; Janet Ober Lambert, Director Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; Kris Hawk, District Executive; Tom Zuercher, District Board Chair

During the November 11, 2017 District Board meeting, the Ministerial Commission was presented with a formal certificate from the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership for its ACTS program, Buckeye Brethren Institute. Janet Ober Lambert, Director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, presented the certificate to the Ministerial Commission and shared her support and enthusiasm for the program.

HOLIDAY DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

The District Office will be closed December 22th through January 1st for Christmas and New Year's.

Kris Hawk will be on jury duty the week of December 11th.

Julie Watson will be having surgery on December 15 and will be out of the office through January 7th. Kris Hawk and Esther Harsh will be covering office hours during that time.

District Executive Kris Hawk takes Wednesday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or 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

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



When the shepherds had seen Jesus, "they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." Luke 2: 17-18.

May you spread the Good News of Jesus so that all who hear it may share in the amazement of this Christmas gift! Your Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren Staff.