

Connecting Churches in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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

“Out of the Ashes, Beauty Will Rise...”



Greetings from Skyview Ranch in Millersburg, Ohio. God is good...all the time! Our theme over these past 10 weeks, since our tragic fire, has become: “Out of the ashes, beauty will rise.” Please allow me to give you an update of what has happened since November 10, 2019.

—Gary Adams, Executive Director, Skyview Ranch (pictured left)

Timeline...November 10-current

- **November 10 (4:30 a.m.)** Fire destroyed our main building (all offices for fifteen employees, restrooms, commercial kitchen, dining hall/worship center, back deck, and front covered porch area. 99.99999% of contents in the listed areas, personal items, structure, phone systems, internet, landscaping, front and back meeting spaces, and loading dock area were all burnt to the ground).
- After the initial shock and getting the word out through TV, Radio and Newspaper interviews, word of mouth, social media, website, and emails, we started into a plan of “**what now?**”, but more importantly, putting a plan of action to attack this problem in order to get us back up and running.
- Fire investigators spent weeks sifting through the ashes, and it was determined that **the start of the fire was un-determined**. The loss was so great, that they could not pinpoint the issue.
- We have been working very closely with our insurance company, which has been fantastic to work with! Our agent, who has been Skyview’s agent for many, many years is a dedicated Christian man. He has been associated with SVR for 40 years, and loves this place.

Our insurance policies cover the following for Skyview Ranch:

- Personal items each employee lost (each person had to recreate a loss of items list via a cataloging portal)
- All Haz-Mat cleanup (transformer oil - \$40k)
- Replacement of the building and all utilities (very large amount)
- Replacement of the Transformer (removal, purchase, install is \$100,000)
- Loss of Income which covers our portables, purchase & rentals, for 10-12 months (\$475k).
- All contents – which is a huge loss just by itself (Approx. \$400-600k). This was a very daunting task that our 15 staff members took on. By the time this article is published, this task will be completed and submitted.
- Loss to recreate all documents. For years we had everything backed up to the cloud, but the company we had been using went from \$150 annual fee up to \$2,400, so needless to say, our IT guy starting looking for a new company. Two months before the fire, all documents (50 years of records: payroll, employee records, taxes, 990’s, payables, all our forms, guest group information, fundraising...everything) was saved on an internal sever inside our offices. Perfect temporary fit – in case of a fire or tornado...

(continued on page 6)

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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A WORD FROM THE REP



*Chuck Pausley,
State Representative*

Here we are, already at the beginning of February. Our schedule has been full since the beginning of the year with many opportunities to be involved with the people and churches of the OARBC. As I look at the month of February, I am again thankful for a full month of ministry ahead.

We have two **men's conferences** coming up in the next few weeks. Be sure to sign up and take part in these two great ministry opportunities. "For the Greater Kingdom" at Calvary in Bellefontaine and "Man Up" at First in Medina. (See information on page 11).

The **conference committee** met with the pastors and staff of Washington Heights in Dayton recently to plan the annual OARBC conference in October 19-21, 2020. Our keynote speakers are President Paul Davis, ABWE and Mike Hess, the GARBC National Representative. There are some scheduling changes and different opportunities we think you will like. Mark your calendar and watch for more information to come.

As I look to the future of the OARBC, I realize that revitalization is a key to the growth and stability of our churches. We have a great opportunity for our churches with the **DREAM revitalization** ministry offered through the OARBC. The program is ready to go, and leaders are ready. I sense an interest in revitalization from our churches. Some of our churches know that it would be good for them to be involved, but I also sense a reluctance at making the decision to proceed. Pray that God would open the doors and churches would make a commitment to this ministry.

Speaking of revitalization, the council of 12 and I have recently discussed the need to re-evaluate the purpose statement, vision and priorities, and the core values of the OARBC. Don't let that alarm you...the priority of God's Word, the commitment to the Gospel, our Baptist doctrine...these things are unchanging. However, any organization that has been in existence for 92 years must periodically evaluate how we are doing, how we can do it better, and how to **revitalize our constituency**. I know this is a process that will take time, much evaluation, and much discussion. Be in prayer for godly direction for our fellowship for today, tomorrow and into the future. In time, we will be looking for your input as well.

Pictured below are some of Ohio's finest! We have been with these pastors and wives in recent weeks. May God bless all of our pastors and wives throughout the state who are preaching the Word and shepherding their flocks.

I am thankful for safety in travel. God continues to place a hedge of protection around me. Just last night coming back from a church meeting a driver decided not to turn and pulled back on the road, narrowly missing me in the OARBC car. I thought for sure I was going to be sideswiped but God allowed me to maneuver out of the way! Thank you, Lord. Thank you for your prayers.

chuck



Top Row L to R
*Shawn and Kristi
Hurley, Lima*



*Tim and Kelly
Wingert, Galion*



*Ken and Kay
Tucker, Elyria*



Bottom L to R
*James and Amy
Beight, Brook Park*



*Laird and Belinda
Baldwin, Brookville*



*Cory and Sam
Proowski, Amherst
Youth Pastor*

Churches Networking to Help Each Other

The OARBC motto, “Bound by the Word and to Each Other for the sake of the Gospel” has been demonstrated in a practical way recently in the West Moriah fellowship area.

The Dayspring at Alton Road Baptist Church in Galloway has been without a pastor for two years and has reached out to their area OARBC West Moriah fellowship for help. At their request, a council of area pastors convened at Dayspring in January to discuss with the leadership options for the future of their church. Options were discussed, but a clear direction for the church has not yet been determined. At the present time, the church has moved its Sunday morning worship time to 9:00 a.m. so that some of the West Moriah pastors can fill the Dayspring pulpit and then return to their own morning services.



Church Council convened at Dayspring, Galloway

Other area fellowships have encouraged sister churches when a need has arisen, following the pattern of helping each other as seen in the early New Testament churches and in the family of God.

DREAM Revitalization Ministry a Networking Opportunity



Ephesians

3:20-21,

One of the strengths of the new OARBC 16-month DREAM Revitalization Ministry is the networking of three to five churches forming a cohort and working *together*, encouraging each other, learning *together*, and praying for each other. The pastor and church leadership will attend the eight, one-day planning meetings *together* with the cohort churches. They will process *together*, learn *together*, embrace needed changes *together*, pray *together*. Churches will not walk alone through the process. There will be fellowship, encouragement and guidance. Contact Director of DREAM, Ken Lowe, 330-247-8414 or klowe689@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to participate.

Area Fellowships Encourage One Another



*Akron-Canton Pastors/Wives Christmas Fellowship
The Waterloo, Akron*

The OARBC ten area fellowships are truly the heart of our fellowship. Pastors meet for monthly connection and encouragement.

Churches of the area fellowships often network for combined special services, service projects and support of one another as the need arises.

Ladies have organized to promote the Ohio Women for Missions in the state and in their area churches.

Participation in an area fellowship is encouraged for pastors and churches to fully experience the benefits of the OARBC family.

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



Happy New Year, Ladies of Ohio,

Our purpose as the Ohio Women for Missions is to support, pray, and promote missions throughout the state of Ohio in all of our OARBC churches. Together we join our resources and meet the needs of our missionaries.

As I look around at our world today, things are turned upside down. I ask myself, "God where are you?" As I was listening to a preacher on the radio, he read from Haggai. The statement from God's Word that stood out to me was Haggai 1:13 "Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the Lord's message, 'I am with you, declares the Lord.' And again in chapter 2:4 "...Be strong, all ye people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you, declares the Lord of hosts," I needed to hear these words, *I am with you*. As 2020 comes, God is with us ... leading, directing, and planning our every step. Ladies, as we go into 2020 may we be more aware that Our God is with us every step of the way.

We want YOU to join us!

Spring Area Meetings

Hebron Fellowship

Saturday, March 28
Camden Baptist, Wellington
10:00 am

Maranatha Fellowship

Saturday, April 18
Wheelersburg Baptist
9:30 Coffee, Registration
10:00—Noon
(lunch served)
Kari Jamison, Speaker

Bethany Fellowship

Saturday, April 18
Boardman Baptist,
Youngstown
10:00-1:00 (light lunch)
Jennifer Allison,
ABWE, Portugal, Speaker

West Moriah Fellowship

Info coming shortly!

South Bethel Fellowship Akron/Canton Fellowship

See you at the
OWM State Meeting!

As we look to the new year 2020, the OWM calendar is full of encouraging and refreshing events for all of our OARBC ladies. I want to encourage you to mark these events on your calendars and invite other ladies to join you at our meetings.

To start the year, we are planning to meet with all the **OWM AREA OFFICERS** on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at Maranatha Baptist Church, 4663 Trabue Rd., Columbus, Ohio 44228, for a special meeting with Earl & Marilyn Shaffer. Our topic is "*How can we reach the nations without crossing borders? Heart, Mind & Soul: Muslims Seminar.*" We will begin at 10:30 a.m. and finish by 3:30 p.m. Officers, this event will be of great value to you. The deadline for registration is February 26. Please contact Donna Victor to register: cmvictorde@sbcglobal.net or (330) 203-3415.

OUR SPRING MEETING: We will meet at the Baptist Mid-Missions Headquarters, 7749 Webster Road, Middleburg Heights, Ohio 44130 on **Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** We will tour the mission and lunch will be provided for us by the mission. We will need **reservations by April 13th**. Watch for more details to be coming to your churches with hotel information for those who would like to make this a "Ladies' Overnight Trip." We will have elections for our President and Treasurer positions. Please contact Donna Victor if you have nominations for these offices.

OWM FALL MEETING: Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, October 20, 2020** for a ladies gathering in conjunction with the OARBC Conference. We will be sending out more information as the time approaches.

OUR OWM LADIES FALL RETREAT: Will be held **November 12 and 13, 2020** at the Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek, Ohio. Our speaker will be Cecelia Weer, pastor's wife (Chelsea Baptist Church, Atlantic City, New Jersey), freelance writer for *Israel My Glory*, and a scholarship recipient for Holocaust studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

2019/2020 State Project Update: It is our privilege to be a helping hand in the ministry of Rob & Penny Whitty, BMM, as they raise the needed funds for their Christian School in Ghana. They have completed their first term in the school and currently have 100 students. They have 20 people on the payroll and have been able to meet payroll each month. They still need about \$130,000 to pay off the mortgage and this is where the OWM can help. As of now, we have \$5,415.60 towards our goal of \$10,000. We still have until June 1, 2020 to meet the goal. Please continue to pray! The Lord is doing a great work in Ghana.

Until we meet again,
Donna Victor, OWM President
cmvictorde@sbcglobal.net or (330) 203-3415

Welcome New Pastors

Norton Baptist Church calls Pastor Sean Yusten



Pastor Sean and Deni Yusten

Twenty-five years ago, during this time of year, I sat in a pastor's lounge in Wisconsin. I was meeting with my pastor with one question on my mind, "How would I know if I am called to full-time pastoral ministry?" After some conversation, that patient pastor told this anxious twenty-year-old that if I was asking for his opinion, I was likely not called. He then added these words I would not forget, "Just because you are not called today does not mean that God will not call you in the future." I am thankful he shared that wisdom with me, and I eventually found myself pursuing a career in sales instead.

Some years later, God graciously disciplined me out of some extreme selfishness, and I began to learn, grow, and serve in new ways. Once again, the thought came to my mind about call to ministry, but there were a couple of roadblocks. My wife at that time would not have been

interested, but God removed that roadblock as she experienced her own growth. I had never finished school and had no desire to do so, but God removed that roadblock by miraculously "putting" me in school.

Upon graduation in 2019, I reached out to some people I thought could help me search for a church, including that former pastor who gave me such wise advice years ago, David Culver. He was now in Ohio and willing to help me get my resume to Chuck Pausley, who gave it to Norton Baptist Church. I had been asked how I knew I was called to ministry prior to becoming a pastor, and my response had always been that I do not know, but I will when a church confirms that call and asks me to be their pastor. On August 25, 2019, Norton Baptist Church confirmed God's call. Perhaps I will have opportunity to share more of our story in the future, but let it remind us today that God is still moving and working in the hearts of His people, and let it motivate us to be faithful.

Faith Baptist Church, Streetsboro, calls Pastor Dan Oreskovic

January 1, 2020 was the official start date for Pastor Dan Oreskovic to begin his ministry as full-time senior pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Streetsboro.

God has been preparing Pastor Dan for this position since he and his wife Jyll came to Faith Baptist twelve years ago. Sensing God's call into pastoral ministry, he has served as part-time associate pastor alongside Pastor Don Workman the past four years. He is currently finishing up his final class to earn his Master of Divinity degree from Baptist Bible Seminary in Clarks Summit following the required one-year internship to be completed in his current position. Pastor Don and Beth officially resigned the end of 2019 after 28 years of ministry at Faith Baptist to serve full-time with Evangelism Explosion. Shortly after, the church extended a call to Pastor Dan to become their new Senior Pastor.



Pastor Dan and Jyll Oreskovic

"I think one of the things I'd like to do is bring stability in the midst of change,"

Pastor Dan said in a recent article in the local newspaper. "I would just like to continue to honor God through the teaching of the Bible. We just want to share Jesus and how we can have a relationship with Him..."

Pastor Dan and Jyll have two children who serve right alongside Dad and Mom, son Connor, 14, and daughter Calli, 13.



(Skyview Ranch, Continued from Page 1)

well, you know how this ended... we lost **ALL DOCUMENTS**. The only things saved were items via emails. Needless to say, we are starting over.

- Bottom line – Praise God for great insurance! Also... back up ALL your documents to the cloud.
- Demolition and cleanup of the old building, its twisted metal, concrete, and yuck is all gone and was hauled away. This was completed 2 weeks ago.
- The **ONLY** items that survived the fire was our small office safe (with vehicle titles, some petty cash, and a few other docs), a few files from a corner office... **AND THAT IS ALL!!!** The Fire

marshal stated the fire was so intense, that it ran between 1,200-2,000 degrees depending upon the location.

- A team of experts have been working very diligently on a detailed plan to help us to get back up and running. Over the past 2 months, our staff is working from their homes using make-shift offices. This team has devised a workable plan for portable/temporary use (through 2020) for our staff to be able to continue to do ministry starting very soon. **Here are the details on the 5 working portables in the works:**

- * 2 – 50 foot office units were purchased that each include ADA restrooms, and an office at each end. A very generous donor gave us \$100k worth of 1-year old cubicles and office furniture to use in these portables. Praise God for this blessing of furniture that will also serve us as we move into our offices in the new building later this year.

- * 2 – 40 foot portable kitchens are in the works now with construction and all materials being ordered and assembled now. These will serve as our temporary kitchen-storage and dish washing units for 10-12 months. They will be state of the art and very functional for ministry.

- * 1 – very large meeting space/temporary rental building will be used for our dining hall & worship space.

- * 1 – portable restroom facility/trailer that will have men's and women's restrooms, sinks, etc.

- * ALL of these will be connected to each other via stairs, platforms, and ramps for ADA accessibility, heated and air conditioned.

- * So as you can see, the enemy tried to stop us... but our God has **BIG PLANS** for Skyview Ranch! We are moving forward in ministry to get us back up and running soon. Our first guest group and our 5 weeks of youth winter retreats began in mid-January. We have plans to use a local large church for meals and meeting spaces while our temporaries are completed.

- * These portables will sit on the leveled out area where the dining hall sat. This was due to hard packed level ground, the accessibility to the grease trap, sewer lines, gas lines, power lines, water well, and the parking lot. Over the past few weeks, design options (lots and lots of potential options were discussed for rentals, etc.) purchasing and rental pricing, utility installation needs, permitting and site prep were all in play. The site now has a layer of rock, trenching for ALL utilities is nearly complete, and all portable units/trailers will be onsite and Lord willing installed, utilities hooked up, and all necessary stairs and ramping completed by the first week or two of February.

- * We should get occupancy approval for us to use ALL our portables by no later than mid-February.

- * Our board of trustees building committee has also been very busy selecting an architect and contractor, along with working through NEW building designs. The current plan is to build a brand new building that will meet our needs for many decades to come allowing for continued growth. It will sit on an unused portion of our property, sitting northeast of where the dining hall sat (across the parking lot and to the right when you come to the top of the main lane). This building will include: 2 full-sized basketball courts in a large gym that will also serve as our dining hall & worship space, office space, a commercial kitchen to feed 325, storage space, restrooms that will include showers, additional parking and a long covered front porch that runs the length of the front for meeting and relaxing. Architectural plans and pulling permits will take place during January—March, with site/ground work beginning in March/April, with building construction beginning in April/May. Estimated completion and move in should be in the late fall or early Winter.

- * Our development committee is hard at work to look at expanding Skyview Ranch like never before. We have a multi-phase, multi-year plan in place, and we look forward to sharing these plans with you all in the coming months.

- * Phase 1 – Build NEW Gym facility (already in the works)

- * Phase 2 – Build Welcome Center/Office building

- * Phase 3 – Build Dining Hall that will accommodate 500

- * Phase 4 – Build Hillside Lodge sleeping accommodations (house 80)

- * Phase 5 – Build Chapel that will seat 500-700

- * These are VERY aggressive plans, but we serve a big God who is faithful and just. Our desire at Skyview is to build a facility in order to reach more children, teens and adults for Christ!

(continued on page 7)

(Skyview Ranch, continued from page 6)

- **MUCH HAS HAPPENED OVER THESE PAST 10 WEEKS.** God is good, his people have been faithful to give, pray and offer assistance, and the BEST IS YET TO COME! *“Out of the ashes, Beauty will rise”*. There is still a lot of room to give financially if you so choose, as we have many incidentals and unexpected fees and charges that are still coming up. If you would like to donate, please go to our website and scroll down to the FIRE link to give. www.skyviewranch.org

On behalf of the Skyview staff and board of trustees, I want to say thank you so very much for your love and continued support of Skyview Ranch.
—Gary Adams, Executive Director, Skyview Ranch

IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER PACKED YEAR AT SCIOTO HILLS

We are excited about what God has in store for Scioto Hills in 2020 and are rejoicing in His faithfulness to us in 2019. This year we will be studying Philippians and focusing our attention on our theme, "Knowing Christ."

The weekend of February 7-9 marks the first of 4 weekends in a row in which we offer **youth winter retreats**. Because of increased numbers, we are offering a second Jr. High/High School Retreat, "**Revolution Genesis 2**," the last weekend in February.

We finish our winter events with our annual **Rekindle Couples Retreat on March 6-8**. We are privileged to have Chuck and Linda Pausley as our guest speakers. (BTW: We have 24 private rooms with nice queen size beds that fill up quickly so encourage your newlyweds as well as your more experienced couples to register soon.)

We are also excited to host the infamous Blackwood Brothers Quartet for our **Seasoned Saints Luncheon on April 16**.

And don't forget our **Renovate Men's Retreat on April 24-25** with Pastor Dave Kisner.

Finally, **it's time to register for a week of summer camp** to secure the best pricing and don't forget we do a great job of hosting and serving various guest groups for your specific retreats.

Please visit our website at www.sciotohills.com

By Grace,
Scott
Executive Director



NEWS COMING IN FROM THE ISLAND



God is continuing to work at Camp Patmos by saving both young and old. This last season we know of 33 commitments to Christ for salvation!

I am thrilled to report that the Chapel now has new windows and two new doors along with new siding, insulation, and drywall on the north and south walls! This upgrade has officially started our renovation process of the Chapel built in 1957. Lord willing, when the funds come in, we have plans to further upgrade the chapel space by adding a foyer with bathrooms, meeting space, and a mechanical room for the addition of air conditioning and heating. This upgrade will remove distractions and help our guests focus on God's Word instead of the temperature and needing to walk several hundred yards to the nearest bathroom.

It is also exciting to announce that a team of Board members and I are starting the process of remaking the Camp Patmos Master Plan. We have already met to dream and plan for what we see the Lord putting in place for the next 5, 10, and 20 years! Join us on our journey to "Shine the Light for the next Generation." We will be hosting a **Camp Patmos Vision Dinner** to share the plans that we see God putting together for camp. It will be held **Saturday, March 14, 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Elyria**. There is a \$25 suggested donation per person. Make plans to attend!

www.camppatmos.com

Seeking God's best,
David Sellers, Executive Director

ACROSS THE STATE

A Tribute to John Isaacson



A longtime OARBC friend, John Isaacson from First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, entered the presence of the Lord on December 19, 2019, surrounded by family reading Scripture and praying. He was 84 years old. John was not a pastor, but a faithful lay leader and servant. He regularly attended OARBC fall conferences, often accompanied by his son Mark. He was at the 2019 Tri-State Conference in October at Emmanuel Baptist, Toledo knowing at that time that his cancer was no longer treatable. His pastor, Pastor Tom Mullins, First Baptist, Bowling Green, shares a tribute to John.

John Isaacson eagerly introduced me to the OARBC only two weeks after I became his pastor in October 2011. Since then, I have met more Ohio pastors and parishioners through him than the rest of my church put together! He has been a major part of my life these past 8 years, spending time together at least 3 times a week. The last time I saw him alive, he lay quietly without the energy to respond; with tears welling up, and as I had done so many times recently, I read his favorite verses, prayed for him, and thanked him for all he had done for me. As I lingered by his bedside that day, I was thinking every pastor needs a John Isaacson in their life and ministry. Here's why: he lovingly exhorted and encouraged me in my primary jobs of prayer, ministry of the Word, and love of people.

John and I are exactly 40 years apart; he was 'old' when I met him, but got younger as I got to know him! I think that he was the oldest newspaper delivery boy (by bicycle) in the state of Ohio! His energy was boundless, including his energy for prayer. For the past three years, the two of us met together on Tuesday mornings for prayer. His King James style of speaking to God was endearing and inspiring. Whether I shared personal matters or ministry struggles, no matter the problem, the answer was prayer. And he was right.

*“...every pastor
needs a
John Isaacson in
their life and
ministry.”*

John was also one who spoke truth in my life and in the church. His knowledge of Scripture was vast, readily accessible, and liberally applied to situations we were facing. I once came across a decades old letter that he wrote to the congregation expounding on the need for theological instruction during Sunday School, warning of potential idolatry of our beautiful building, and encouraging the church to invest in additional staffing. For a couple years he was my research assistant and he would often nudge me toward theological precision. He had a supportive way of disagreeing! When we started small groups, he insisted they be more Bible-centered. In the end, it was obvious how his memorization of Scripture (including the whole book of Ephesians, James, and multiple Psalms) impacted his thinking on church life. If I couldn't remember where a certain passage of Scripture was located, I didn't have to ask Siri, I just asked John.

Finally, John was a family man, and everyone was family. From his almost daily rounds to nursing homes and hospitals to videos of his grandkids, he made the people in his life a priority. This past summer, after his cancer diagnosis I might add, he accompanied his family on a hike up Pike's Peak just to be with them. He called me on the phone from that peak and said, "I think they're trying to do me in." I still laugh about that today.

I could go on, but I'm not the only one who benefited from John's support over the years. The fact that four of his most recent pastors (going back 40 years) attended his funeral is a testimony to the support that John gave to his shepherds; and as John's last shepherd before he met his Chief Shepherd, I want to thank you for allowing me to share about how a man, whose commitment to God's Word, love for Christ's Church, and support of his pastor, left an incredible impact on me and the church. John was a faithful church member of 50 years and a dedicated deacon during much of that time. He was my prayerful and prophetic support as well as my constant friend, and today I honor him as he honors Christ.

With Thanksgiving,
Pastor Tom Mullins, First Baptist Bowling Green

With the Lord



Shirley Jane Shimp was born July 6, 1932 in Cleveland, Ohio and went home to be with the Lord January 19, 2020 after a prolonged illness.

Upon graduation from the Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland, she married David Shimp on September 1, 1956. She spent her married life doing what she loved—serving as a pastor’s wife, which included serving for 53 years at Litchfield Baptist Church in Litchfield. In 2016 she and her husband moved to Tracy, California to be with family. She is survived by her husband David, daughter and son-in-law Tim and Susan Heinrich and four granddaughters.

Many lovely tributes were on-line including the following:

“Mrs. Shimp was a faithful example of a godly woman, wife and pastor’s wife. She always displayed the joy of the Lord. She cared about others—was consistent in sending cards for special occasions and had gifts and treats for each child in church as I was growing up and even as my kids had the opportunity to be in church with her. She was a diligent prayer warrior and friend who will be missed greatly.

—Sophie Smith, Pastor’s Wife,
Litchfield Baptist

Faith Baptist, Amherst



Faith Baptist of Amherst participated in the 2019 Angel Tree project of the Prison Fellowship. The Angel Tree project connects families who have one or more parents in prison with churches and/or individuals, to help provide Christmas presents to the children on behalf of the parent in prison. Church families took an angel from the tree and purchased a present for the child to be presented at the Christmas dinner for all those involved in the project. There were 12 families who gave an RSVP and though the church family was disappointed only 3 families actually came, they made a great connection with those three families. Gifts were delivered to those not in attendance and proved to be a positive experience for the most part. Associate Pastor Cory Prosowski will be happy to be a resource to any other church that might be interested in doing the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree project in 2020.

Faith Baptist, Streetsboro



The first Sunday in January 2020 was an emotionally moving day at Faith Baptist Church, Streetsboro. Pastor Don Workman, having served 28 years as pastor, symbolically passed the helm of the church on to the new Senior Pastor Dan Oreskovic.



Later in the service, after much praise and celebration, Pastor Dan Oreskovic and Faith Baptist Church commissioned Don and Beth Workman to their new full-time ministry with Evangelism Explosion. There were many special guests and friends of the church on hand for this unique opportunity to celebrate God’s blessing on the church and His choice servants.

10th Annual Ladies’ Day Out at Pleasant Hill, Smithville

Pleasant Hill Baptist, Smithville, held its 10th annual Ladies’ Day Out January 25, 2020. Over 100 ladies met for a morning of fellowship, personal enrichment classes and a challenge from God’s Word presented by Clarinda Halk, BMM missionary appointee to Zambia. The morning concluded with a soup, sandwich and dessert luncheon provided by the ladies of the church. Pleasant Hill uses this event as an outreach for their own church ladies and friends. They also invite other area OARBC churches to come. Seven OARBC churches were represented. Churches networking and fellowshiping—that is the OARBC!



Joyce (mom), left, from Pleasant Hill,
Jen (daughter) from Hillside, Rittman

ACROSS THE STATE

Head Usher Honored for 55 Years of Service

Yes, it is a bit unusual, but the church family of Abram Creek Baptist, will not soon forget Tom Reed and the 55 years he served as head usher for his church family. When Pastor James Beight mentioned to Tom Reed's replacement that he had big shoes to fill, little did he know Tom's actual shoes would be bronzed and displayed with a plaque in his honor at the rear of the auditorium.

For the church family, the plaque is a reminder of a true servant and friend. Every week Tom greeted every person who visited or attended the church, made sure the offering was taken in a proper manner and was available to help and answer questions as needed. But Tom's service did not stop there. He gave rides to those without transportation, and visited those who were hospitalized or in a nursing facility and took special interest in the needs of others.

Tom grew up in western Pennsylvania. As part of the "Greatest Generation," he served during WWII. Shortly after the war, Tom married the love of his life, Ruth, and together they moved to Cleveland. Their first week in town, they walked to South Madison Avenue Baptist Church, joined the church soon after and began serving together. They continued their service despite the relocation of the congregation out of Cleveland. The merger of two churches into the Abram Creek Baptist Church of Brook Park was successful because of the loyalty and commitment of people like Tom and Ruth. Ruth went home to be with the Lord in 2012 and Tom continued to serve the Lord and Abram Creek until his homegoing in 2018 at 95 years of age. And that is the moving story behind the bronzed shoes!



Bronzed shoes and plaque honors faithful servant Tom Reed

Young Students Thriving Because of Grace Baptist, Cedarville Ministry



Thrive after school program

In the quiet community of Cedarville, Ohio, Jewel Harkleroad noticed several kids roaming the streets after school until late at night. This observation sparked Thrive, an after-school program of Grace Baptist Church that now involves students from Cedarville University. Thrive was established in 2018 as an after-school opportunity for Cedarville children to be tutored and fed. Ten years ago, Harkleroad, director of Thrive, began inviting children into her home for an after-school activity. This became more than she could handle, which prompted Thrive.

Thrive meets at Grace Baptist Church in Cedarville on Monday from 3-7 p.m. and Thursday from 3-5 p.m. Each Thrive meeting includes fun activities and tutoring, with dinner added to Monday night. The goal of Thrive is to connect Cedarville residents with emotional, spiritual, physical and academic resources with those who are under resourced in those areas.

A large part of Thrive is the tutoring program, which is led by Holly Ryan. Cedarville University students participate in this aspect of Thrive. "Cedarville students are faithful week after week, and they are also willing to be flexible to meet the needs that the kids have at the moment," said Harkleroad. "This is what allows the students to feel truly loved." Katrina Tucker, one of the tutors from Cedarville University, said she loves not only tutoring but being an older sister to the young girls there. "It is so rewarding to personally know the kids and watch them learn and grow through some of the most pivotal years in their lives," said Tucker.

One unique activity Harkleroad leads during Thrive is called "Thrive Five." Harkleroad will share one lie and then a truth to counteract the lie. During a recent Thrive, Harkleroad asked, "Has anyone ever heard in your head that you are a mistake?" One of the girls answered, "I have never thought that in my head but it has been told to me."

"We shared the truth that they are fearfully and wonderfully made," Harkleroad said. "This is just one example of the impact that Thrive is having in the lives of these students."

—Cedarville University

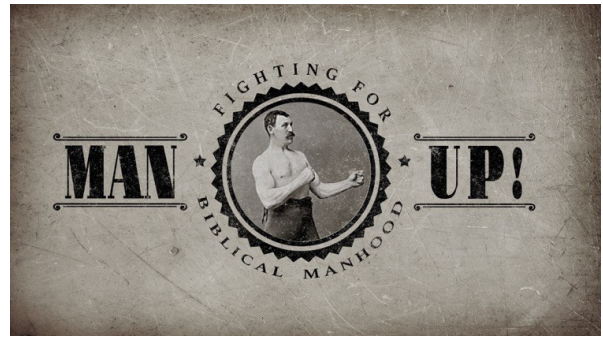
Opportunities for the OARBC family



Saturday, February 29, 2020
Calvary Baptist, Bellefontaine
9 - 4 pm \$25

Dr. Mark Smith
Dr. Jeff Haymond, Dr. Bert Wheeler
Cedarville Professors
Keynote Speakers

*calvarybellefontaine.org/ministries/
men-of-god-conference.cfm*



Saturday, March 7, 2020
First Baptist, Medina
8 - 3 pm \$35

Dr. Jeremy Kimble
Associate Professor of Theology
Cedarville University

manuplife.com

Men, sign-up for one of these great conferences!

OARBC Senior Luncheon 2020, Cedarville University
Thursday, May 7, Student Center, 11:00-2:00
Registration info coming to your churches soon!



Departing from Elyria, Ohio

Seniors Bus Trip

Monday-Wednesday
September 14-16, 2020

\$475 per person includes:
Luxury Barons Bus Line "Ride like Royalty"
Philadelphia Historic Sites
Guided Tour of Valley Forge
Lancaster Sight and Sound Production "Esther"
Two nights Hampton Inn accommodations, meals

First-Come Basis, Contact Craig Golden
440-865-0520 or craiggolden@oh.rr.com

NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

Cedarville University Receives \$1.5M Gift

Cedarville University, in the midst of a strategic 10-year master plan, received a \$1.5 million gift from the estate of Helen Z. Elbin. The gift will be used to provide scholarships for students and help fund the university's chapel program. The scholarships will go through the Helen Elbin Trust Endowed Scholarship.

Helen Elbin has been a long-time friend of Cedarville University and its former radio station, WCDR. Her gift is a tribute to her relationships with Cedarville students through her church, and the ministry of the radio station. From these connections, she developed a passion to help college students prepare for their life service through ministry and quality higher education. She lived on her farm in West Jefferson, Ohio.

"We are grateful for the life of Helen Elbin, and for her long-standing commitment to Cedarville University," said Thomas White, president. "Her estate gift will have eternal impact as students are provided financial resources to be able to enroll and their lives are transformed through Cedarville's excellent education and intentional discipleship in submission to biblical authority."

Cedarville University Student Scholarships

Pastors, parents, students: If you have students in your congregation who are considering Cedarville University for undergraduate study, please be aware of two scholarships available to them.

Pastor Recommendation Scholarship

This University-funded and awarded scholarship provides \$1,000 toward a student's first year costs. However, it is dependent upon a pastor's recommendation. The deadline for the 2020-21 academic year is August 1, 2020. (January 1 for the spring 2021 semester).

Church-Matching Scholarship

Cedarville will match your church's gift to an undergraduate student, up to \$500 matched. This scholarship is renewable for up to four years. The recommended date for submission is July 1 for each year.



Cedarville students hang out at the pond

Spring Career Fair at Cedarville

Underemployed or unemployed? Check out Cedarville's Spring Career Fair on **February 19 from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** in the Doden Field House on campus. Registered organizations that will be represented include JPMorgan Chase & Co, Samaritan's Purse, Dayton Children's Hospital, FBI, Ford Motor Company, Speedway, and many more.

CedarMania

Encourage your middle and high school students to attend CedarMania on **Saturday, March 21**. CedarMania is a powerful gathering of students from all over the nation who desire to be part of energetic and meaningful worship while being challenged and refreshed by the Word of God. Join us at Cedarville University for an experience unlike any other for the next generation.

Celebrating 250 Years of Ludwig van Beethoven

Do you love classical music? On Friday, **March 27, 2020**, the Cedarville University Department of Music and Worship will present a mostly Beethoven concert commemorating the 250th anniversary of the legendary composer's birth. Entirely under the baton of guest conductor Jackson Leung from Wright State University, and featuring guest pianist Andrea Arese-Elias from the University of Dayton, the combined choirs and orchestra of Cedarville University will join forces for this Masterworks Concert in the Jeremiah Chapel. Tickets at: <https://cedarvilleuniversity.regfox.com/masterworks-concert-2020>