



# Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—APRIL 2016

## 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, and to hear how the District can be helpful to you and your congregation. Attached to this Pastor's Memo is an updated schedule. This will also go out separately by email and/or mail. If there are additional changes that need to be made, please contact Kris ([krishawk@nohcob.org](mailto:krishawk@nohcob.org) or 330-612-2086).

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, Spencer Dolezal** is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. He can be reached at 440-554-4657 or [spencer@nohcob.org](mailto:spencer@nohcob.org)

## Annual Conference Volunteers

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

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Greensboro 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. Jane Laprade is coordinating the First Aid Office at Annual Conference and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: [d.laprade@b2xonline.com](mailto:d.laprade@b2xonline.com)

## Mark Your Calendar

- April 23—Consecration Service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive, Inspiration Hills, Burbank OH
- April 29-30—SISTERS' Spring Retreat, Beulah Beach, Vermilion, OH
- May 7—Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH
- May 21—District Board Meeting, Lakewood CoB, Milbury, OH
- June 16—Christian Peacemaker Team, Biking for Peace Visit, Center CoB, Louisville, OH
- June 26-July 1—Youth Summer Mission, Chicago, IL
- June 28-July 3—Annual Conference, Greensboro, NC
- July 29-30—District Conference, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH
- July 30—District Board Reorganization Meeting, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH

# District Prayer Calendar

## April 10—April 16

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

## April 17—April 23

Painesville CoB (Pastors John & Sondra Bocchieri) and Paradise CoB (Pastor Allen Kahler)

## April 24—April 30

Pleasant View CoB (Pastor Les Bartley) and Poplar Ridge CoB (Pastor Ben Polzin)

## May 1—May 7

Reading CoB (Pastor Larry Bradley) and Richland CoB (Pastor Jim Frado, Jr.)

## May 8—May 14

Ross CoB (Interim Keith Stoller) and Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin)

## Welcome Alan and Sally Brumbaugh



Alan Brumbaugh began serving as pastor at Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren this month. He and his wife Sally moved here from Pennsylvania, where Alan served as Pastor at Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren in Hopewell, PA. They have 2 adult children. Alan can be reached at 814-761-0986 (cell), 234-334-1314 (home) or by email at [aepsab81@gmail.com](mailto:aepsab81@gmail.com). We are blessed to have Alan and Sally providing ministry at Akron Springfield.

## Pastoral Placement

### Congregations actively in the search process

**Akron Springfield** – **Alan Brumbaugh** began as pastor on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Installation service being held April 17th.

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

**Center** – Congregational profile completed. **David Hall** serving as interim.

**Dupont** – Search Committee formed. **Bill Helmlinger, Doug Price, Terry Porter** serving as interim pastoral team.

**Lick Creek** – Search Committee interviewing. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

**Sugar Creek West** – **Michael Huffaker** called as pastor during April 3rd congregational meeting and will begin ministry there June 27th. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

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

**Adrian** – **David Morton** serving an interim

**Chippewa** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

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

**Eden** – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim. (waiting 6-12 months to begin the search process).

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

**Maple Grove** – **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

**Marion First** – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

**Owl Creek** – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

**Ross** – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim

**Swan Creek** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Woodworth** – **Mitch Funkhouser** has resigned as interim effective May 8th.

# Announcements

## 2016 Annual Conference Request for Congregation Ministry Pictures

The 2016 Annual Conference theme is “Carry the Light.” Program and Arrangements Committee is inviting all congregations to send creative pictures of different ministries from your church – the choir, the youth activities, mission work, fundraising events, fellowship, etc. that show how your congregation carries the light of Christ. We would like to develop a “congregational collage” that will be displayed on the video screens in the main hall before and after gathering for worship and business. Brother David Sollenberger will use his creativity to develop the collage.

We are requesting no more than ten (10) pictures in jpeg format. It would be good if one of them could be your church building. If you use a phone or tablet, the format might be different, but we encourage you to send them as jpeg files, if possible, and make sure they are clear and are your best set. This might make a good project for your youth or others in your congregation interested in media. These pictures can be emailed to [accob2016@gmail.com](mailto:accob2016@gmail.com) with the subject as “Collage and [the name of your congregation.]” Please send them no later than May 15, 2016.

## Church Directories needed

If your congregation has a printed or electronic church directory for 2016 the District Office would appreciate receiving a copy. Please mail to Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805 or email to [julie@nohcob.org](mailto:julie@nohcob.org).

## Consecration Service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive

The District Board would like to invite everyone to join us on Saturday, April 23, for a consecration service for Kris Hawk, Interim District Executive. We will gather at 1:30 p.m. in Cherry Lodge at Inspiration Hills for fellowship time and join in worship at 2:00 p.m. This will be your opportunity to meet Kris and to talk with members of the District Board. We look forward to seeing you on April 23!

## Youth Missions Trip

The District Youth Ministry is taking a week long summer mission trip to Chicago, IL. We are excited to be bringing 31 high school aged individuals and 11 adult leaders from five different Northern Ohio District Churches. We will be serving inner city children's programs, homeless outreach, and prayer ministry during our time in Chicago. Each member of this group is working hard to fundraise for their trip. In the interest of keeping the trip covered in prayer and keeping it affordable for those individuals willing to serve, I want to reach out to all of our churches to help with their fundraising and to ask for prayer partners. Pastors in our congregations will be receiving a mission support letter from the District Office detailing ways in which you might be able to partner with us for this amazing opportunity. If you have any questions, please direct them to Spencer Dolezal, District Youth Coordinator ([spencer@nohcob.org](mailto:spencer@nohcob.org), (440) 554-4657).

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

# Communication

One of our goals at the District Office is to 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. **We would like to include this information in the 2016 District Directory.**

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!

# District Resources

## District Conference edition of the Herald

The District Conference edition of the Herald will be sent out in a few weeks. It will contain Conference information (worship services, business, insight sessions), registration forms, and lodging possibilities. We are asking for your help to get it to as many people in your congregation as possible.

Most of our distribution of this important information is electronic. If you receive the electronic version, could you please forward it to those in your congregation that can have on-line access?

Each church will also receive a packet of paper copies. We would ask that these get distributed within your congregation through whatever system you have in place (mailboxes, etc...). Please let us know if the number of copies you usually receive is the number your congregation uses.

Getting the Herald to a broader number of people is an ongoing issue. If you have ideas...please read the following article!!!

## Distributing the Herald – seeking ideas

We are seeking feedback on the best way for the Herald to be distributed to the congregations so that individuals can receive the information. We do not have enough information to mail copies to each church member's home. We also know that sometimes stacks of unused Herald's sit on a back table only to be thrown away when the next one arrives. Please call/email the District Office with any thoughts you may have so that this im-

portant connection with the District can be maintained in an effective way.

## Did you know?

**The District website provides a web presence for each of our congregations.** Even if your church doesn't have a website – a web search brings up a link that includes your church's address, picture, a map, and phone number. Additional information, including service times and media can be added.

Multiple members from your church can obtain a log-in to access a protected area where leadership information is contained. This can serve as a database for your congregation – you can list each member/phone/address and print off lists and mailing labels from this information. All of this is at no cost to the individual church. Please call Julie at the District Office for more information

**Background checks are available through the District Office at a cost of \$7.50 each.** Some congregations use this service as they implement their Child Protection Policies (many insurance companies now require churches to have such a policy – and we all want to keep our children safe). The individual signs a permission form for the background check to be run and confidentiality is maintained. Please contact Kris Hawk for more information.

*"Being patient is difficult. It is not just waiting until something happens over which we have no control: the arrival of the bus, the end of the rain, the return of a friend, the resolution of a conflict. Patience is not waiting passively until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Be patient and trust that the treasure you are looking for is hidden in the ground on which you stand." Henri J. M. Nouwen*

*Source: Bread For The Journey*