

# The Link

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No. 1

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

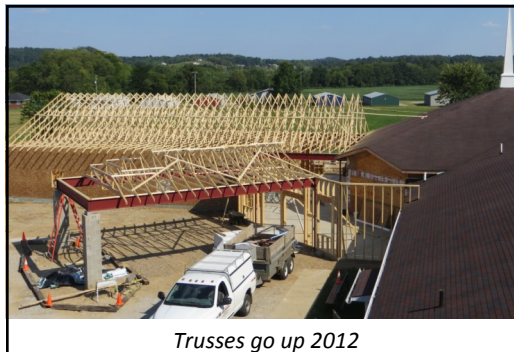
“Bound by the Word and to Each Other  
... For the Sake of the Gospel”

### Churches on the Grow!

*Several of our churches have been involved in building projects to meet the needs of their growing congregations.*

#### Faith Baptist Church, Bolivar,

Ohio is celebrating the completion of their latest addition. The addition expands the Sanctuary to its originally planned design, gives the church a wonderfully inviting large foyer, provides new concrete parking and a canopy, creates new offices, and classrooms, and includes a large multipurpose room in the lower level. Faith Baptist began as a Bible study in 1981 with the help of many Canton Area churches. Its first building was completed in 1983; a sanctuary was added in 1997, and a classroom addition in 2007.



*Trusses go up 2012*



Pastor Floyd Stanfill, who has pastored the church since 1986, concludes, “It is a joy to see this latest 2014 addition completed, We are so thankful to the Lord for the generosity of major donors and the exceptional volunteer work of many members of the church! ”



*“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation!” Ps. 68:19*

### In This Issue

**Church News**  
**See how they Grow!**  
Pages 1, 2 and 3

**Pastor/People Honors**  
Page 3

**Pastor Serves as Chaplain!**  
Page 4

## The Link

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Deadline for Next Issue  
July 1, 2014

# Growing Churches (cont.)

## Boardman Baptist Church of Youngstown,

Ohio broke ground on June 2, 2013. A year later, June 2014, the church rejoices to see the building closed in and finishing going forward. Good weather sees progress on the exterior of the building, while rainy weather allows time to work on the ceiling in the sanctuary. Baptist Missionary Builders, now working under the umbrella of Baptist Church Planters, has been leading in this work alongside many volunteers. Dennis and Eleanora Massie serve as pastor and wife. How might your team share in this work?



## Emmanuel Baptist, Toledo

celebrated a new Children's wing in November 2013, having chosen to target and nurture its congregation of tomorrow's leaders. Its last children's hall had been built in the 60's. Pastor Duke Crawford read a children's book that he wrote and published for the occasion. The congregation also owes a great debt to the late Roger and Florence Dunbar for their contribution toward this project, a legacy to bless children for decades.



While walking through the halls of the new children's wing, you can almost hear the vendors of the old Jerusalem marketplace calling out, "Hot, fresh pita! Buy your fresh bread!" While you can't smell the donkeys or feel the fierce sun that scorches the winding streets of Israel's capital, imagine the fun for children to learn lessons from God's Word surrounded by murals of the Jerusalem Marketplace.

Rooms are designed for every age group: cradle to fifth grade. Three nurseries will serve babies from birth through twenty-four months. Even the littlest ones are taught while sitting on tables and chairs especially designed for wee ones. A teacher, on her knees, teaches the young about the Creator through songs and visuals. There is even a room for nursing mothers and a room for sleeping babies. Other rooms in the new children's wing have painted walls, colorful tiles on the floor for messy activities, as well as carpeted areas. A children's chapel was especially designed so all the older children can come together; it also doubles as an area for group activities.

For security, each classroom has restrooms so that the children don't have to leave to use the adult restrooms. Security doors flank the hallways. Only parents, teachers and helpers who have had background screening will have access to the building. The new wing was designed by DuBose architects. The Dotson Construction Company out of Whitehouse, Ohio is responsible for the construction. Wacky World Studios enlivened the halls and classrooms with creative scenes and three-dimensional pieces. Senior Pastor Duke Crawford and Children's Minister Dave Rodgers are eager to see how the Lord will use this to bless their community and the families of Emmanuel Baptist Church.



<b>OWM reached their goal of \$10,000 for TACTICA in 2013-14</b>		<b>2014-2015 Monies will go to Baptist Church Planters</b>	
<b>President</b> Linda Luedeman (419) 685-3173 ladams3410@neo.rr.com	<b>Vice President</b> Donna Victor (330) 848-3079 cmvictorde@sbcglobal.net	<b>Secretary</b> Annette Graham (330) 847-5939 alraygraham@juno.com	<b>Treasurer</b> Karen Blasdel 1166 Woods Drive Tallmadge, OH 44278

## Growing Churches (cont.)

First Baptist Church, Gallipolis completed Phase II of their building, an Activities Center, this past summer with dedication on September 22, 2013. The Activities Center contains a total of 16,000 sq. ft. of finished space, and cost around 1.6 million dollars. The A.C. houses a gymnasium, full kitchen/concession area, a new youth room, men's and women's locker rooms, two additional classrooms, and outside-access restrooms for the soccer fields and shelter house, as well as much needed storage space.

The gymnasium is truly a multi-purpose building. It has a full competition basketball and volleyball court with capacity for two practice courts as well. The gym also has an AWANA circle for the church youth ministries. The gymnasium also hosted the annual Christmas dinner with 503 people in attendance. Led by Pastor Alvis Pollard and associate, David Harkleroad, the people are praising the Lord for the extra space. The Lord has generously provided! ∞





Sept. 6, 2014 — [www.oarbc.org](http://www.oarbc.org)

# Bike for Youth!

Ride with Purpose — Youth Scholarships!

**Register Now!**

**Youth Groups!  
Families!**

[www.oarbc.org](http://www.oarbc.org)

## Northfield Honors Teacher

**Thanks, Mr. S !!!**

Northfield Baptist Christian School recognized one of their teachers at graduation this past June. Mr. Randy Salzman received a standing ovation for his 30 years of service at NBCS. Many of his past students were there to applaud their teacher for his commitment to young lives. Randy is a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College of Iowa. Originally, he and wife, Barb, hailed from Wisconsin but are now long time Macedonia residents. Randy has taught both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and both of his children had “dad” as teacher and survived! He has delighted his students for years with his humorous “my pappy used to say” witty, yet wise, life sayings. He has faithfully challenged his students with academic learning as well as with a desire for living a godly life. ∞



*NBCS offers academic Pre Kindergarten (4 yrs) and Kindergarten classes with a full day option along with 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes that challenge academically and spiritually. Check Facebook or [www.nbcseagle.org](http://www.nbcseagle.org) for more information.*

## Bylers to Pleasant Hill

On October 2, 2012, Brandon Byler began serving at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Smithville, Ohio as Assistant Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach. Brandon grew up attending Willo-Hill Baptist Church and graduated from Liberty University in 2006 with a Bachelor's of Religion degree. He served as youth pastor for almost seven years in Highland Heights, Ohio. He is in the process of completing the requirements for certification for Nouthetic Counseling. He and his wife, Maddie, are residing in Wooster along with their two children, Michael and Vanessa. ∞



## Two Ordained!

**Nathan Klier**, Calvary, Sandusky, and **Mark Warren**, Calvary, Bellefontaine, both successfully passed examination by councils this winter/spring and were then ordained by their respective churches. Nathan and his wife, Jennifer, serve the youth in Sandusky. Mark leads worship and works alongside his wife, Darcie, to oversee adult ministries in Bellefontaine.

# Pastor, Sergeant, and Chaplain!

## Pastor Keith Neal, Christian Bible Baptist

As a Bi-vocational Pastor in the inner city of Youngstown, Ohio, my experience is most unique when you consider that my full-time job for the past twenty years is that of a Sergeant/Counselor at Trumbull Correctional Institution in Leavittsburg, Ohio, where I supervise a housing unit of 124 closed security male inmates. One thing for certain is that my job in corrections has greatly influenced my preaching and teaching. As a Correctional Sergeant, I'm constantly on high alert for inmate fights, assaults on staff, suicide attempts, theft, gang activity, bullying, coercion and much more.

With that as a constant backdrop, my preaching and teaching has been called intense, desperate, and confrontational. Some have questioned me as to why I would want to enter into the field of Police Chaplaincy, spending eight hours daily in a Correctional Institution. The answer is a simple — one: a Pastor is called by God into the ministry, and two: to me and my fellow Chaplains, this is a great opportunity to go where the needs of every city can be easily found.

One of the highlights for me as a Chaplain was being called to the Mahoning County jail to talk with a 17 year old boy who was accused of setting a house on fire and killing six family members (he was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison). As I looked into the eyes of this young man, it was as if I could see into his soul. There was nothing there; his speech and body language expressed no sorrow, no remorse, no shame or guilt. I asked him what his thoughts toward God were in light of this gruesome, multiple murder he was accused of. Amazingly, he calmly claimed to be a Christian who read the Bible often and attended church. I've often wondered how someone, who a day earlier murdered an entire family, including young children—the single largest mass murder in the city's history— could not show any remorse and yet claim to be a child of God. This tragic incident has greatly influenced my preaching and teaching, especially when preaching to teenagers and young adults. .

My meeting with this youngster would not have been possible without my being a member of the Youngstown Police Chaplaincy I often reflect on this young man's lost condition as I prepare to teach and preach the Gospel of Christ to those in attendance. People often comment on the bravery in which I preach the Gospel, but I'm reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God unto Salvation for the Jew first, and also to the Greek ."

As an inner city Pastor/Chaplain in a city with one of the highest murder rates per capita in the country, I often use the office of Youngstown Police Chaplain to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the funerals of the families of young murder victims. The Gospel of Salvation is the only answer for the perilous times we now face. As a Commissioned Youngstown Police Chaplain, God has provided me yet another vehicle to reach a lost world. My advice to anyone considering Police Chaplaincy is "It is dangerous and courageous work, but preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a sin-stricken world requires just as much courage." ∞



*Pastor Neal and his wife, Cindi, serve the Christian Bible Baptist Church of Youngstown, Ohio. Let's keep him and their ministry in our prayers!*

Talents for Christ—SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS		TFC	GROUPS
<b>Female Voice</b> 1st Nicole Creekmore <b>Female Public Speaking</b> 1st Hannah Frederick 2nd Kristy Alanasov <b>Preaching</b> 2nd Jordan Frederick	<b>Strings</b> 1st Elizabeth Hettinga 2nd James Hettinga <b>NON-SCHOLARSHIP—OPEN</b> <b>Art</b> 1st Samantha Parsons OPEN 2nd Sarah Shalala OPEN		

### COUNCIL OF 12 — 2013-14 — Four new pastors are elected each year.

Continuing Service—'11-'14	Continuing Service — '10-'13	Newly Elected Serving — '13-'16
Dave Chapman, Willoughby Hills Tim Kenoyer, Maranatha, Cols, <i>Chair</i> Dave Ryan, Grace, Canton, <i>Treas.</i> Jeff Willetts, Calvary, Bellefontaine	Dave Burman, First, Niles David Hixson, Calvary, Sandusky Dave Kisner, WHBC, Dayton, V. <i>Chair</i> Ken Spink, Berea, Berea	Tom Alexander, First, Wellington, Sec. Dave Conrad, Calvary, Xenia Eric Cuenin, Berean, Pickerington Jamie Beight, Abram Creek, Brook Park