

# The Link

Vol. 92 November 2019 No. 4

## Connecting Churches in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

“Bound by the Word and to Each Other  
... For the Sake of the Gospel”



Dr. Thomas White, Cedarville University



Dr. Jeremy Pierre, Southern Seminary



Mike Hess  
GARBC National Representative



Ken Floyd, Doug Schroeder, Chuck Pausley  
Michigan, Indiana, Ohio Representatives



Austin Crawford, Worship Leader



Kathy Schroeder, Ladies' Session

### Council of 12

2017-2020

David Culver, Chairman, Shawnee Hills, Jamestown  
David Conrad, Calvary, Xenia  
Ken Lowe, Hope, Akron  
Larry Nocella, Camden, Wellington

2018-2021

Mark Ashley, Northfield, Northfield  
Noel Hack, First, Lagrange  
Dave Kisner, Wash. Heights, Dayton  
Brad Rickard, Immanuel, Columbus

2019-2022

James Beight, Abram Creek, Brook Park  
Dave Denny, Whipple Ave, Canton  
Matt Nihiser, Calvary, Lancaster  
Dave Ryan, Grace Baptist, Canton

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## The Link

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# A Word from the Rep

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The season and time have changed and once again it is a privilege to come into your office or home to share with you what God is doing through the churches of the OARBC.

In addition to our day to day responsibilities, let me share with you a few of the special activities that we have enjoyed. In September, we had a delightful time on the bus trip to Washington D.C. with the **Golden Tours**; we enjoyed the **Pastors and Wives Retreat at Scioto Hills** and Linda had the opportunity to be involved with the **Women on Mission Conference** at Grand Heights Baptist Church in Fairborn. In October, we thoroughly enjoyed the **Tri-State Conference** in Toledo and I was able to attend **9 Marks** at Cedarville University. So far in November we traveled outside of Ohio to Mehoopany, PA for a weekend to enjoy fellowship and to sing two concerts with my college quartet. Linda is looking forward to being at the **OWM retreat** at the Carlisle Inn.

Be sure to read the **milestones in ministry** that are noted in this issue of the Link. Many of our pastors have been faithful to long-term ministry at their churches. I would also encourage you to notice the **new pastors and associates** that have begun new ministries this year. Take note of our pastors who have **retired**. We are **very thankful** to all our pastors and wives who faithfully serve in Ohio.

At the Tri-State conference the **new OARBC Church Revitalization Plan** was presented by Pastor Ken Lowe and we are ready for implementation! Many churches need to be revitalized, and we believe by God's grace that we can help you accomplish the task. Read the article opposite page. Contact Pastor Ken Lowe if you have any interest.

Just a reminder that the 2019-2020 OARBC directory is now on-line at [oarbc.org](http://oarbc.org) and can be accessed with the code: **boundbytheword** (all lower case, no spaces).

I trust that you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ who has changed our lives and given us a purpose and hope for living. Linda and I look forward to being in our churches during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season and celebrating with you.

We would love to come to your church in 2020. You can contact me at [chuckpausley@oarbc.org](mailto:chuckpausley@oarbc.org) or 863-368-1617.

## OARBC Welcome and Well-Done Dinner 2019 Famous Dave's BBQ, Toledo, Ohio

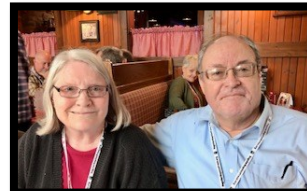


Pastor Joel Wasserstein

### SPECIAL GUESTS



Pastor Sean and Deni Yusten



Pastor Paul and Peggy Woods



Pastor Andrew Box



Pastor Tim Martin

# Working Together to Get the Job Done

*by Ken Lowe, Chairman, Revitalization Committee, OARBC*

Several years ago, my wife and I bought a house that had a second-floor storage space. This extra room could only be accessed from the outside. We decided to cut a hole in the ceiling of the house and put in a small staircase/ladder. After the hole was opened, I worked hard to build the little wood staircase. I did not think it would be a very difficult project. I even bought a kit. "Easy to assemble and install," the packaging stated. I worked and worked on that little staircase. After several days of blood, sweat and tears, I realized I needed help. I called my carpenter friend to come and help me. Together we quickly assembled the staircase and installed it. His help and encouragement were just what I needed.

Pastoring and leading local churches can be quite challenging and difficult. Pastors often feel isolated and alone. The work is rewarding, but some days can be very discouraging. This is especially true when a church has lost its vision and energy. How does a local church restore its passion and vitality?

Churches go through different stages. Sometimes they grow, sometimes they are very stable and sometimes they decline. Most churches in America are plateaued or in decline. Churches are closing at an alarming rate. Often, something needs to be done differently, but no one knows where to go or what to do. There are many resources available to help churches develop a new and fresh vision for their ministry, but more than mere resources are needed. Personal help is needed to walk with the church through the process, step by step. Renewal and revitalization can be a daunting process and almost impossible to do alone.

Revitalization is the process by which a church learns to embrace the changes necessary to return to and stay on a growth plain. This is not just numerical growth, but spiritual growth and renewed passion. It is a process where the church renews its vision, strategy and energy.

The OARBC is partnering with TEAM Institute (Theological Education and Ministry Institute) to offer a 16-month revitalization mentorship for local churches. It is a step by step process that will help churches discover the best plan for them to restore life and vision.

The plan is called **DREAM**.

**D**iscover your resources  
**R**ecruit needed resources  
**E**quip the church to grow and develop  
**A**ctivate a specific strategic growth plan  
**M**ature and multiply the renewed ministry

- There will be eight, one-day planning meetings for the pastor and leadership team.
- Each planning day will consist of training and specific strategizing for each church.
- Each church will participate with a few other churches forming a cohort.
- Each cohort will be made of three to five churches that will proceed together.
- The cost is still being determined and there will be scholarships available.

## **Benefits of participating**

The church will receive a professional demographic study of its area.

The church will make a practical growth plan specifically tailored for itself.

Partnering churches will join in the renewed development.

An experienced ministry coach will accompany the church through the process.

Two experienced trainers will guide through the entire process.

A cohort of five churches is needed to begin the process in Akron, OH in January 2020. You can be involved.

1. **Visit the website** for more information: <http://www.team-institute.org/>
2. **Contact** Ken Lowe (330)247-8414 or Chuck Pausley (863)368-1617 for more information.
3. **Talk to your leadership** to see if this is a process that would benefit your church.
4. **Explore** the opportunity of becoming a prayer partner with a revitalizing church.



# Ministry Milestones

## *Years served in their current ministry*

### **Forty Years**

Jim and Janice McClain, Calvary Baptist, Norwalk

### **Thirty-Five Years**

Kenneth and Debbie Spink, Berea Baptist, Berea  
John and Leigh Gowdy, Temple, Portsmouth  
Bill and Peggy Montgomery, Linworth, Worthington

### **Thirty Years**

Bruce and Karla Chouinard, Grace Baptist, Kent  
Dwain and Ruth Hill, Grace Baptist, London  
Joseph and Melanie Grof, Calvary Baptist, Norwalk

### **Twenty-Five Years**

James and Amy Beight, Abram Creek, Brook Park  
Dennis and Jan Rost, Calvary Baptist, Byesville  
Larry and Lori Nocella, Camden Baptist, Wellington  
Rob and Sharon Mieden, First Baptist, Willowick

### **Twenty Years**

David and Linda Ryan, Grace Baptist, Canton  
Tim and Kelly Wingert, First Baptist, Galion  
Matt and Jessie Oliver, Grace Baptist, Lima  
Steven and Sarah Strong, Grace Baptist, Westlake

### **Fifteen Years**

Jordan and Laura Patrick, Grace Baptist, Canton

### **Ten Years**

Rick and Tamara Hershberger, Faith, Bolivar  
Larry and Beth Green, Cedar Hill, Cleveland  
Jeff and Rebecca Farr, Cornerstone, Columbus  
Shawn and Kristi Hurley, Meadowbrook, Lima  
Nathan and Jennifer Klier, Calvary, Sandusky  
Tim and Linda Small, Good Shepherd's, Sydney  
Duke and Debbie Crawford, Emmanuel, Toledo

### **Five Years**

Tom and Diane Stubrich, Grace Baptist, Geneva  
Michael and Edie Maskell, First Baptist, Findlay  
Jon and Kathy Greve, Chardon Baptist, Chardon  
Mike and Terry Borland, Calvary Baptist, Lancaster  
Bruce and Carla Collier, First Baptist, Medina  
Greg and Sarah Summerfield, First, Louisville  
Forest and Jody Greetham, First, Brunswick  
Jon and Janet Jones, Tiverton Baptist, Tiverton  
Steve and Pat Sabin, First Baptist, Blanchester  
Cal and Deb Searles, Abbe Road Baptist, Elyria  
Dan and Jyll Oreskovic, Faith Baptist, Streetsboro  
Mick and Jennifer Sobieck, Faith Baptist, Defiance  
Sean and Kathee Ingram, First Baptist, Stryker  
Steve and Emily Ruffner, Emmanuel, Xenia

# Welcome

## *New Ministry Positions 2018-2019*

### **Jim and Linda Barbina**

*Huntsburg Baptist, Huntsburg, Associate/Youth*

### **Andrew and Wendy Box**

*Calvary Baptist, Massillon, Associate*

### **Robert and Elizabeth Bird**

*Vermillion Baptist, Perrysville, Pastor*

### **Gerry and Peggy Christopher**

*Mogadore Baptist, Akron, Assistant Pastor for Recovery*

### **Austin and Ametheny Crawford**

*Emmanuel Baptist, Toledo, Worship/Student Discipleship*

### **Dalton and Mary Deffenbaugh**

*Grace Baptist, Cedarville, Adult Ministries*

### **Roy and Sandy Durieux**

*First Baptist, Tallmadge, Youth*

### **Chaz and Naomi Horsley**

*Temple Baptist, Portsmouth, Youth*

### **Tim and Mindy Martin**

*First Baptist, Stryker, Family Discipleship*

### **Jeremy and Christina Peck**

*First Baptist, Elyria, School Administrator*

### **Dwight and Cindy Strickland**

*Pleasant Hill Baptist, Smithville, Associate*

### **Josh Taylor**

*Grace Baptist, Cedarville, Student Ministries*

### **Clyde and Eva Votaw**

*First Baptist, Tallmadge, Associate*

### **Joel Wasserstein**

*Perry Baptist, Perry, Pastor*

### **Jerry and Sharon Waldrop**

*Mogadore Baptist, Akron, Youth/Music*

### **Sean and Deni Yusten**

*Norton Baptist, Norton, Pastor*

# Well-Done

## *OARBC Pastors recently retired*

### **Pastor David and Linda Chapman**

*Nottingham Baptist Church, Willoughby Hills*

### **Pastor Jim and Berdette Sperry**

*First Baptist Church, Strongsville*

### **Pastor Leigh and Charlotte Upchurch**

*Bethesda Baptist Church, Columbus*

### **Pastor Tom and Diane Waldo**

*Grand Heights Baptist Church, Fairborn*

### **Pastor Paul and Peggy Woods**

*New Lyme Baptist Church, Rome*

**“...Absent from the body, present with the Lord.”** *II Corinthians 5:8*



*Rev. David C. Dunkin*

Rev. David C. Dunkin, 96 years of age, and a resident of Elyria, was called home to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, September 30, 2019, at Life Care Center in Elyria, following a full and joy-filled life of serving his Lord.

David served as a pastor for seventy-three years in over eighteen churches, including Calvary Baptist Church in Oberlin and Abbe Road Baptist Church in Elyria. He also served with Baptist Church Planters. David was mechanically and musically gifted. He was blessed to be able to play the guitar, auto harp, and piano as well as other instruments. David also delighted his family by converting one of the family cars to an electric car, and converted another car into a camper which was used to travel the United States. Traveling with family was a favorite pastime and National Parks were a frequent destination.

Survivors include his loving wife of seventy-three years Verna and his sons David (Linda) of Lynden, WA, Jonathan (Marcia) of Elyria; his daughters Elisabeth DeJong (Arnold) of North Ridgeville, MaryLou Hoffman (Bill) of Edmond, OK; nine grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren.

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## Sabbatical Fears Relieved and Refreshment Received

*by David Ryan, Pastor, Grace Baptist Canton*

*Serving the Lord brings the greatest joy, why would someone, especially a pastor, need some time away for a sabbatical? Our pastor is vital to our church health and life, how could we possibly afford to have him out of leadership for an extended time?*

What fears have kept church leadership from planning a sabbatical rest for their pastors and elders? When our church began thinking about Sabbaticals in 2011, we had a number of questions, too. Our church body has always been very generous with their pastors in many ways, and at first it felt odd to join in a conversation about a sabbatical time away. I had no aspirations to write a book or be isolated at a cabin in the wilderness for months. *Did our pastors need a sabbatical at Grace Baptist? How could we do that as a smaller church?*

Our deacons agreed to take a year to research through reading and interviewing other church leaders to learn more about sabbaticals and how different churches might approach the idea. We all learned so much about the necessity of sabbatical rest. There are many ways to approach a beneficial sabbatical that can bless the entire church body! We gathered what we learned and began to present our findings to the church body before formulating a sabbatical plan. At the conclusion of this process, our leadership and church unanimously approved a planned sabbatical every five years for a pastoral team member.

Pastor Jordan Patrick and I have each benefitted from pastoral sabbaticals and it has been of incalculable blessing to our families and the church. *Each church situation is different, but we are glad to share the sabbatical plan we developed.*

I recently completed my sabbatical in July with an added vacation week and it has rekindled a personal joy, clarity in my thinking and energy for the ministry ahead. It is amazing how God provided both for my family and the church body in this season! We received benefits that we didn't know we even needed by fully disengaging from our local ministry this past July. The sabbatical removed me physically and emotionally from the ongoing demands of local ministry and gradually revealed some important lessons:

- 1) *Communication needed improvement with my wife, children and friends.*
- 2) *Realization how much working for God can subtly overtake walking with Christ and enjoying Him.*
- 3) *Encouragement of leadership and ministry skills and joy as the body continued to serve Christ very well in my absence.*
- 4) *Stepping away brought refreshment and thinking about our church needs and strengths in a fresh way.*

*The Gospel ministry is a joy and a privilege and our strength is all of Christ and the Spirit of God. The Gospel ministry carried on well also demands much physically, emotionally and spiritually. We need to provide seasons of refreshment for those who lead and serve us sacrificially, considering their need for long-term strength and joy.*

# Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



Hello, ladies!

Happy 90th Anniversary! We are celebrating our 90th Anniversary of the OWM. We give God all the praise and glory for what He has done through us for our missionaries and reaching the lost for Christ. As we look back at what has been done, we now can look to the future. But first we need to know who we are and where we are headed and what the Lord has for us in the coming years. We will be looking at these questions in the next year, defining our identity in Christ. With this in mind, **save the date of April 25, 2020 for our Spring Meeting**. We will be meeting at Baptist Mid-Missions home office in Cleveland, 10:00 a.m - 1:00 pm . We will get further details to you soon.

Our state project for the Christian School in Ghana (Rob & Penny Whitty) is under way. Our goal is to raise \$10,000. Bookmarks with details are available by contacting Donna Victor. Please pray about the part you can play in this important project.

We are happy to hear what is going on in our area groups. Enjoy reading the following reports from two of our area meetings. See you in April! —Donna, OWM President

The **Maranatha Missionary Fellowship** had a wonderful fall meeting at First Baptist Church, Gallipolis with approximately 35 women in attendance. Sue Miller, past OWM President, was the speaker and addressed the theme, "Nails in a Sure Place," referencing Isaiah 22:23a. Elisabeth Young, of First Baptist Church, played a violin solo. Every missionary supported by the churches represented were specifically remembered in prayer. The ladies also assembled "Wordless Book" bracelets which were sent to Africa via missionary Steve Stairs. A highlight for Maranatha's president, Renny Snare, was the attendance of ladies from an area church that has not participated in many years and the fact that they had made a special effort to come. Many opportunities for praise!



*Hearts joined in worship at the Women on Mission Conference at Grand Heights, Fairborn*



*A great time of renewing friendships and making new ones*

Ladies of the **South Bethel Fellowship** gathered at the Grand Heights Baptist Church, Fairborn on Saturday, September 28, 2019, 9 am to 1 pm for the Women on Mission Conference.

Approximately 75 ladies enjoyed worship led by a team of ladies from Grace Baptist, Cedarville. Keynote speaker was Becky Dye, who serves as a missionary with her husband and family in Germany. Becky challenged the ladies to be on mission in every area of their lives and particularly in sharing their faith at home and around the world. OWM president, Donna Victor, shared about the current state project of helping purchase Christian School property in Ghana. Six workshops were offered by women from area churches. Topics included friendships, Bible study methods, trials, parenting, health and missions. Each lady registered for two to attend. Workshops were followed by a delicious luncheon catered by Grand Heights Pastor and wife, Tom and Diane Waldo.

The format of the meeting was similar to the Woman to Woman Conference successfully hosted by Calvary Baptist in Bellefontaine for the past twenty years. Their prayers and encouragement in the planning of this event were greatly appreciated.

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# Skyview Ranch Dining Hall/Office Complex Destroyed by Fire



*Fire destroyed Dining Hall/Office Complex at Skyview Ranch*

In the early morning hours of Sunday, November 10, 2019 the main Dining Hall/Office Complex at Skyview Ranch, Millersburg, was discovered to be engulfed in flames. By the time firefighters were able to extinguish the fire nearly eight hours later, all was lost. Praise God the 100 guests and staff were safely accounted for but the loss is devastating for the ministry. Damage is estimated to be approximately \$1.5 million.

The support and prayers of our OARBC churches and family are so needed at this time. A link has been set up for donations on the camp website [skyviewranch.org](http://skyviewranch.org).

## Across the State



*First Baptist, Elyria held its annual Trunk or Treat indoors this year due to the weather and had a record attendance. The adults (left) enjoy it as much as the kids! (right)*



*Abram Creek Baptist, Brook Park  
Annual Fall BBQ Outreach  
October 19, 2019*



*Grace Baptist, Troy holds its first  
Trunk or Treat...  
and the adults went all out!*

### **MEN OF GOD CONFERENCE**

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

**Calvary Baptist Church, Bellefontaine**

**Dr. Mark Smith, Dr. Jeff Haymond, Dr. Bert Wheeler**

**Cedarville University**

**Theme: For the Greater Kingdom**

**\$15 early bird 1/1-1/14 \$25 after**

**Info coming to churches after Thanksgiving**

### **MAN UP!**

**Saturday, March 7, 2020**

**8 am—3 pm**

**First Baptist Church, Medina**

**Dr. Jeremy Kimble, Cedarville University**

**\$25 before 2/1, \$35 after**

**Register at: [manuplife.com](http://manuplife.com)**

# NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

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## ***Bible Minor Classes Online Resource for Personal and Community Study***

Cedarville University is now making the courses from its Bible minor program available online at no charge for non-credit personal, church and community use. The first course, Old Testament Literature taught by Dr. Chris Miller, is now online at [cedarville.edu](http://cedarville.edu).

Cedarville's Bible minor consists of five classes: The Bible and the Gospel, Old Testament Literature, New Testament Literature, Theology I and Theology II. Every undergraduate at Cedarville is required to earn the Bible minor.

"We want to put our Bible minor online as a ministry for the church, a ministry to parents and for transparency in recruiting," said Dr. Thomas White, president of Cedarville University. "Many Christians have never had the privilege of studying the Bible in an academic setting. The Bible minor will allow church leaders to have foundational teaching of the Bible, while prospective students will have the opportunity to preview what Cedarville teaches. The online Bible minor will also allow parents to learn alongside their students and feel confident sending their children to Cedarville University."

Miller has taught Old Testament Literature at Cedarville University for 28 years. Old Testament is one of the highest-ranked classes at Cedarville and one that many alumni view as a favorite.

"The Old Testament Literature course marries passionate worship with strong academics in a God honoring way," Miller said. This is an effective approach to learning the Bible. Instead of looking at the Bible as an ancient history book or just as a devotional study, Bible minor classes incorporate the importance of finding a healthy balance, Miller noted.

White explained, "It will take time, but eventually the entire Bible minor will be online for free to those interested."

Dr. Jeremy Kimble's Theology II class will be the next class available online.



## ***Celebrating Christmas—Cedarville Style***

For this Christmas season, set aside time to relax and enjoy Cedarville University's musical gift to you!

The Annual Community Christmas Celebration will feature the sights and sounds of the University's choral and instrumental ensembles during its annual Christmas concert Sunday, December 8. The concert begins at 6 pm; doors to the Dixon Ministry Center chapel open at 5:30 p.m.

Your heart will be stirred by powerful renditions of classic carols including a special performance by a mass choir and symphonic band of the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah. Please join us for a musical celebration of our Savior's birth!

The concert is open to the community, area churches, alumni, friends, and the University family. Performances by the University Jazz Band, Orchestra, Concert Chorale, Women's Choir, Jubilate, and Harp Ensemble with special performances by Cedarville University music faculty and other small ensembles.

This complimentary event is our gift to you! No tickets are required. This event is being streamed live at [www.cedarville.edu/ChristmasLive](http://www.cedarville.edu/ChristmasLive)

