

The Link

Vol. 92

September 2019


No. 3

Connecting Churches in the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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

Ohio, Michigan, Indiana Tri-State Conference Emmanuel Baptist, Toledo

**MOVING
TOGETHER
FOR THE GOSPEL
TRISTATE ASSOCIATIONS CONFERENCE 2019**



Mark October 21-23 on your calendar and plan to be with us in Toledo for a time of spiritual encouragement and enrichment. This is a unique opportunity to renew old friendships and begin new ones with those who share your passion for Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

We have three great speakers lined up: Thomas White, Jeremy Pierre and Mike Hess. The theme Moving Together for the Gospel is fitting for a conference that brings us together as one body to praise and worship our Creator and Maker. Let us therefore pray expectantly that God will use His servants and His Word mightily to renew our sense of wonder and worship of Him. Invite others and come and enjoy some great singing and sermons. We at Emmanuel Baptist stand ready to serve you for the glory of God and the advancement of His Gospel.
- Pastor Duke Crawford

Registration Information

www.emmanuelbaptist.com/moving-together-for-the-gospel

Council of 12

2016-2019

Tom Alexander, *First, Wellington*
Dave Denny, *Whipple Ave, Canton*
Matt Nihiser, *Calvary, Lancaster*
Jeff Willetts, *Calvary, Bellefontaine*

2017-2020

David Conrad, *Calvary, Xenia*
David Culver, *Chairman, Shawnee Hills, Jamestown*
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*

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The Link

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Tri-State Conference Speakers



Thomas White

is the tenth president of Cedarville University, serving since 2013. Serving in a variety of leadership roles and responsibilities, White has more than a decade of administrative, teaching, and research experience and combines strong leadership with a pastoral heart for ministry while standing for biblical truth. He and his wife Joy have two children.



Jeremy Pierre

is an associate professor of biblical counseling and the department chairman at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and serves as Executive Pastor at Clifton Baptist Church. As an author and contributor to several books, he is a sought after speaker. He and his wife, Sarah, have five children and live in Louisville, Kentucky.



Mike Hess

is the National Representative of the GARBC. He is a certified biblical counselor with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. He is a key contributor to the newly launched “The Baptist Bulletin Podcast.” Prior to his current role, he served as a senior pastor in two churches. He and his wife Christina have two children.

Conference Schedule

Monday, October 21

- Noon Registration and Displays
- 1:30 pm Main Session “God’s Design of Our Experience” *Jeremy Pierre*
- 2:45 pm Break and Displays
- 3:15 pm Seminar “A Brief Counseling Methodology” *Jeremy Pierre*
- 4:30 pm Dinner Break *(OARBC Welcome and Well-Done Dinner at Famous Dave’s BBQ, by reservation only)*
- 7:00 pm Evening Session “Perspective—Leadership Lessons from Nehemiah” *Thomas White*
Dessert Fellowship to follow sponsored by Clarks Summit University

Tuesday, October 22

- 8:30 am Prayer and Praise Session
- 9:00 am Main Session “Understanding the Problems of Your People Biblically” *Jeremy Pierre*
- 10:00 am Break and Displays
- 10:30 am Main Session “Preparation—Leadership Lessons from Nehemiah” *Thomas White*
- 11:30 am Lunch Break *(Cedarville University Presentation with Box Lunch, RSVP when registering on-line)*
- 1:30 pm Seminar “Identifying and Educating the Next Generation of Pastors: How Churches and Schools Can Partner Together to Train Biblically Faithful Leaders” *Thomas White, Jeremy Pierre*
- Women’s Session “Praying God’s Word” *Kathy Shroeder*
- 2:45 pm Break and Displays
- 3:15 pm Association Business Sessions
- 4:30 pm Dinner Break
- 7:00 pm Main Session “How Scripture Shapes the Way We See Our Anxieties” *Jeremy Pierre*
Dessert Fellowship to follow sponsored by Continental Baptist Missions

Wednesday, October 23

- 8:30 am Main Session *(Continental Breakfast sponsored by Regular Baptist Ministries)*
“Why an Association of Churches Matters” *Mike Hess*
- 10:30 am Break and Displays
- 11:00 am Closing Main Session “Presence—Leadership Lessons from Nehemiah” *Thomas White*

A Word from the Rep

It is again a privilege to step into your offices or homes and share with you about the OARBC ministry. It is hard to believe that Linda and I have completed two years as state rep and wife. We have had a full summer with family time, a cruise with old college friends, the national GARBC conference, and our continued ministry of helping pastors and churches, along with preaching in our churches and sharing about the OARBC. Let me share with you some **encouraging events in recent months**.

Thursday, May 9, we had an **OARBC Seniors Luncheon at Skyview Ranch** with 175 in attendance and 22 of our churches represented. Skyview took great care of us, providing a great lunch and extra activities. Dee and Deb shared a great selection of music for us to enjoy. The next OARBC Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2020 at Cedarville University.

Wednesday, June 26, while at the GARBC conference, the **“Ohio Gathering”** happened at Spaghetti Works in downtown Des Moines. Many of our OARBC pastors and wives who were attending the conference were able to come for the great food and fellowship. We had some other guests with us from Iowa, Michigan and a special group of international pastors who were there for the conference. We also celebrated my birthday with a cake.



Ohio Gathering in Des Moines

Thursday, July 25, we had the privilege of meeting with three of our pastors and wives from the **East Moriah area** for fellowship and great food. We met at a restaurant in Williamstown, WV. It was a great time of sharing and getting to know each other. The East Moriah fellowship has not been meeting together in recent years. One of the purposes of the evening was for them to get acquainted and plan some fellowship times together over the next year.

Saturday, August 17, I had the privilege to drive to Wheelersburg and attend the **ordination examination of Matt Wilson**. He did a great job in sharing his conversion, call to ministry and defending his ordination paper. The council unanimously recommended that the church proceed with ordination and on Sunday afternoon they ordained him to the gospel ministry.

Thank you to the 17 churches who participated in the **“We are the OARBC” offering**. We have a total of **\$11,849.60** given or committed at this time. This special offering will help bridge the gap for our general fund budget.

Our annual conference is a **tri-state conference** this year. Indiana, Michigan and Ohio are coming together on October 21-23 at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo. The theme for the conference is **“Moving Together for the Gospel”** with Dr. Thomas White, Dr. Jeremy Pierre and Mike Hess speaking. It should be a *great* conference with *great* preaching and *great* fellowship. The schedule and registration information is included in this [LINK](#).

The **2020 conference** is at Washington Heights in Dayton with the president of ABWE Paul Davis speaking. The focus will be on revitalization. The dates are October 19-21, 2020. Mark your calendars.

I still have open dates for the fall and next year. Give me a call. **I would love to come to your church** to preach and share about what God is doing in our great fellowship of churches.

Chuck, OARBC State Rep

Conference Women’s Speaker



Kathy Schroeder

Kathy Schroeder trusted Jesus Christ as her Savior from sin when she was a sophomore in college. She was immediately blessed to receive excellent Bible training through a local church and campus ministry. She experienced rapid spiritual growth in her walk with the Lord and was firmly established in the faith. Kathy met her husband, Doug, and after marriage, they began serving in full-time campus ministry at Central Michigan University and Indiana University. Four years later, God called Doug to be the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist in Bloomington, Indiana, where they have now served for the past 39 years. Kathy is the worship director at Emmanuel and through the years has used her gift of teaching to disciple women and children. She feels honored to be asked to share what God has taught her about prayer and how she is growing in the Lord. She will be sharing at the Tri-State Conference on Tuesday at the 1:30 pm women’s session, **“Praying God’s Word.”**

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



Dear Ladies of Ohio,

We trust you have had a great summer serving the Lord and enjoying your family. It is now nearing the fall and time to give you the updates for our fall events.

State Project Update: We are happy to report that the total giving for the 2018-2019 Project was **\$8,500.00**. We praise the Lord for His provision to help with the purchase of office equipment for our missionaries in an undisclosed location.

Looking to Our New 2019-2020 State Project: The OWM project for this next year is to help raise funds for a **CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOR GHANA**. Rob & Penny Whitty, BMM—Ghana, Africa, are raising funds to buy a building to begin a Christian school. The education for the children of Ghana is greatly lacking, with teachers showing up only when they feel like it. Biblical education is non-existent. This school would meet a need for not only the Christian children but for all of the children of the area. We are asking the Lord and the ladies of Ohio to help provide \$10,000 for this property. Bookmarks are available with further details concerning our project for the Whittys. Contact Donna Victor or Kim Kozy if your church has not received them. Please pray about the part you can play in this important project!

Please note that **we will not have a fall meeting this year** due to the fact that our OARBC State Meeting will be combining with the states of Michigan and Indiana in Toledo, Ohio, October 21-23, 2019. We will be looking for you at the conference.

For the Ladies' Fall Retreat: You should have received information for the Ladies' Fall Retreat at the Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio scheduled for November 14-15, 2019. If you have not received registration information, please contact Kim Kozy for a copy of the information or go to OARBC.org. **Registration deadline is October 5, 2019.**

Our speaker will be **Peggy Walker**, former instructor at Clarks Summit University in Clarks Summit, PA. She is the wife of Mel Walker, mother of three adult children and nine grandchildren. We look forward to what the Lord has for us through her ministry.

We will have our **basket auction** at the Ladies' Retreat again this year! The Lord has truly blessed our state projects through the basket auctions, and we are so grateful to everyone that provides a basket. Thank you for your love and sacrificial giving.

The W.A.R. (*Women at Risk*) store will be available at the retreat and we will enjoy an evening of music by **Vicki Truett**, a graduate from the Word of Life Bible Institute. She will be an encouragement to you through the ministry of music.

We Have A Need: We need a **host church** for our 2020 Spring Meeting, Saturday, April 25, 2020. Please contact me if your church is willing to fulfill this need.

Yours by redeeming grace,
Donna Victor, President

Fall Area Meetings

Hebron Fellowship

*Saturday, September 14
Calvary Baptist, Oberlin
10-11:30 (lunch follows)
Africa Panel Discussion*

Maranatha Fellowship

*Saturday, September 21
First Baptist, Gallipolis
9:30 Coffee 10-12 Meeting
Lunch follows, please RSVP
Sue Miller, Speaker*

Bethany Fellowship

*Tuesday, September 24
Champion Baptist, Warren
10:00-1:00, Light lunch
Marilyn Shaffer, Speaker*

South Bethel Fellowship

*Saturday, September 28
"Women on Mission"
9:00-1:00 (lunch included)
Grand Heights, Fairborn
Becky Dye, Speaker
Workshops, RSVPs needed*

Akron/Canton Fellowship

*Saturday, October 12
Norton Baptist, Norton
9:00 am Breakfast
"Make Me a Blessing"*

West Moriah Fellowship

*Saturday, October 12
Walnut Creek, Baltimore
10:00 am (Brunch)-Noon
Linda Pausley, Speaker*

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Perry Baptist, Canton Welcomes New Pastor



Pastor Joel Wasserstein

Joel Wasserstein grew up in a larger family with Christian parents in Topeka, Kansas. While he heard the gospel his whole life, it was not until he was 8 years old that he began to see his need and he made a decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior in February, 2002.

It was during high school, while living in Northern Virginia, that Joel began to feel God leading him into ministry. God confirmed that call through the local church and the leadership there began to find ways for Joel to serve. At the end of high school Joel decided to attend Cedarville University as a Bible major.

While Joel was heavily involved with campus ministry during his four years of undergrad, he really fell in love with the local church during his time studying his M.Div. (also at Cedarville). During his three years of master's work at CU he was a member, small group leader, college group leader, and did two different internships at Grace Baptist of Cedarville. Joel graduated in May, 2019 with his M.Div. and was called by Perry Baptist Church on July 21. He began his preaching ministry on August 18.

New Family Life Pastor at Calvary, Massillon

Pastor Andrew Box grew up in a Christian home in the state of Oregon. He was saved at the age of 5. It was at the Northwest Youth Conference in Portland, at the age of 17, Andrew surrendered to God to preach His Word. He attended Northland Baptist Bible College graduating with a degree in Evangelism in 2005. He met his wife Wendy while attending college and they were married in 2006. They have four children: Brandon, Kherington, Blake and Ben. He joined the staff of Calvary Baptist in February of 2019.



Pastor Andrew Box

First Baptist, Stryker Welcomes New Associate Pastor

On Sunday, August 11, Timothy C. Martin was installed as the new Pastor of Family Discipleship of First Baptist Church in Stryker. Pastor Tim steps in for departing Rev. Matthew Dodd who will pursue further education in seminary after serving as Youth Pastor at First Baptist for the past ten years. The change in title reflects the church's shift in focus toward a more holistic approach to ministering to teens and their families. Tim was raised in a Christian home, the son of a pastor, and graduated from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids. He has been a member of First Baptist for almost 20 years and his wife Mindy, who also graduated from Cornerstone University, grew up in the church from birth. They have two children, Caiden (age 6) and Graisen (age 4).



Pastor Tim and Mindy Martin



Rev. Matthew Wilson

Wheelersburg Baptist Ordains Matthew Wilson

It was a very special weekend for Wheelersburg Baptist Church as an ordination council of area pastors met on Saturday and recommended Matthew Wilson into pastoral ministry. Upon their recommendation and the vote of the congregation, an Ordination Service was held on Sunday, August 18, 2019, to signify the call of God upon Matt's life.

Opportunities for the OARBC family

OARBC Youth Event

Saturday, October 12, 2019 at Faith Baptist Church, Amherst

DARE 2 SHARE LIVE! is a simulcast showing across the country to spark a church-wide movement of teens for the cause of Christ. **Reaching the next generation is tough.** Apathy is growing. Atheism has doubled. And nearly half of young Christians think it's offensive to share their faith with their friends.

That's why your teens need to be at **Dare 2 Share LIVE.** It's a one-day live simulcast and outreach event that will give your teens the inspiration, motivation, and training they need to be confident in sharing their faith with others. Pricing is different depending on your church, check out <https://dare2sharelive.org/> for more information or contact Pastor Cory Proowski @ 440-453-3753

Tri-State Annual Conference 2019

October 21-23, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Toledo

All of our Ohio churches and people are invited to join this great time of worship and Bible challenge. It is not just for pastors! See pages 1-2 of this publication for all the information you need.

OWM Fall Ladies' Retreat

Thursday-Friday, November 14-15, Carlisle Inn, Sugarcreek

Speaker: Peggy Walker

Mini-Concert: Vicki Truett

See page 4 of this publication for details.



OWM Retreat 2019

Columbus Biblical Counseling Conference

Friday-Saturday, September 20-21, Fellowship Baptist, Dublin

Life can be difficult, but we have the sufficiency of God's Word to help impact others for God's glory. Join us for a weekend of counseling workshops which will continue to equip you to help hurting people. You will benefit first-hand from these biblical tools to handle life in a God-pleasing way. Your participation will be an invaluable investment, as together we look to the timeless Scriptures for the answers to life's challenges!

We welcome **Kevin Carson** as our keynote speaker. Our theme this year is "**Marriage Matters.**" Register early and receive a discount! Go to www.tinyurl.com/2019CBCC We would love to have you attend.

Woman to Woman One-Day Conference

Saturday, November 2, Calvary Baptist Church, Bellefontaine, 8am—4pm

Calvary Baptist invites women from all over the state to join together for this one-day conference of worship, workshops and keynote speaker, Rachel Wojo.

Early Bird registration (\$20) ends September 8.

Regular registration (\$25) until October 6.

Late registration (\$30) until October 20 which is the cut-off date for all registrations.

Visit www.calvarybellefontaine.org to register.



*Rachel Wojo
Conference Speaker*

*save
the
Date!*

Save the Date 2020

OWM Spring Meeting, Saturday, April 25, 2020

A host church is needed. Please contact OWM President Donna Victor.

OARBC Senior Luncheon, Thursday, May 7, 2020, Cedarville University

OARBC Fall State Conference, October 19-21, 2020, Washington Heights, Dayton



2019 SVR SUMMER STAFF



New 9-hole Disc Golf Course



Badly-needed Roof Repair...\$8,900

Praise God for all He has done this summer at Skyview Ranch. Our summer attendance was up, along with our Skyview Retreats, and Guest Group rentals! I am eternally grateful for our amazing full-time staff, our apprentices, summer staff, and volunteers who poured into our campers this summer. The Lord spoke to so many students this summer as we had **118** salvations and **613** spiritual decisions!

Through the very generous support of individuals, we were able to install our **first ever 9-hole Disc Golf course** and its signage. We have had many maintenance needs all over camp, with three water heaters that needed to be replaced – one being a \$4,100 commercial unit in our shower house — our main building commercial A/C unit that needed a new pump, a new roof was installed on one of our staff homes replacing the one that was old and leaking, and three pool pumps needed to be replaced. Our most **immediate prayer needs** at the moment, are for funds to help with our roof replacement that cost \$8,900.

We are excited for the fall heading into December as **every weekend is now booked with guest groups!** The Lord has brought to us six awesome apprentices who start mid-August and will be serving SVR for one-year. **Praise God** for His faithfulness and goodness. I am thankful to our friends and churches who support us through prayer, donations, and volunteer help. **God bless you for your love and support of Skyview Ranch!**

In HIS service,
Gary Adams, Executive Director



Banished to the Isle

Camp Patmos would like to invite you and your youth to attend one of our upcoming Fall "Banished to the Isle" weekend retreats. Our two combined Jr. High and Sr. High retreats are Friday through Sunday, September 13-15 and September 20-22, 2019. Time is running out. Get registered today.

Banished is a theme-based weekend retreat specifically designed for Jr. High and Sr. High students. Our Banished Retreats allow students to participate in a fun, spiritually challenging atmosphere, while also encouraging discussion and interaction pointing them to their need for Christ in everyday living.

Our 2019 theme is "Banished Broken." In this world of brokenness and pain we need someone who can give us hope for tomorrow. The Bible points us to that hope and that Hope is Jesus. He came to proclaim the Good news to the poor and to give us rest and to bind up the broken hearted (Matthew 11:28-30, Isaiah 61:1-4). Join us as we explore how we are all broken by sin. We need to take responsibility for our own actions in this broken world and put our trust and faith in the One who can heal us in the most important way: from the inside out. **Speakers** are the Executive Director at Camp Patmos, **David Sellers**, and **Terry Porter**, Christian Counselor, Life Coach and Founder of Health from the Inside Out in Traverse City, Michigan. Worship will be led by "The Stray." **The Stray** is a group of musicians who became friends through music. They are ready to make musical waves in the world and at Camp Patmos.

Join Camp Patmos for one of these impactful weekends: **September 13-15 or September 20-22**. The cost is **\$125 per student and \$105 for adult leaders (includes ferry, meals and housing)**. Saturday-Sunday pricing is available for those joining us later. Extra money may be helpful for pay-to-play paint ball at \$15/game with 200 paint balls (\$6 refills), t-shirts and other Blue Sail camp store items or snacks. For more information or to register, call (419)746-2214 or email info@camppatmos.com

Scioto Hills

Praise God for a wonderfully safe and spiritually enriching summer. God continues to use our outdoor setting to impact the hearts and minds of campers, staff and volunteers. We are rejoicing over the many spiritual decisions that were made and the incredible Bible teaching and conversations that resulted from our study in the Book of Galatians. Our theme "By Faith Alone" reiterated our commitment to the Gospel. We are also rejoicing as we were blessed to serve over 1100 campers (the most since arriving back in 2006).



*Refresh 2018
Pastor Brad and Becky Rickard*

We are excited about our fall retreat schedule as well:

Rejuvenate (Ladies Only) Sept. 13-15;

Rewind (Campout for Dad and elementary age kids) Sept. 27-28;

Refresh (A FREE 3-day-2-night event **FOR PASTORS AND THEIR WIVES**) Sept. 23-25

And for the "seasoned saints" in your church, **THE BLACKWOOD BROTHERS QUARTET** will be in concert on Oct. 17 for our **Senior Luncheon**.

Visit www.sciotohills.com for more information.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Scott at Scioto Hills
Executive Director



Pastor Craig and Shirley Golden

On Sunday, June 30, First Baptist Church of Elyria honored Pastor Craig and Shirley Golden for faithfully serving the Lord in pastoral ministry for fifty years. By God's grace, Pastor Craig pastored three churches in upstate New York and served as the state representative for the Empire State Association of Regular Baptist Churches, now the Northeast Fellowship, for 24 years. For the last seven years they have served at FBC as an assistant pastor and wife for senior ministries and pastoral care. Their seemingly endless energy and enthusiasm is an encouragement and challenge to all who know them. They are always quick to respond, "To God be the glory!"



Pastor David and Linda Chapman

The Nottingham Baptist Church of Willoughby Hills honored their pastor and wife, Pastor David and Linda Chapman, upon their retirement from full-time ministry. It was a two-day celebration held June 8-9, 2019. In attendance were family, the church family, friends from each of their three former ministries, and other special guests. A highlight of the Saturday afternoon service, was an impromptu choir, directed by Pastor Chapman, and comprised of anyone who had ever participated in one of his choirs. A lovely dinner followed the afternoon service. On Sunday, Pastor Chapman preached his last sermon as Pastor, finishing his series on Revelation. It was an emotional conclusion as "all God's people said...AMEN" together with one voice as the final amen of his ministry.



Odir, Cynthia and son David Brandao

August 15, 2019 is a day to remember for Odir Brandao as he participated in the Naturalization Oath Ceremony, the last step to become a USA citizen. Odir's citizenship is a celebration for their family, a huge answer to prayers and another affirmation that God has called them to minister in Brazil alongside ABWE as their American mission agency. Praise God that Odir, Cynthia and David all have the privilege of having dual citizenship in Brazil and the United States. Cynthia is the daughter of David (*now with the Lord*) and Barb Taylor, former missionaries to Brazil. The Brandao's sending church is Dayspring in Galloway. They are 85% supported and hope to return to Sao Paulo, Brazil in March, 2020. Pray for them to raise the final needed support. Contact them at: ocbrandao@abwe.cc

OARBC SENIORS LUNCHEON AT SKYVIEW

Rain was in the forecast, but God held off the rain at Skyview Ranch on Thursday, May 8, 2019 when 175 seniors from 22 OARBC churches gathered for lunch and fellowship. Upon arrival, nearly everyone eagerly participated in a mixer game or had a tour of the camp on the "couch" wagon. Before lunch, Gary Adams, Skyview Director, gave an update about the camp and what God is doing followed by a delicious lunch prepared by the camp Chef. Chuck Pausley, OARBC state representative, shared a presentation with pictures of what God is doing in the OARBC. His report was interspersed with spontaneous applause for God and His working. It was a special time of worship to follow with "Dee and Deb." They are two sisters, Cedarville graduates, who traveled together in music ministry across the county and in much of Ohio in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Many of the seniors remember the blessing of hearing them in the past and they were warmly received once again. The day was enjoyed by all and Skyview Ranch did an exceptional job of serving their guests!

Top left: OARBC seniors luncheon in the lodge at Skyview Ranch.

Bottom left: Ladies of Beth-el, Elyria. The luncheon was their ladies' day out.



First Baptist of Stryker Celebrates 150 years



First Baptist, Stryker, 150th Anniversary Celebration

The members of First Baptist in Stryker welcomed friends and neighbors from the community and literally around the world for a special two-day celebration of a very significant milestone – 150 years as an organized church! The church was planted in 1869 by French-speaking immigrants after 12 new believers were baptized over a span of two years. The church remained French-speaking until early in the 20th century. The two-day event included testimonies from former pastors and missionaries, both present and via video and letters, special music, food, fellowship, panel discussions with long-time and newer members, and special activities including an historically-themed scavenger hunt. Most importantly, the gospel was clearly proclaimed by a number of special speakers around the theme, “Together by Grace: Past, Present, and Future (I Corinthians 15:1-2).”

Fitchville Baptist Church Plant

The Fitchville Baptist Church Plant held their Summer Kids Bible Club at the Indian Trails Campground July 22 – 24. The theme was Island Adventures S.O.S. (Seeking Our Savior). They are praising the Lord for the 22 children in attendance. They also had three more adult contacts who spoke of their need to be active in a church. They ask prayer that these individuals will respond to the Lord’s working in their hearts. Pastor Bill and Stephanie Wilson are sent out by the First Baptist Church of Lagrange. For more information, visit the website:

www.fitchvillebaptistchurchplant.org



Fitchville Church Plant Kids Bible Club

Vacation Bible Schools 2019

Many of our Ohio churches reported having successful Vacation Bible Schools this summer. VBS is a week that requires a great time commitment on the part of teachers and staff, but it is a week that can make an eternal impact on children. God works in young hearts, especially when they have heard and memorized God’s Word and have been genuinely loved by a church family—for several days in a row! They have made memories they will not soon forget. There may be a time in the future when they recall that special week at your church and they will be back, perhaps with their own children.



First Baptist of Wellington used RBP VBS materials. They reported a great attendance and six children who professed Christ.

Around the World



Brian Hansen (Grace Baptist, Cedarville) shares about an exciting ministry launch in the country of Zambia with Zambia’s top political leaders by having weekly, exegetical, verse by verse Bible studies. The launch was nationally televised to an audience of over 18 million people. Brian had the opportunity to share the gospel not only to those in attendance but also to the television audience. To God be the glory!

Protecting the Sheep: Reducing the Risk

In recent days, churches have been criticized for under-protecting their congregants and for minimizing offenses. Abuse has cost the Catholic church over \$3 billion. Recently churches in the Southern Baptist Convention have come under fire for a too-relaxed attitude toward sexual abuse by some of its churches. Although the percentage of churches where abuse has occurred is relatively small, the reputation of all churches is damaged by association. Still worse, the name of Jesus Christ has been marred. People don't want to hear "Jesus saves" from a church that can't protect the most vulnerable. We must, as shepherds of God's people, reduce the risk of abuse.

Church Security suggestions:

- Have a child abuse prevention policy
- Require abuse prevention training
- Require background checks
- Install windows in the door of every classroom and office
- Lock doors of rooms that are not in use
- Have a security team that roams the halls before, during, and after services
- Require check in/out system for all children under age 12
- Require two people present when minors are involved
- Only allow authorized personnel in the children's ministry areas
- Install remote access on exterior doors and intercom system for the facilities
- Install recordable security cameras throughout the facility
- Install firewalls and filters on wireless networks
- Create a clear protocol for handling money

Incident reporting:

- Know the mandatory reporting laws
- Design an incident reporting form and document all activity that violates policy
- Notify all necessary personnel both inside and outside the church
- File all incident reports in a secure location

Other tips:

- Ask a police officer to walk through the building and offer safety suggestions
- Have a designated official spokesperson for the church
- Offer first aid training
- Install an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machine in the church

*We must,
as shepherds
of God's people,
reduce the risk
of abuse...
Shepherding
sheep is a
wonderful
privilege and
a great
responsibility.*

This is by no means an exhaustive list nor does every church have to do everything on the list. However, if we are going to protect the sheep, we need to do something. There should be a clear plan, and it should be clear to the church. Whatever step is taken to reduce the risk of inappropriate behavior, communicate it well to the church. Be consistent and follow through with your stated guidelines. Shepherding sheep is a wonderful privilege and a great responsibility.

—Pastor Jeff Willets, Calvary, Bellefontaine, OARBC Council of 12

An agency representing:
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 AMERICAN CHURCH GROUP OHIO

BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL Insurance Company is a friend to the OARBC and the GARBC. The company gives generous dividends to both organizations based on the participation of our churches and the pay-out of claims.

Jimmy Spencer is the Executive Agency Director of the American Church Group Insurance Agency. He is a Christian brother who genuinely cares about helping churches. He is available for questions and counsel as well as helping with your insurance needs.

NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

CU Chapel+ App Brings Chapel to Smartphones

Chapel has been an important feature of Cedarville University campus life since the school's founding in 1887. Alumni and current students often talk about taking certain chapel messages and experiences with them for the rest of their lives. Now, they can also have chapel with them on their smartphones. The new [CU Chapel+ App](#) is now available to iPhone users in Apple's app store and to Android users in the Google Play store. The app is also available on Apple TV.

Junior Jam Points Students to Jesus

One of the most popular student events for third through sixth grade students and their leaders, Junior Jam, will be held October 12 from 8:30 am until 4 pm at Cedarville University. Junior Jam is filled with excitement and meaningful events that point students to Jesus. Cedarville's Heartsong group will lead students in worship in the Dixon Ministry Center. In addition, there will be activities for all ages, and the opportunity to connect with current Cedarville students. Register today at cedarville.edu/juniorjam.



From Cedarville to the Supreme Court

People travel to Washington, D.C. because of its historical value. Audrey Beck, will travel to the nation's capital in a few weeks to continue her career. Beck, who graduated from Cedarville University in 2014, will begin clerking for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh in July. Beck earned her law degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2017. As a law clerk, Beck will assist researching legal issues related to cases currently being considered by the court.

PASTORS AND CHURCHES

Retirement...Is your Pastor prepared?

I Timothy 5:8 states that "if any do not provide for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Normally, to provide for the household is the husband's responsibility and that responsibility does not end with his death. Our wives often outlive us and therefore, they (and the children if still at home) are still dependent upon us for their income for the rest of their life. We are told that 80% of women will end up as widows during their lifetime. Because of that information, men need to assume that will be the case in their particular situation.

Many Pastors' wives have spent much of their lives serving as a helpmate for their husband and caring for their children, which allowed the husband to spend maximum amount of time serving the Lord. When the LORD takes the Pastor home, the widow is normally left with his social security check, if he did not opt out, and income from the return on their accumulated retirement funds (if any).

When a Pastor starts his first ministry, he should begin putting money away for retirement. The number of years that the money has the opportunity to grow, is more important than how much is put away each month. We have been warned by the Federal Government that there will come a day when the social security checks promised will be reduced. Since many men work for companies that support employees by matching funds that the employee puts into his retirement, churches should consider doing the same for their Pastor, if possible. Knowing how hard it is to put money away for retirement on a pastor's salary, if the church can put aside even a minimal amount for a young pastor as part of the compensation package, it would be of great benefit to him in the years to come.

It has been suggested, by many financial planners, that a person use 4% of their retirement fund each year to protect their income for life. Example: \$500,000, may provide \$20,000 a year for life to supplement social security. The average monthly Social Security check recently is \$1,368. **It is time to get started!**

--Dale Whiting, CLU. ChFC, CKA, CSA, CLTC

Call Dale Whiting at 877-280-8080 or e-mail dale@dalerwhiting.com for further insight and help on this issue.

DID YOU KNOW...it was announced at the June GARBC Conference 2019 that a national 403b retirement plan for pastors and employees of association churches is now open for enrollment. Visit online at www.garbc.org/retirement/ to learn more.