

The Link

Vol. 97 February 2024 No. 1

Connecting Churches in the
Ohio Association
of Regular Baptist Churches

“Spreading the Gospel in Ohio
through Healthy Churches”

OARBC CAMPER SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY

MARCH 10th

SEE FLYER FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS

GOAL: \$30,000

OARBC churches are encouraged to consider highlighting the three Ohio camps by taking a special offering for Camper Scholarships on Sunday, March 10. All gifts received will go 100% to scholarship campers to attend, helping those who could not otherwise go or helping families who are sacrificing to send children to camp.

Consider making March 10 Camp Sunday at your church. Here are some ideas:

- Take a special camp offering to be divided equally between Scioto Hill, Camp Patmos or Skyview Ranch.
- Emphasize camp registrations for this summer at the camp your church attends. Have information, applications, website or pens ready!
- Have a special time of prayer for the camps.
- Have a testimony from a student as to how camp has impacted them.
- Invite a representative from one of the camps to speak.
- Use the posters and bulletin inserts available at oarbc.org to promote the day.



Checks should be payable to “Hebron Association” with “Camp Scholarship Sunday” noted and mailed to: First Baptist Church, 11400 Lagrange Rd, Elyria, OH 44035

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The Link

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A Word from the Rep

Hello, OARBC family,

As I looked out my window this morning the ground was covered with snow. Just a few hours later the snow was all gone. I was reminded again everything in life changes and those changes can come quickly. As we look to 2024 a lot of changes will be taking place in our OARBC churches. New pastors, new people, births, deaths, ministry challenges. Our churches continue to change as they grow. With all this change there is ONE who never changes and this is Jesus Christ the Lord. I am reminded of the Scripture in Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." PTL!

I would ask you to be praying for our **Council of 12** for wisdom as they give leadership to our fellowship and evaluate the priorities of the ministry. Two of those priorities are church planting and church advancement.

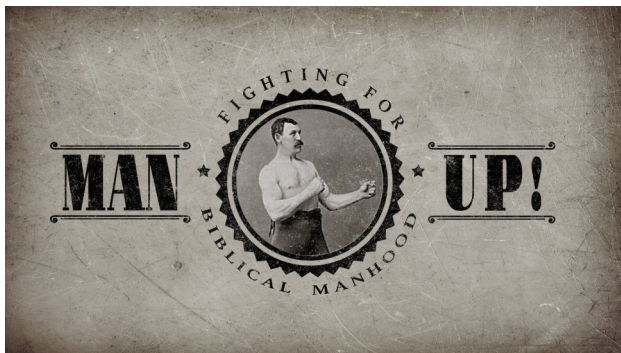
Consider attending the **Man of God Conference** in Bellefontaine and **Man Up** in Northfield. Both of the conferences are on Saturday, March 2 and early bird registration is happening right now. (See below).

Notice on the front page there is information about the **OARBC Camper Scholarship Sunday**. It is designated for Sunday, March 10 with a goal of raising \$30,000. The monies will be evenly divided between our three Ohio partnering camps: Camp Patmos, Scioto Hills, and Skyview Ranch, and will be totally for camper scholarships for 2024.

Just a reminder to place on your calendars October 21-23, Monday afternoon-Wed late morning for our **Annual OARBC Conference at Grace Baptist Church in Canton**. The conference committee along with the leadership at Grace are planning a great conference that you won't want to miss.

Linda and I would love to come to your church this year to present the OARBC and share with your people during the Sunday School hour and Morning Worship. Just let us know how we can be a service to your church ministry.

Chuck
OARBC State Rep



MAN UP! Conference
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Northfield Baptist, Northfield

Keynote Speakers
Dave Sellers, Camp Patmos
Robert Brooks, Cleveland Browns' Chaplain

\$30 (by February 1, 2024)
\$40 (after February 1)
\$50 (at the door)

www.manuplife.com



Men of God Conference
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Calvary, Bellefontaine

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Daniel Dewitt, Center for Faith and Culture
Southwest Baptist University
plus break-out sessions

\$30 (Jan 9, 2024 - Feb 21, 2024)
\$40 (Feb 21, 2024 - March 2, 2024)

www.calvarybellefontaine.org/mog



February 2024

Greetings Ladies of Ohio!

OUR STATE PROJECT FOR 2023-24 is: Fueled 4 Missions



Help us raise \$10,000 to supply gas for Baptist Mid-Missions' missionary appointees as they travel to raise support. Your offerings to this year's project will speed up appointees' progress to their mission fields! Please use the following link to access a 3-minute video explaining our project: <https://vimeo.com/819609945/273ed9b115>

At our fall retreat the Lord blessed our project with offerings of \$3,168.55, auction gifts of \$2,700 and offerings that have come in of \$2,713.64 to give us a total of **\$8,582.19**. We are praising the Lord for what He has done so far. We still have until the end of May to complete our goal of **\$10,000**. **Ladies, please mark your 2024 calendars:**

Ohio Women for Missions Spring Meeting Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00 am

Our meeting will be hosted by Millersburg Baptist Church and Vermillion Baptist Church. We will gather together at Millersburg Baptist Church, 685 S. Washington St., Millersburg, Ohio. Sarah Weidner, BMM missionary appointee to Romania, is our speaker. She will be encouraging us from the Word of God and sharing her ministry. Lunch will be prepared for us by Chef Elizabeth Bird, pastor's wife from Vermillion Baptist Church.

Cost for lunch is \$8.00. Please make checks out to OWM.

Please be sure to let us know you will be attending and staying for lunch by sending your reservations to:

Elizabeth Bird
1005 Ashland Co Rd 2256
Perrysville, Ohio 44864 (267-218-0664; chefbird05@gmail.com)

Just a word of encouragement as we **look forward** to the future:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18-20

Earlier in this chapter Mary is directed to “go quickly and tell...” (28:7) and again we read: “go and tell my brothers ..” (28:10) and lastly Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (28:19) Why? To share the Good News of His gospel to everyone so others could become His disciples. And yet we do not do this alone, because He said He would be **with us always**. We don't have to be afraid to share the gospel. God is right there with us!!!

Let us **look forward** to the coming year to reach out to our friends, family and neighbors to share the Good News of Christ. Ask Him for opportunities to talk to others. Don't be afraid. He is **with us always** to give us the answers of the hope that is within us. Pray this for our missionaries on the field and for ourselves and see what the Lord will do.

Mark your calendar and look forward to:

November 14 & 15, 2024 - OWM Fall Ladies Retreat at the Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek, Ohio More details to come.

Keep **Looking Forward**,

Donna Victor, Renny Snare, Micheala Brown and Elizabeth Bird
OWM Officers

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— BREATHE HOPE TWENTY-FOUR, INC. —

Breathe Hope Twenty-Four, Inc. is a non-profit ministry which began in March of 2022. TJ and Nichole Dalenberg are members of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Smithville, Ohio. They are both graduates of Clarks Summit University in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. TJ graduated with a double major in Communications and Theology. Nichole graduated with a double major in Counseling and Theology. They are involved at Pleasant Hill in music ministry, nursery, and youth ministry. Read their story below and the what and why of their ministry.

Breathe Hope Twenty-Four, Inc. was born out of a family tragedy in March of 2022. Our son, Noah Lane, faced an unknown diagnosis that eventually took his life after five months of fighting. When we lost our child, we turned to our support systems: God, our families, our church, and our work families. We also sought out help to face the daily agony of our loss. Even in spite of the support systems we did have, we wished for more resources and help.

David and Krista Hargrave, both grief and trauma counseling individuals, were the speakers who brought us an understanding of grief, how it impacts individuals and the family system, what to expect (and not to expect) when grieving, and most importantly, the road ahead to hope. Each guest was empowered with the knowledge that true and lasting hope can be found. [David Hargrave's designations are LSW, CCTP, and CGCS. Krista is an LPCC with an EMDR certification]

Our second **Finding Hope Again Grief Event** will be on Saturday, April 20, 2024. If you would like to sign up or you have a friend or loved one on their own grief journey and you would like more information, you can use the QR code or email breathehope24@gmail.com or find more information on the website <https://breathehopetwentyfour.org/>



My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
II Corinthians 12:9

Resources and Grief Events are free to participants. If you would like to support this ministry or give a one-time gift, there is opportunity on the website.

The only lasting solution for grief is HOPE

We attribute any sort of healing or hope we've experienced through this tragedy to our relationships with Jesus Christ. Having faith doesn't take the pain away, but it gives purpose and a long-term hope to the pain that we feel.

Grief and loss force people to come to terms with thoughts of life after the grave, and because of the Gospel, we have hope in life beyond the pain. The Gospel and the Bible are our ultimate guiding authorities.

Breathe Hope Twenty-Four, Inc. came out of our desire to meet people where they are in their grief journey and to close the gap for those that do not have support systems. The grief journey is not easy, and there is no quick fix or simple solution. We simply want to breathe hope back into the lives of those hurting by providing grief resources and connecting individuals through grief retreats.

At **Breathe Hope Twenty-Four, Inc.** we connect with individuals walking the grief journey. Each one of us faces grief-- it's not a matter of if, but when — and it can leave us feeling hopeless and alone. No one has the journey figured out, but we are grateful to walk alongside people facing those harsh realities. So far, we have connected with over 100 individuals through our mailed resources and grief events.

Recently in 2023, we held our first **Finding Hope Again Grief Event**. We gathered at a beautiful venue, graciously hosted by Camp Nuhop in the Mohican area to discuss the topic of grief.



TJ Dalenberg leads the first Finding Hope Again Grief Event in 2023. The second event is scheduled for April 20, 2024.

Camp News

Dave Sellers, Executive Director
www.camppatmos.com



New Kubota Tractor



New Dump Trailer

We are thankful for all God did last year and are excitedly looking forward to a great 2024. The many hearts and lives that were changed and challenged through Camp Patmos bring great reassurance to God's faithfulness in this ministry for us, our families, and our donors. Last year gave us the opportunity to speak the truth about God's creation and, on a practical front, rejoice in the donations of a new Kubota tractor and a much-needed new dump trailer. We also want to thank all of you who gave faithfully toward our 2023 deficit to help as we ended the year.

We look forward to this summer's theme, "Escape from Darkness." Much like the fall into sin of Adam and Eve from Genesis 3, God still pursues and provides even in our disobedience. God is pursuing us in grace to bring us back from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. 1 Peter 2:9 reminds believers, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." To supplement chapel messages and daily devotions, we've prepared exciting, relevant experiences for our campers to learn from and enjoy.

Summer camp applications are open and starting to come in. Be sure to sign up before the last minute. **NEW THIS YEAR:**

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS

The earlier you sign up, the lower your monthly payments will be.

EARLY BIRD REWARDS

\$25 OFF ending March 15.

FREE week of camp drawings on February 15 and March 15. Sign up for summer camp before February 15 or March 15 to participate.

MULTIPLE FAMILY MEMBER REWARD

For every sibling that comes to camp this summer, EACH camper gets **\$25 off** the application fee. You must be an immediate family member for this discount to apply.

SECOND CHANCE REWARD

Return to camp for a second week of summer camp and receive **\$100 off** any additional week(s).

For our ministry partners, we also offer a **Ministry Discount to families in full-time ministry**, and **Youth Pastors (and their immediate family) can stay at Camp Patmos for \$10 if they bring at least ten campers.**

You will want to take advantage of the opportunity to be at Camp Patmos this summer and attend our fall retreats. Please call or email us at (419)746-2214 or info@camppatmos.com. We love to talk about Camp Patmos! You can also check us out or sign up at www.camppatmos.com

Thank you for your love and support of Camp Patmos!

Camp News

Jon Casbohm, Executive Director

www.skyviewranch.org



OARBC Friends,

2023 was a banner year for the ministry at Skyview Ranch and we don't plan to slow down any time soon! In the past year **God has provided** in some tremendous ways for the camp.

Thanks to your generous support in 2023 we were able to:

- Minister to thousands of students throughout the year and see **over 90 students saved at camp**.
- Install a **brand-new diesel generator** to power the Activity Center in case of emergency.
- **Remodel six cabins** (including the original stilted cabins!) and the **Ranch House**.
- Put **new roofs** on three staff homes.
- Complete three large scale **excavation projects** including re-establishing the pond.
- Begin construction on the **Matt and Chris Oswald Maintenance Shop**.
- **Purchase sports equipment** to complete the Activity Center.
- **Purchase several new horses** and provide exceptional care for our herd.

Here are some **opportunities** for you to get involved in what is happening!

- Register your group for our upcoming **Men's Retreat**, April 25-27.
- Speaker: **Pastor Matt Otto**, Faith Baptist, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.
- Send students to **Creation Camp**, May 8-10, an educational retreat for 4th-6th grade students.
- Save the Date and join us for our **Annual Golf Scramble**, May 20.
- **Volunteers Needed!** We're looking for a church or group of men to take on a bathroom remodel! This project will include some plumbing, electrical, flooring, and drywall work.
- **We're Hiring!** We are searching for the amazing people that will make summer camp awesome this year! If you or someone you know loves God and wants to serve Him at camp this year, consider Skyview Ranch! Interviews are happening now; we have a spot just for you!

Registration for camp is **OPEN!** Check out the Dates and Rates below. **Register soon and get \$50 off!**

Check Out www.skyviewranch.org or call 1-866-SVR-OHIO for more information.

Day Camp \$319.00 1st – 3rd Grade June 10-15 June 17-22 July 1-6 July 8-13 July 15-20 July 22-27	Junior \$459.00 4th- 5th Grade June 10-15 June 17-22 July 22-27	Pioneer \$459.00 6th Grade June 10-15 July 15-20 July 22-27	Cowboy \$569.00 4th – 6th Grade July 1-6	Equine \$569.00 4th-6th Grade July 8-13 (Full) July 29-August 2 (space limited)
Jr. High \$459.00 7th – 8th Grade June 17-22 July 1-6 July 15-20	Senior High \$479.00 9th – Recent Grads July 1-6 July 8-13	Scuba \$689.00 7th – 12th Grade July 8-13	Volleyball \$499.00 8th – 11th Grade July 15-20 (space limited)	Soccer \$499.00 8th – 11th Grade July 22-27 (space limited)

SAVE THE DATE!

**OARBC Senior Adult Luncheon at Skyview Ranch
September 24, 2024**

Camp News

Scott Bruns, Executive Director
www.sciotohills.com



THINGS ARE HOPPING AT SCIOTO HILLS!

Back in the day when I was a school administrator, I had one teacher who regardless of when I asked him, "How's it going today?" he would always answer with, "One step ahead of the wolf!" as he flew by me. I've never been face to face with a wolf. Maybe he has, but I have found myself bringing the phrase out of retirement when people ask me, "How's it going?"

We are excited about how God is directing our ministry these days, but with some major staff changes (something we just ain't use to), hiring and training new staff, summer recruiting, long-range planning and working with a consulting firm to make it a reality along with hosting 8 weekend retreats in a row has made me more thankful for the promise God gave to Paul that, "My grace is sufficient for you." And His grace is sufficient. It's keeping me "one step ahead of the wolf."

What a joy to know the Father, His Son and the Spirit are looking out for us and providing for our needs every day. To God be the glory! Here's a quick look at Scioto Hills:

1. **Rekindle Couples Retreats** February 2-4 and 9-11. Still room to register. We have great speakers (Nathan Bell and Rex Howe) but we added a little twist this year for our Date Night with professional comedian/magician David McCreary. He's hilarious.
2. **Winter Youth Camps** February 16-18, 23-25, and March 8-10. Registration is closed because we are full.
3. **Jr. Revolution Day Event**, March 2, Elementary Grades 2-6th.
4. **Seasoned Saints Luncheon** with Special Guests "South Webster High School Select Sound" Thursday, April 11, 2024
Call the office 740-778-CAMP to reserve your spots.
4. **Renovate Men's Retreat** April 19-20. Speaker Jason Lee (Bible Professor at Cedarville).
We will be hosting our first ever Pickleball Tournament this year. Just saying.
6. **Annual Work Weekend** May 2-4. We love *skilled* and *unskilled* volunteers. Join the party. Email pete@sciotohills.com

We are off to another great start in 2024. This is our 60th year of ministry. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, partnership in the Gospel, financial and prayer support—and for trusting us with your children.

In Christ,
Scott

REFRESH Pastors' and Wives' Retreat at Scioto Hills

March 18-20, 2024

Monday-Wednesday

Price: FREE

Refresh is designed to be a time of refreshment, reflection, and relaxation for those in pastoral ministry. Discussions will be facilitated to sharpen and encourage each other in ministry.

Check-in will begin at 11:00 am on Monday, March 18
and it will conclude after lunch on Wednesday, March 20

On-line registration will open soon.

— WHAT GOD IS DOING AT WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL —

Portions of this article by Pastor Jeff Beckley, Memorial Baptist Church, Columbus was published in the May, 2022 LINK. Rejoice in this update of how God blesses obedience to His leading.



Our church has been praying and following the Lord's direction in how we can best serve and reach our community with the Gospel and love of Christ. I truly believe our church has been faithful over the years in our mission of "Inviting People to Know and follow Christ."

Recently, we were presented with an opportunity to do this very thing in a significant way. If I was honest, I laughed when I first heard about it. It reminds me of the reaction of Abraham and Sarah when they heard the news of having a baby as centenarians.

Let me just share a brief history of the vision. Our community has seen many kids struggle educationally, and has seen many try to make a change, but are in a cycle of poor education and academic failure. Nearly one-quarter of our community age 25 and older does not have a high school degree. On top of that, many students on the Hilltop are either educationally behind or have little parental support or both. As a result, if they try to enter a Christian school setting – they are literally grades behind. And even if they succeed in enrolling in a Christian school, it is a 2-hour bus ride.

A number of years ago, God put on a pastor's heart in our community, Ben Douglass, to start a Christian school on the Westside of Columbus. After striking a friendship, he presented this idea to me and our church leadership. As God has allowed the dream of a Christian school on the Westside to be more of a reality over the past year, our church was asked to put our name in as a possible ministry site for the Christian school. After thinking this is impossible – long story short – our church was chosen as the choice for one of the pilot Christian schools here on the Westside, and Westside Christian School (WCS) opened in the fall of 2022, beginning with grade Kindergarten through second grade.

As we studied our church history, we learned from 1909 to 1913, Memorial Baptist Church had a mission school on its campus. Fast-forward 100 years later, and the church doors opened to a school once again. This is God's House, not ours. This is God's church. And we cannot hold on to our building too tightly that we do not allow a few scratches on the walls and the utility bill to go up. These rooms lay vacant all week long – and this was a chance for us to use our building to help with a community need and to share the Gospel with kids from all over the neighborhood.

In the first year of WCS, we welcomed 32 students in grades K-2. There were challenges, but those challenges were met with answered prayer after answered prayer. True miracles happened right before our eyes. Students who could not read, were reading. Kids who struggled with their behavior, were now singing praises to the Lord in chapel. Financial shortfalls were prayed over, and the Lord provided what we needed to keep our doors open and support our staff.

God was not finished. In the fall of 2023, Westside Christian School's enrollment nearly doubled to 63 students with a wait list for several grades. The school has expanded to third grade, giving us four classrooms full of students growing in their academic and spiritual lives. The halls are filled with laughter, the classrooms are full, the teachers are thriving, and kids are hearing about God's love for them in an educational setting.

It has not always been roses and rainbows, as there have been challenges and tough days. But the incredible academic and spiritual growth of the students has made all the efforts worth it. We believe we are setting up each child for success in life, and allowing God to produce generational change in the families on the westside of Columbus.

Would you pray alongside us? We pray for relationships to be built with students and their families. We pray many will see and hear of the love of Jesus Christ, and join God's family and our church family or the other churches that are partnering with us in this community project. We pray and hope to be part of the solution for our community educationally, but more importantly, help provide the solution for the needs of our community spiritually.

If you or your church feel led to give towards this project or can provide resources, feel free to contact me or our church. But above all, please consider praying for this incredible opportunity to reach our community with the Good News to provide these children a faith-filled future. jeff.beckley@mbconline.org, (614) 274-7551

PASTOR BRUCE SNYDER WITH THE LORD

Bruce H. Snyder, the longtime associate pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Toledo, Ohio, died on January 24, 2024. He was 86, one day shy of his birthday.

He was born in Mishawaka, Indiana, on January 25, 1937, and was led to the Lord at eight years old by his father, a pastor. Bruce attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he sang in a male quartet that travelled to churches on weekends. After graduating in 1958, he married Ellen E. Read, who grew up in Plymouth, Indiana.

Bruce became superintendent of the City Rescue Mission in South Bend, Indiana, and while serving there was called to pastor Auburn Bible Baptist Church, Auburn, Indiana. In 1965 he became associate pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo, Ohio, forging relationships that would last for the remainder of his ministry. He served in Ohio as founding pastor at Faith Baptist, Elida (1971–75) and at Maranatha Baptist, Columbus (1984–1988). He also pastored in Idaho and New York in his 60 years of pastoral ministry.

He served as Emmanuel’s associate pastor on three separate occasions: 1965–1968, 1975–1984, and 2003–2014. After he was named emeritus pastor in 2014, he continued to serve the church in retirement.



Pastor Bruce H. Snyder

When people asked why he kept returning to the same associate pastor role in Toledo, his answer was usually taciturn—but the church knew the real reason. He offered calm, reassuring leadership during difficult transitions where he served as interim pastor. He became the soul and conscience of the church, a quiet problem solver who led with integrity.

Bruce leaves his wife of 65 years, Ellen; his children and spouses, sixteen grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

“If you miss heaven, you’ve missed it all,” Pastor Snyder would often say at the end of sermons, and for 86 years he lived by a simple motivating motto, *Perhaps Today*. Years later, when church members from seven churches recalled his ministry, they all remembered the same thing—his golden baritone voice, and the songs he sang about heaven. —garbc.org, adapted

OPPORTUNITY FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Chartered Bus to “Daniel”

Sight and Sound Theater, Lancaster

June 5-6, 2024 (Wednesday-Thursday) \$299 per person

Leaving from First Baptist, Elyria 7:00 am Wed., returning 8:00 pm Thurs.

Pastor Dan and Bonnie Parker (First Baptist, Elyria, Senior Adult ministry) and Chuck and Linda Pausley (State Rep, OARBC) are teaming up to fill the available 55 seats on the bus. The focus is on Senior Adults (60+), but all age adults are welcome. Get your reservation in early!



You will enjoy...

- *Sight and Sound Theater, “Daniel”*
- Dinner, *Shady Maple Smorgasbord*
- *The Amish Experience*, guided tour
- Lunch at the *Golden Corral*
- Traveling in comfort
- Nice Overnight Accommodations

For questions or a registration form, contact one of these ladies:

Suzanne Smith 440.458.5128
ssmith@firstbaptistelyria.org

Linda Pausley 863.368.1780
lindapausley@gmail.com

The \$299 price includes...

- Comfortable Bus Transportation
- All Tickets and Admissions
- Two special meals and tips
- Gratuity for Bus Driver and Tour Guide
- One night of lodging and breakfast
- Water, candy and snacks

Not included is a bag lunch for Wednesday and any rest stop food

The Payment...

- Total Cost—\$299 per person for double occupancy (+\$65 for single occupancy). All rooms have two queen beds.
- \$100 per person deposit due with registration
- Balance of \$199 per person is due by May 1, 2024.

Sorry, no refunds after May 1, but it is transferrable.

ACROSS THE STATE



Pastor Matt and Mallory Hutchens and Marah

Grace Baptist Church of Canton has called Matt Hutchens as the Pastor of Discipleship. He began his ministry on January 1, 2024.

Pastor Matt grew up in southwest Michigan in the house of devoted Christian parents. Through the love and guidance of his family and church, he moved to West Virginia and studied at Appalachian Bible College where he received a degree in Bible & Theology and Missions in the spring of 2022. He also met his bride, Mallory, while at school there. The two of them returned to his hometown for a summer internship under his home pastor.

Pastor Matt is delighted to now serve at Grace Baptist Church along with Mallory and their daughter, Marah. Primarily overseeing the youth ministry, he desires to help students live their lives with eternity in mind.

Pastor Matt enjoys hiking, sports, board games, and working on his truck.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Smithville officially ordained their new Pastor, Jeff Dilyard, to the gospel ministry. On Monday, January 8, an examination council of Akron-Canton area pastors and invited guests convened for questioning and unanimously recommended to the church to move forward with the ordination. The following Sunday evening the church held a special ordination service.

Associate Pastor Dwight Strickland gave the charge to the Pastor and Pastor Emeritus Steve Olsen gave the charge to the church. The ordination prayer concluded the service followed by a receiving line for Pastor Jeff and his wife Becky.

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is praising God for His leading the church through a smooth transition of leadership. Pastor Jeff is “one of their own” having grown up in the church. He is now shepherding some of the very ones who taught him as a child the truths of God’s Word.



Pastor Jeff Dilyard ordination prayer



Pastor Dave and Carolyn Culver, Calvary Baptist

Calvary Baptist Church of Xenia, held an installation service for their new pastor and wife, Dave and Carolyn Culver, on Sunday, January 14.

The church had been looking for a pastor for some time and were recently enjoying the ministry of Pastor Dave as their interim pastor. He also was enjoying the Calvary family. They mutually agreed that God was leading Pastor Dave to “come out of retirement” and be their pastor until such a time as God would lead them to a more permanent shepherd.

It was a special time as friends attended from Pastor Dave’s previous ministry (and his present church home) Shawnee Hills, Jamestown. His pastor (and former associate) Pastor Adam McCune gave a charge to the new Pastor and Chuck Pausley, OARBC State Representative gave a charge to the church.

A dinner following the service was enjoyed by all.

ACROSS THE STATE



Pastor Zac Singletary, Hope Baptist

Hope Baptist Church of Akron is rejoicing in the call of God to Pastor Zac and Vicka Singletary to be their Senior Pastor and wife. They began their ministry at Hope Baptist on September 4, 2023.

On January 7, 2024, Hope Baptist celebrated the installation of Zac Singletary. His mentor, Pastor Sam Choi from Prior Lake Baptist Church in Savage, Minnesota, gave a challenge from John 14 in the morning service. Pastor Zac read his pastoral covenant to the congregation. Pastor Robert Kuhns led in prayer during the laying on of hands for Pastor Zac. Following the service, there was food and fellowship in celebration.

Pastor Zac graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College and Seminary in Ankeny, Iowa. He and Vicka went on to be youth pastor and wife for two years at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Smithville before coming to Hope.

Zac and Vicka have three little girls, Gloria, Calina, and Azariah (A-zar-ee-ah).

To God be the glory great things He has done!



Huntsburg Baptist Church, Huntsburg, adds carport drive through which also included a foyer expansion

Huntsburg Baptist Church of Huntsburg, began construction in June on a long sought after covered entrance or portico and expanded foyer. God provided the funding through the giving of the church family and several outside donations. The church is so grateful to have this drive through as it provides a welcome drop off without being in the weather, which can often be difficult in this Northeast Ohio community. Pastor Paul and Joyce Radobenko have served at Huntsburg for over ten years and are thanking the Lord for His blessing. "Now all we need is a valet parking attendant," Joyce says with a smile.

Bethany Area Fellowship Pastors and Wives met for a Christmas Party at First Baptist in Niles in December. The Christmas potluck is somewhat of a tradition and some traditional dishes have come to be expected and requested from year to year!

The evening not only includes the delicious dinner, but a devotional, singing, some fun Christmas games and good fellowship and laughter.

The ten OARBC area fellowships provide encouragement and friendship for the pastors of Ohio, building lifetime relationships.



Bethany Area Christmas Fellowship 2024

A Passion for Teaching and Ministry

Dr. Sharon Rahilly, former professor of nursing at Cedarville University, never wanted to teach. And yet she spent five years teaching at Cedarville University, and now she directs a nursing school in Togo.

Rahilly's first bachelor's degree was in Bible and Christian education, but with missions on her mind, she pursued a bachelor's in nursing, a field she felt could be easily paired with missions. Rahilly ended up with several other nursing degrees, including a master's in nursing education from the University of California, San Francisco.

Before teaching at Cedarville, Rahilly taught nursing at Liberty University for five years. It was a call from Dr. Irene Alyn, chair of the department of nursing, that encouraged Rahilly to consider an open faculty position at Cedarville in 1992.

"I had always thought God would lead me to Cedarville," Rahilly said. And it certainly seemed that He did.

Through networking and relationships, Rahilly has now found herself leading a nursing school in Togo.

A former student Rahilly supervised in clinicals at Cedarville was working as a nurse at a mission hospital in Togo when she called Cedarville's school of nursing to notify them of a nursing shortage — they would have to close the hospital for five weeks if they couldn't get someone to fill in, and such a closure would severely impact the community. The daughter of missionaries to Liberia, Rahilly volunteered.



Former Cedarville Professor Dr. Sharon Rahilly leads nursing school in Togo

By the end of her fifth week in Togo, Rahilly had fallen in love with the work — and the people. Two years later, once Rahilly learned the hospital was opening a nursing school, she knew that's where she needed to be.

"The whole thing was totally God," Rahilly said.

She helped set up the program there, as the two nurses who started the program had experience in teaching Bible but had never taught nursing. Coming out of teaching at Cedarville, Rahilly had 11 years of teaching in higher education under her belt.

Rahilly left Cedarville in 1997, and she started working full time with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) in Togo in 2000, becoming the director of the nursing school in 2001.

"I am passionate about teaching and about following God wherever he leads, so I love doing this," she said. "I wouldn't change this for anything in the world."

"If there be anything about which we cannot tolerate lukewarmness, it is in the matter of sending the gospel to a dying world."

Charles Spurgeon