

# The Herald

February 2016

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

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## Interim District Executive Named

### Article By Sherry Reese Vaught, District Board Chair

It is with great excitement we introduce Kris Hawk, the Interim Northern Ohio District Executive. Kris will begin her work with us on Monday, February 15 and will be with our district for a least a year. She has agreed to be flexible with her ending time, depending on the ability to fill the district executive position. Kris comes from the Akron Springfield congregation, where she has served as Pastor of Visitation for 12 years. Kris and the congregation were preparing for a change in leadership before Kris received this district call. We praise God for Kris' willingness and ability to serve.

Kris is known to many people in our district. She has served on District Board several times and has been District Board Chair during that service. She has been Moderator and served on the District Nominating Committee. She currently serves on the district Ethics Committee and the District Conference Central Committee. Kris has been involved with the district youth for many years, bringing youth to rallies, serving on the FaithQuest Team, and providing leadership as needed. Kris is also an RN who, before accepting the call to ministry, worked as Home Care administrator for Barberton Hospital and as Vice President of Medicare Operations for a local home care company. In addition to administrative roles, she has also spent many years working directly with patients, most recently as a hospice nurse. Kris and her husband Duane have been married 37 years and have 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren. Duane works the family farm and is fleet manager for Summit County.



The District Board Executive Committee completed negotiations with Kris in January. One thing she has made clear is that she wants to begin visiting congregations on Sunday mornings and worshiping with others in the district. Kris plans on visiting every congregation in our district. After February 15, you will be able to find her in the District Office in Ashland during office hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. She will be in congregations visiting 3 Sundays each month. She has already met with the Executive Committee of the District Board and begun training and spending time in the office. We look forward to Kris' service and ministry with our district churches and pastors.

The District Board would like to invite everyone to join us on **Saturday, April 23**, for a consecration service for Kris. 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!

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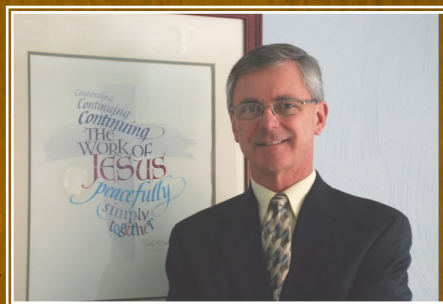
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## Reception of Thanks



As our District Executive, John Ballinger, completes his service with our district, we wish to stop and acknowledge his leadership. John has served our district for 13 years as DE. During that time there have been many wonderful ministries through the Northern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren. Many folks have come to know John as a pastor, administrator and friend. It is right that we take some time

to greet him as he leaves our office. There will be a reception for John on Saturday, March 12 from 3-5:00 p.m. at the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren, 960 Township Road 964 in Ashland. Light refreshments will be served, and John and Kathy will be receiving visitors and friends. All are invited to come and enjoy some fellowship with Brothers and Sisters of the church and say thank you. It is with the best of wishes that we bid our District Executive farewell. He will be taking some much needed vacation starting January 29. This District Office will continue to be open, however, and all can feel sure that the business of our district will continue through this time of change. John has been called as the interim minister at the Maple Grove congregation. We pray God continues to work through John and will guide him and keep him in all he does. Please come and share in this time of fellowship and thanksgiving.

## Two from Northern Ohio Serving in Brethren Volunteer Service

Penny Radcliff is a member of the Mt. Pleasant Church of the Brethren and is a 1968 graduate of Malone University in Canton. She is a retired gifted teacher. In addition to being very active at her home church; Penny helped to reorganize the District "SISTERS" Women's Ministry. After retirement she decided she would join Brethren Volunteer Service for six months to give back to the world. She is excited to serve her term at Cross Keys Village to work alongside the elders of the New Oxford community.



Chris Kaake is a member of the Paradise Church of the Brethren in Smithville. She is a 2005 graduate of Taylor University where she studied Intercultural Studies. She also has a Master's Degree of Journalism received in 2011 from Indiana University. Since 2012 she has served as the Program Director for Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, OH. Chris also serves as a Freelance Ghostwriter for a publishing company. Her desire to serve others and experience a different culture brought her to Northern Ireland where she is excited to start her new adventure.

Brethren Volunteer Service is a full time volunteer program that places volunteers in a one or two year long assignment in the United States and some locations around the world. This ministry of the Church of the Brethren has been a major program in this Christian denomination since 1948.

For more information go to <http://www.brethren.org/bvs/> or call the Northern Ohio Rep, Billi Janet Burkey 330-418-1148.



## Mark Your Calendar

### February 9

Executive Committee Meeting  
District Office, Ashland, OH

### February 14-16

Clergy-Spouse Retreat  
Holiday Inn French Quarter  
Perrysburg, OH

### March 1-5

Spring Area Clergy Meetings  
Locations TBD

### March 12

District Board Meeting  
Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH

### April 2

Central Committee Meeting  
Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH

## District Prayer Calendar

### January 31—February 6

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

### February 7—February 13

Dupont CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley)

### February 14—February 20

East Nimishillen CoB (Interim Matthew Reed) and Eden CoB (Interim Wayne Scott)

### February 21—February 27

Elm Street CoB (Pastor Doug Price) and Faith in Action Fellowship (Pastor Jim Gorrell)

### February 28—March 5

Freeburg CoB (Pastor Mike Zellers) and Hartville CoB (Pastor Anthony DiMarco)

### March 6—March 12

Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry Belknap) and Lake Breeze CoB (Interim James Washington)

## Pastoral Placement

**Adrian** – *David Morton* serving as interim.

**Akron Springfield** – *Alan Brumbaugh* called as pastor effective January 17. Installation date to be scheduled. *Tom Michaels* serving as interim. *Kris Hawk* resigned as pastor of visitation effective February 6, 2016.

**Ashland First** – *Tina Hunt* installed as pastor December 20, 2015.

**Bethel** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Center** – *David Hall* called as interim effective January 3, 2016.

**Chippewa** – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**Dupont** – *Brad Colley* resigned as pastor effective January 7, 2016. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

**East Nimishillen** – Congregational profile completed. *Matthew Reed* serving as interim.

**Eden** – *Wayne Scott* called as interim effective November 22, 2015.

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

**Lick Creek** – Search Committee reviewing pastoral profiles. *Dr. Nancy Berkheiser* serving as interim.

**Maple Grove** – *John Ballinger* called as interim effective February 14, 2016. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

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

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

**Richland** – *Jim Frado* installed as pastor December 27, 2015.

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

**Sugar Creek West** – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. *Dr. Byron Hawbecker* serving as interim.

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

**Woodworth** – *Mitch Funkhouser* serving as interim.

And a second is  
like it: 'You shall love your  
neighbor as yourself.'

**Matthew 22:39**





Jonah's People Kick Off Event November 10, 2015 (From left to right, Brian Layman (Hartville CoB), Paul Myers (Maple Grove CoB), Bethany Dukehart (Elm Street CoB), Joe Dukehart (Elm Street CoB), Sheri Sampson (Sugar Creek West CoB) and Barry Belknap (Jonah's People)

## Jonah's People

Article by Pastor Barry A. Belknap

*Jonah's People*, the new Church of the Brethren fellowship in Fostoria, Ohio, is working towards several strategic goals to insure a strong and healthy start. The following are some of the highlights from the last few months:

- Pastor Barry A. Belknap has begun meeting with families and individuals about membership. The goal is to have a sizeable charter membership group to be received early this spring. The Steering Committee created three types of membership using COB guidelines. A full member does allow for membership in another church. Associate Member and Separated Member are the other two categories.
- Monthly food drives will begin in February with proceeds donated to the Seneca County Food Pantry. Pastor Barry is conducting interviews with community agencies and ministries to determine what other community needs exist that can be incorporated into the outreach of Jonah's People.
- The weekly Tuesday night Gospel Service has been very popular. Some weeks the crowd has spilled out into the hallway outside the chapel. The service features regional Gospel Music artists. A volunteer choir director is working with attendees to form a choir that will sing on a regular basis. Some attendees were able to join a bell choir performance led by a local church during the Advent season.
- Attendance at all the services and programs has been growing steadily, with more people from the community attending along with the Good Shepherd Home residents.
- Good Shepherd Home has graciously offered to renovate the Chapel (where the fellowship meets) after Easter. Although the chapel's size will not change, the chancel area will be reduced and the pews will be rearranged and added to, to enable more people to fit in the space. The space will be rewired in order to control all the technology from one central panel, including an option of video streaming events such as Gospel concerts. New LED lighting and carpeting will also be installed.

## Welcome New Pastors and Clergy

**Tina Hunt** was licensed to the ministry and installed as pastor of the Ashland First congregation on December 20, 2015. She holds seminary degrees in New Testament studies, pastoral ministry, and pastoral counseling, and has served as a pastor, music director, youth leader and chaplain. She also serves as grant writer and fundraiser for Pump House Ministries and leads workshops on grief and loss, improving communication and finding one's passion and mission in life. Tina and her husband Nelson live in Ashland and are parents of three grown children and have three grandchildren.



**David Hobbs** was licensed to the ministry at the Eden congregation on January 3, 2016. Over the years he has served the congregation as board chair, deacon, treasurer, financial secretary, Sunday School teacher and Bible study leader. He is currently employed by the Canton Repository. David and his wife Sheila live in Canton and are parents of two grown children and have three grandchildren.



**Jim Frado** was installed as pastor of the Richland congregation north of Mansfield on December 27, 2015. Originally from Maryland, he has been employed in the financial services industry for over 20 years. He is also an Ashland Theological Seminary graduate and ordained minister in the Brethren Church. He served as associate pastor at Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland and as Director of Stewardship and Church Development for the Brethren Church denomination. Jim and his wife Karen live in Ashland and are parents of three grown children and have one granddaughter.







Oscar Garner, Member of Lakewood CoB

Article By Barbara Wilch, Member of  
Lakewood Church of the Brethren

## CELEBRATING OSCAR!!!

### Finding Hope on a Cold Winter's Night

The dark night sparkles diamond bright  
with flakes of falling snow,  
to gently cover, blanket thick,  
the silent earth below.

All is at rest in the frigid cold,  
yet in peacefulness and mirth,  
for 'tis God's plan to use this rest  
to bring another birth!

Yes! heaven's sun will liberate  
the brutal shivering cold,  
and once again yield itself  
to summer green and gold.

To every darkness there comes a light,  
to every chill a warming glow,  
it is ours to trust and bless this time  
as life in God's control!

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Lifelong Lakewood Church of the Brethren member Oscar Garner will be turning 100 on February 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a party in honor of this occasion on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Otterbein Portage Valley where Oscar resides.

Oscar was born on a Walbridge, Ohio farm during the years of World War I to George and Ida (Kintner) Garner. There were 5 living children in his family. He started 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Frog Pond School, which later became part of the Lake Local School system. The bell from the Frog Pond School is the bell that wakes up campers at Inspiration Hills, a Church of the Brethren camp. He is the only living member of his high school graduating class.

Oscar's father, George, was the first permanent preacher at Black Swamp Church of the Brethren, now Lakewood. Many of Oscar's early memories are of activities and friends through the church.

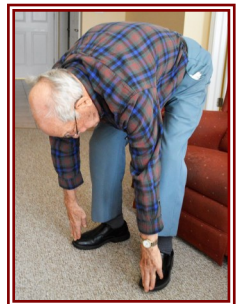
During the years of the Great Depression, Oscar worked at several different jobs and began seeing his future bride, Florice Loop. In 1937 he began to prepare for his wedding. He found a building site and enlisted the help of his father and men that were willing to work for very little. Oscar was making \$.28 per hour at that time. They began a marriage of 63 and ½ years on July 25, 1940. Church friends hosted their reception and they slept in their new home on their wedding night.

Soon after their wedding, military draft for World War II began. At first Oscar was classified as 3C, meaning he was married and working in a flour mill classed as agricultural. When that mill closed and he began to work at a new magnesium plant, he was reclassified as 1A CO. He continued to follow his faith with his Conscientious Objector stand. He first went overseas to New Guinea and was told to prepare for the invasion of Japan. After Japan's surrender, August 15, 1945, Oscar was sent home. A few years ago he was honored as a member of the Honor Flight to Washington DC.

When he finally got home, January 16, 1945, again church friends helped. He was only home a day when they told him that their company, DuPont, was hiring, and he got a job as a "paint shader", nowadays called a "color analyst". He stayed there until he retired.

Oscar and Florice never had children of their own, but loved and cared for many others' children and always tried to help others. Oscar served at Lakewood as a trustee, church treasurer, fixing things, SS teacher, driver for campers to Camp Mack, and any way he could. When Good Shepherd Home in Fostoria was rebuilt, Oscar served on that board and was even Chairman. The founder of Portage Valley consulted Oscar when that project was developing because of his reputation from his work at Good Shepherd.

The Church of the Brethren molded much of Oscar Garner and in turn Oscar has witnessed for the Church of the Brethren throughout his life. Praise God!!







*SISTERS' RETREAT*

*Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 2016*

*Beulah Beach, Vermilion*

*Speaker: Bonni Brockway*



*Join us for a time of retreat including great fellowship, devotions, singing, crafts, and quiet time with our Lord. All at the beautiful Beulah Beach Lodge on the shores of Lake Erie. Cost will be \$70 per person which includes Friday pizza; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and supper; and overnight stay with bedding and towels provided.*

*Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren  
Women's Ministry*

*Ministry to Women and for Women*

[www.nohcob.org](http://www.nohcob.org)

[sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com](mailto:sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com)



## Clergy-Spouse Retreat

**February 14-16, 2016**

**Holiday Inn French Quarter  
Perrysburg, Ohio**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Pete and Janice Kaltenbaugh**

Plan on joining us for the upcoming Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 14-16, 2016 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH.

Our guest speakers will be Pete & Janice Kaltenbaugh. Pete has been in ministry since being licensed in 1966 in the Western Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren. He attended and graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary and has served as pastor in 4 Church of the Brethren congregations (Hartville, Northern Ohio for 20 years) and an American Baptist/Community Church and a House Church in Turkey while serving in the Armed services. He and Janice have been married for almost 46 years and have two grown children and four grandchildren. Janice has been the Executive Director of Camp Harmony for almost ten years; following over twenty-five years in teaching (18 years, Lake Local schools, Hartville, Ohio.)

Both are involved in many ministries locally and district wide. They continue to live each day in service to Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. They enjoy each and every day that is presented to them and have been best friends even longer than they have been married.

They look forward to the Retreat in Ohio, to renew former friendships and make new friends. Please remember this is going to be a learning experience, but we will have lots of fun as well. Pete and Janice enjoy every day that God gives them. Come along for the adventure. See You There.

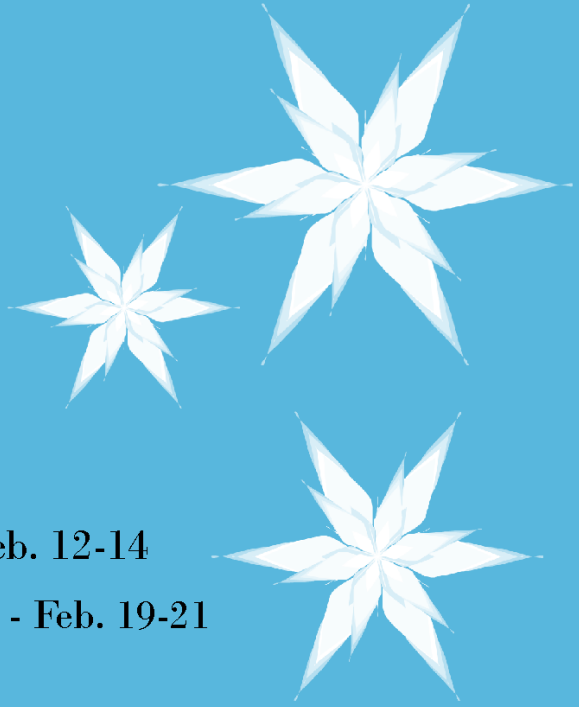
Cost: \$325.00 per couple, \$250.00 per single, and \$130.00 per single one day registration

To register online click or go to: <http://members.nohcob.org/events/details/clergy-spouse-retreat-75>



# Winter Camp

## 2016: *unique as a snowflake*



**Junior Winter Camp [Grades 3-5] - Feb. 12-14**

**Junior High Winter Camp [Grades 6-8] - Feb. 19-21**

Cost: \$90

Make checks payable to: Inspiration Hills Camp

Winter Camp is BACK! Introducing this year - winter camp for junior high too! There will be marshmallows for toasting and hearts-a-glowing and hot chocolate drinking and gaga ball playing and snowman building and seeing old friends and meeting new friends and most importantly, learning about God!

The theme this year is Unique as a Snowflake: Having the Courage to be Yourself. We will be learning from Psalm 139:13-14 that we are perfect in God's eyes. We will learn we are all different and all unique, and also fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image. We all have special gifts and talents to bring to the Kingdom of God.

Both camps will begin on Friday night at 7:00 P.M. and end on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 P.M.

As soon as we receive your registration, we will mail the necessary medical forms for you to fill out and return—the cool part being these forms will then become valid for the entire 2016 year at camp! Two registrations are on the back—bring a friend!

### Any questions?

(419) 846-3010

4819 W. EASTON RD. BURBANK, OH 44214

MESSAGE OUR FACEBOOK!





# Youth Missions Trip

June 26, 2016 through July 1, 2016

Center for Student Missions, Chicago, IL

This Summer, the District Youth Ministry will be embarking on a mission trip to Chicago, IL. Our youth will have the opportunity to serve in inner-city children's ministries, homeless aid, prayer outreach, and other missional activities. We will be leaving on June 26, 2016 and returning July 1, 2016.

For this mission trip we are partnering with an organization called Center for Student Missions. CSM is focused around the idea that short term service has a long term impact. Throughout the week, we will work with CSM's staff as they guide us around the different ministry sites with which they partner. CSM provides all of our lodging and food arrangements, and we will have the opportunity to experience several different cultural restaurants throughout the week.

The timeline for the Summer Mission begins now as we are building interest and getting youth registered for the trip. There is a trip folder with information on CSM, our trip, and applications that will come around to the congregations in the District. If you would like more information, please contact Spencer Dolezal for a trip folder.

The total cost for the trip is \$400 (which includes a \$65 deposit), and we will have a variety of fundraising opportunities for you to participate in. Our adult leaders for the trip will also take part in checking in on fundraising progress to make sure that we are able to take on the financial responsibilities of the trip.

We can't wait to partner with you in this outreach opportunity!

Spencer Dolezal, District Youth Coordinator

Cell: (440) 554-4657 Email: [spencer@nohcob.org](mailto:spencer@nohcob.org)



Chicago, IL

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren Youth Ministry	<b>Summer Mission</b>
Center for Student Missions <a href="http://csm.org">csm.org</a>	June 26, 2016 - July 1, 2016

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