

Fall Conference Highlights

The Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches held its Fall Conference October 23-25, at Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jamestown, Ohio. Celebrating 90 years of God’s faithfulness, the theme of the conference was **“Appreciating the Past...Understanding the Present...Advancing Toward the Future.”**

Ben Reed, interim state representative, opened the conference with a message about the history of the OARBC and its rich heritage, citing the godly men who have led the association in the past. He challenged the OARBC to *“appreciate the past”* but, referring to Hebrews 11-12, to be faithful in the race before them.



Pastor Dave Culver of Shawnee Hills Baptist Church, Jamestown, and Pastor Matt Nihiser of Calvary Baptist Church, Lancaster, spoke on the theme *“Understanding the Present.”* Monday evening, speaking from the book of Jude, Dave emphasized the importance of recognizing apostasy today and the need to avoid the preaching of a “lite” gospel, and instead remaining true to the Word. Tuesday morning, Matt called everyone to define who their first love is—the love that should define all ministry, according to Revelation 2:1-7.



The highlight of the conference was the installation of Chuck Pausley as the new OARBC state representative. After the unanimous vote of the messengers on Monday evening, interim representative Ben Reed literally “passed the baton” to Chuck, officially recognizing him as

State Representative. At Tuesday evening’s service, the Council of 12 and Ken Floyd, MARBC state representative, gathered around Chuck while John Greening, national representative of the Regular Baptist Churches, prayed for him and his future ministry. Following his formal installation, Chuck shared a personal message from Philippians 3:12-14 regarding his passion and what drives him in ministry.



The final session, on Wednesday morning, was met with anticipation and good attendance. Chuck shared his challenge that the association “be endeavoring to maintain the unity of the Spirit” (Ephesians 4:1-3), followed by his personal vision for the OARBC and his top five goals for the next five years as the association looks to *“Advancing Toward the Future.”*

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Council of 12

2015-2018

Dave Burman, First Baptist, Niles
Dave Hixson, Calvary, Sandusky
Dave Ryan, Grace Baptist, Canton
Ken Spink, Berea Baptist, Berea

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

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The Link

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A Word from the Rep

What a warm welcome we have had to this amazing state of Ohio. Thank you for the vote of affirmation at the Fall Conference at **Shawnee Hills Baptist Church** in Jamestown. It has added an urgency to our steps as we consider the **TOP 5** goals for the next **5 years**. The vision that was shared on Wednesday morning of the conference and all the conference messages can be heard at shbcfamily.com. We would like to once again thank the people of Shawnee Hills and Pastor Dave and Carolyn Culver for their outstanding hospitality at the OARBC Fall Conference, 2017.

Since our last update, we have continued to explore the state of Ohio. Our travels have taken us for many “stop by” visits to churches and pastors, to a Council of 12 meeting at **Vermillion Baptist Church in Perrysville**, a church staff meeting at **First Baptist in Elyria**, and area fellowships at **Perry Baptist Church in Canton** and **Baptist Church Planters**.

On a Saturday, the ladies’ mission group of **Berean Baptist in Pickerington** welcomed Linda to Ohio while I had lunch out with Pastor Eric Cuenin. One Sunday morning we attended **Youngs’ Corner Fellowship in Wadsworth** and were sorry to miss Pastor Tim Wright, but enjoyed lunch with the church family and the afternoon service to follow. It was on to **Calvary Baptist in Lancaster** to attend and enjoy lunch with Pastors Matt Nihiser and Mike Borland while picking up Linda after she attended the **Scioto Hills** ladies’ retreat with the Calvary ladies.

A “first” for us was a 5-day Missions Conference at **First Baptist Church in Wellington** with Pastor Tom Alexander, *where we were one of the missionaries*. We had a great time getting to know the church family there. Our farthest trek was to **First Baptist Church in Gallipolis** where we spent the day preaching and presenting the ministry of the OARBC. We enjoyed fellowship with Associate Pastor Nathan Dupont and Christina and the church family. They are all anxious for their new Pastor, Aaron Young, to begin his ministry January 1. We had a great day recently at **Calvary Baptist in Sandusky** with Pastor Dave and Faith Hixson. I attended a leadership seminar at **Hope Baptist in Akron**, conducted by Pastor Ken Lowe, and enjoyed a little reminiscing there in Akron. There have been coffee and phone calls, lunches and meetings. It is hard to believe we have been here three months already. We appreciate your prayers for wisdom and safety in travels as we find there is “so much to discover” in this great state. I have open dates on my calendar, give me a call. I would love to be in your church.

Humbled to be His servants and yours,
Chuck and Linda Pausley



After Service Dessert Fellowship
Pastor Dave Culver Monday night



Pastor Matt Nihiser
Tuesday Morning



Donna Victor, President, OWM
Dave Warren and Chuck Pausley

Fall Conference Highlights...continued from page 1

Excellent workshops were presented throughout the conference, as well as a lovely ladies’ tea introducing Chuck Pausley’s wife, Linda. In addition, the Ohio Women for Missions held its annual fall meeting with speaker Linda Luedeman, ambassador to Women At Risk International.

Guests participated in powerful times of corporate worship led by the Shawnee Hills Baptist Church choir Monday and the men’s chorus on Tuesday. A delicious dessert reception was held in the foyer after each evening session.

The many ministry displays; the renewing of fellowship by pastors, their wives, and the OARBC family; and the genuine hospitality of Shawnee Hills Baptist Church all contributed to making the 2017 OARBC Fall Conference a memorable one.

2017 Conference Ministry Awards

For faithful service to one local congregation



Dave Hixson (Faith)
25 years
Calvary Baptist, Sandusky



Eric and Paula Cuenin
20 years
Berean Baptist, Pickerington



Eric Puff (Carrie)
15 years
Northfield Baptist, Northfield



Dan and Bonnie Parker
15 years
First Baptist, Elyria



Dave Denny (Lola)
10 years
Whipple Avenue, Canton



David and Diana Conrad
10 years
Calvary Baptist, Xenia



Paul and Peggy Woods
10 years
New Lyme Baptist, Rome



Paul and Joyce Radobenko
5 years
Huntsburg Baptist, Huntsburg



Josh and Amy Butler
5 years
First Baptist, Elyria

Welcome New Senior Pastors and Wives

AKRON-CANTON FELLOWSHIP First Baptist, West Lafayette Jim and Melony Evans



Long-time friends of the OARBC, Jim and Melony began pastoral ministry in 1978 at the Walnut Creek Baptist Church of Baltimore, Ohio and then Albany Baptist Church in Albany, Ohio. They then served in the state of Michigan for the past 24 years but happily returned to Ohio to pastor First Baptist Church of West Lafayette, beginning November 20, 2016. They love the beautiful countryside of Coshocton County as well as the work God is doing in their lives and their church family. Jim and Melony have eleven children and 24 grandchildren across Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Maryland, and Kentucky.

AKRON-CANTON FELLOWSHIP Grace Baptist, Kent Colin and Marianne Mattoon



Colin grew up in a small town outside Portland, Oregon. He became a Christian while a junior at American University in Washington, D.C. He continued his education earning a MDiv. from Western Seminary in Oregon. He and Marianne were married in 2008. They have one son, Davis. Colin was previously an Associate Pastor and Hospice Chaplain in Cleveland. He is a big sports fan and also enjoys woodworking, movies, and reading. Ask him about his favorite authors!

HEBRON FELLOWSHIP Faith Baptist, Amherst Alex and Teresa VanCuran

Alex and his wife Teresa were both born and raised in Amherst, Ohio and were saved through the ministry of Faith Baptist, Amherst. Alex felt the call of ministry early in his life and prepared for that calling with a BA from Moody Bible Institute. After Alex graduated from Moody, and Teresa from culinary school, the two married. Through the prodding of Dr. Albert Mohler, Alex and Teresa prayerfully decided to move to Louisville, KY, where Alex pursued the MDiv degree at Southern Seminary. While there, Alex served as the director of the Butchertown Ministry Center and at Franklin Street Church. Alex graduated and through a whirlwind of circumstances and redirection, the Lord led their family back to Amherst. In July, Teresa gave birth to Henry Dietrich VanCuran, and two months later Alex accepted the call as pastor of Faith Baptist Amherst. They are overwhelmingly humbled to now be serving alongside many of the saints that first disciplined them.



AKRON-CANTON FELLOWSHIP Millersburg Baptist, Millersburg Jim and Kary Jamison



Pastor Jamison received his BA from Cedarville in '79 and his MDiv from Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary in '84, both in Pastoral Studies. While going to seminary he served as a Youth Pastor for two years and then served as pastor in Ohio for 12 years in a Cleveland church plant and for 19 years at Meadowbrook Baptist, Lima. While in Lima, he also helped to start a Bible Institute where he served as chief administrator and Bible instructor for 9 years. In 2014, he left this work due to ongoing health issues but is so thankful for renewed health. After much prayer and evaluating of the gifts and needs of the church, Jim and Kary began their new role as shepherd of this Millersburg flock in December, 2016.

HEBRON FELLOWSHIP Litchfield Baptist, Litchfield John and Sophie Smith



Litchfield is "home" to the Smith family since Sophie grew up at Litchfield Baptist, and she and John were then married there in 1995. They have three children, Joshua and Caleb 15, and Becky 13. John and Sophie have MA degrees and served as Litchfield's missionaries, first to Zambia and then to the island of Dominica, but they prayed that the Lord would send a young family to help the Litchfield church, not knowing they would be the answer. In 2016, John served as interim and was then officially called as pastor in January of 2017.

Welcome New Associates and Staff

SOUTH BETHEL FELLOWSHIP

Washington Heights Baptist, Dayton
Alia Edem, Children's Director



A 2003 graduate of Cedarville, Alia Edem taught first grade and kindergarten in the public school for six years and for Dayton Christian homeschool for one year.

She and her high school sweetheart, Jason, were married at Washington Heights in 2002. They have three children Alexander, Lily, and Grace. She began her official role as J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) City Children's Director in June of 2017. Alia feels humbled and honored to come alongside parents in helping their children, the future of the church, grow in their faith and discipleship.

SOUTH BETHEL FELLOWSHIP

Shawnee Hills Baptist, Jamestown
Russel Slate, Director of Outreach



The Lord chose to save Russel Slate on September 15, 1984 while he attended a men's prayer breakfast at Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jamestown. Thirty-three years later, in vocational retirement, he serves the Lord by encouraging the pastors and congregation of this local church, fishing for souls in the community, and leading a *Starting Point* ABF.

Russel and his wife, Linda, have been married 53 years. They have two adult children and four grandchildren. He began the part-time position of Director of Outreach in January, 2017.

AKRON-CANTON FELLOWSHIP

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville
Brent Knoll, Youth



Brent Knoll began serving at Pleasant Hill in September, 2017. Born and raised in Middlebury, IN, Brent is a Clarks Summit University graduate (BS in 1997 and MA in 2017). He brings diverse

ministry experience to PHBC which includes youth ministry, Christian School education, camp ministry and business. Brent met his wife Kim at Lincoln Lake Camp in MI as their paths crossed as college students—Brent fulfilling a summer internship and Kim on a traveling team from Cornerstone University. Married in 1997, they have two teenagers, Josiah and Alayna. They are excited to be part of the PHBC family.

MID-BETHEL FELLOWSHIP

Calvary Baptist, Bellefontaine
Ryan Hyde, School Administrator



Ryan Hyde serves as the Administrator of the Calvary Christian School. From 2012-2016, he was the 7th-12th grade social studies teacher and Athletic Director. Ryan has also been the varsity soccer coach since the program began, and this year their team won the State Championship.

Ryan is a 2005 Wellington High School graduate. In 2009, he graduated from Cedarville University, and in 2016 earned his MA in Educational Administration from Fort Hays University. Ryan is married to Cari, who has been an elementary teacher at Calvary Christian School since 2013. They have a one-month old daughter, Kiara.

MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP

Faith Baptist Church, Bidwell
Matt Hock, Youth and Outreach



Matthew Hock grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay with his missionary parents. He studied at Northland University and Appalachian Bible College. He enjoys fishing, playing classical guitar and soccer. Hannah is from Jamestown, New York and also studied at Appalachian Bible College where they met. She plays the cello, enjoys working with children, loves animals, and crafting. Together, they enjoy singing

in church, working with the teens, cooking, shopping and investing in their home.

WEST MORIAH FELLOWSHIP

Bible Baptist Church, Newark
Josh Hamilton, Assistant Pastor



Josh Hamilton has had the privilege of serving the Lord in full-time ministry since the fall of 2000. He has served in the capacities of Christian school teacher and administrator and youth pastor. He is now serving at Bible Baptist as assistant pastor in the areas of youth, young adults and missions.

He joined the ministry of Bible Baptist Church in October, 2016. Josh and his wife Hope are both graduates of Pensacola Christian College and have been married for 16 years. They have four children. They are blessed to be a part of the church family of Bible Baptist of Newark.

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)

Dear Ladies of Ohio,

I am writing this letter to you the day after our Fall Retreat at the beautiful Carlisle Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio. It was a great time for the 189 ladies in attendance to meet new friends and renew friendships.



Jen Burman, pastor's wife from First Baptist Church of Niles, was our speaker. The Lord spoke through Jen and blessed all of us as she shared some of her own struggles to Shine For Jesus as a mother, wife, church member, and friend. His Spirit was truly reaching into the hearts of the ladies who attended. It was evident by the evaluation sheets.

The text from Mark 12:30-31 — "LOVE the Lord your God with all your HEART, and with all your SOUL, and with all your MIND, and with all your STRENGTH, LOVE your neighbor as yourself, there is no commandment greater than these" was the main content for our meeting.

It was wonderful to have been reminded to: 1) Love the Lord with our whole HEART by keeping His commandments. 2) Love the Lord with our SOUL; that is with our feelings and to be passionate. 3) Love the Lord with our MIND; to bring every thought captive, to be in the Word of God everyday and to focus on what is true. 4) Love the Lord with our STRENGTH; to rely on His supernatural strength and rest in His faithfulness because the Lord understands it all. 5) LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS as we love ourselves; that means our spouses, children, grandchildren, close friends, church family, and the unsaved.

We were blessed to have a ladies' quartet, Terry Trask, Cathy Choby, Debbie Ashburn and Taylor Trask, from Chardon Baptist Church to lead us in Praise and Worship and present an uplifting mini-concert on Thursday evening. This year we provided a craft for the ladies which was well received. The ladies of Hope Baptist Church helped us in the craft room. What a joy it was to see women from our OARBC churches sharing their gifts and talents. Thank you, ladies, for your ministry to the Lord and to the ladies of the Ohio Women For Missions.



Our basket auction provided a great time of fun and raised \$1,500.00 for the state project, The Rayitos Feeding Center in Nicaragua. Ladies, your basket ideas and sacrificial giving to this project is truly appreciated. To date the total for our project is \$5,119.38. We praise the Lord for what He is doing. We are halfway toward our goal! Thank you so much!

Please save the date! Our Spring Rally will be **Saturday, April 28, 2018**. We have not confirmed a place or a host church as of yet, but keep watching for further details. It will be election time at the spring meeting for president and treasurer. Please pray with us for this meeting.

Until we meet again, may you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let's all be thriving and shining for the Lord!

Donna Victor, OWM President

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WITH THE LORD



Forrest "Bud" L. Sidle, 84, entered into the presence of His Lord and Savior on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017. Born December 3, 1932 in Van Wert County, he graduated from DeGraff High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. A 1960 alumnus of Tennessee Temple, he joined Baptist Mid-Missions as a missionary pastor. He and his wife served as missionaries in British Columbia, Indiana and in Ohio. He retired in 2000, moved to Norton in 2004, and joined the Norton Baptist Church family. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy, and loving family.

"Absent from the body, present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8)

Camps Who Serve the OARBC Churches Make them YOUR camps!



SKYVIEW RANCH

Skyview Ranch experienced an incredible summer of life impact! Christian camping allows such a unique opportunity to reach youth in an environment where they feel safe to open their hearts up to what the Lord wants to show them. For almost fifty years Skyview has been blessed to serve the Kingdom in this way, and we celebrate together another year of souls being won for Him. This summer we witnessed 130 campers give their lives to Christ and hundreds more make life-changing decisions for their future – praise the Lord!! From the skies of Aviation Camp to the deep waters of Scuba Camp, Skyview allows campers to explore God's creation and at the same time challenges them to grow. We want campers to walk away from their week of summer camp with a stronger faith in our Lord and an increased confidence in both themselves and their walk with Him.



Gary and Leesa Adams

The Skyview Ranch team wants to thank all the churches and individuals for their continued prayers and support. We have seen the Lord work in mighty ways this past year as He continuously protects and guides the SVR ministry. **Prayers have been answered as we excitedly announce the hiring of Skyview's next Director – Gary Adams.** Gary and his wife Leesa come all the way from Idaho and have experienced a lifetime of ministry together. They have a passion for Christian camping which began at a young age, and we are excited to now have this passion leading SVR towards the next chapter.

—Erin Bullington

SCIOTO HILLS

Three words describe the 2017 version of summer camp at Scioto Hills. **Safe. Successful. Spectacular!** *Spectacular* is thrown in because that would be a close synonym to words used by campers like "Awesome," "Amazing," "Best week of my life," and "Fantastic." But camp has been known for being the highlight of the year for kids for decades. Rightfully so, simply because of the attention they are given, the emphasis on God and His Word and the "really cool" summer staffers they get to hang with. But it is also a highlight because it is a "Safe" place for kids. We work really hard to see to this; it is top priority in the 21st Century, so we praise God for His provision. Finally, it is a highlight of the year for campers because it was "Successful."

After 53 years of building on the same philosophy of ministry and mission statement, we are reaping the benefits of consistent professional programming. We are also continuing to improve the concept of "Christ-centered" throughout every aspect of the week. The intentionality of our 2017 theme, "The Pursuit," from I Timothy 6:11-15 and written materials, staff training procedures, and experience of our permanent staff provides the fuel and freedom necessary for the Holy Spirit to do His work.

By God's grace, 27 professions of faith were made along with hundreds of formal and "informal" spiritual decisions. The impact of a summer at camp has once again had a great influence on the spiritual growth of 49 summer staffers who partnered with us to make a camp experience in our hills what it is. By God's grace, we were able to serve the largest number of campers since 2004, and an increase of almost 20% in camper numbers the past three years. Praise the Lord!

Pray for us as we continue to plan for an "adult-family friendly, under-one-roof" conference center. **Pray** for a \$50,000 matching fund challenge we are currently promoting to insure additional improvements where our campers eat, sleep, play and learn about God right now! God is good and we give Him the glory for His blessings.

—Scott Bruns

CAMP PATMOS

2017 CAMP SEASON

6 weeks youth camps 546

1 week family camp 127

Total summer campers 673

35 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

Retreat Season 1,366 guests

- The pool is renovated and it will be ready for next summer.
- Donated shingles are needed for the cabins. It takes about 3 squares per cabin and a uniform color is desired.
- Teams of volunteers are needed to open the camp in April and May.
- **Chapel Project:** Windows and Siding **Cost:** \$10,000 with volunteer labor While it could not be budgeted for next year, PRAY God would raise up donors.
- God is faithful. Looking forward to 2018 with much anticipation!

NEWS FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

Community Christmas Concert

Cedarville University's annual Community Christmas Celebration concert will be held **Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, at 6 p.m. in the Dixon Ministry Center**. This event, which is open to the public, is free of charge and no ticket is required. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The concert will also be live-streamed online at cedarville.edu/ChristmasLive.

CU Leadership Conference...High School Juniors and Seniors

Cedarville University will host the annual CU LEADership Conference on **January 19–20, 2018**. This conference is designed for high school juniors and seniors and Cedarville University students serving or desiring to serve as a campus leader. Encourage high school students to register at cedarville.edu/culead.

Worship 4:24 Conference

Mark your calendar for the Worship 4:24 Conference at Cedarville University on **January 26-27, 2018**. This year's conference will include a worship concert on Friday evening, plus general sessions and breakouts on both Friday and Saturday. Paul Baloche, Christian recording artist and founder of Lead Worship, will be leading the event along with 31 other speakers and musicians. For full event details and registration information, visit cedarville.edu/worship424.

Prospective Students

Do you know someone who might be interested in attending Cedarville University? Encourage them to join us for a CU Friday visit event. Upcoming CU Fridays include **February 19, 2018** and **April 6, 2018**. Register online at cedarville.edu/cufriday.



YOUNG ADULT WINTER SUMMIT

*Skyview Ranch
December 27-29, 2017
Wednesday—Friday*

Keynote Speaker

*Pastor Bobby Hile
Southgate Baptist Church, Springfield, OH*

Combined Worship Team

Abbe Road, Elyria/City View, Cleveland/Camden, Wellington

Cost: \$115 per person

*includes horseback riding and other camp activities
Wed. supper at 6:30, 3 meals Thurs. and Fri. breakfast*

Register online at www.skyviewranch.org by Dec. 20
(Post High School Young Adults)

Questions? Contact Pastor Cal Searles 440-420-9107

First Annual Golf Scramble

At 9:00 a.m. Monday morning of the Fall OARBC Conference several foursomes teed off at the OARBC best ball golf scramble. The rain did not seem to dampen spirits as the foursomes drove, chipped and putted, working together for the first-place score. It has since been called the First Annual Golf Scramble, so everyone must have had a good time and plan to make it an annual event.

The winning foursome came in at 3 under par. Congratulations

*Mark Combs, Sr.
Tim Johnson (right)
Adam McCune
Matt Nihiser*

Mark, Tim and Pastor Adam are from Shawnee Hills Baptist, Jamestown. Pastor Matt is from Calvary Baptist, Lancaster.



