

# Ohio Baptist MESSENGER

21  
October

THE STATE CONVENTION OF BAPTISTS IN OHIO

VOLUME 69 NO. 5

Keep. Moving. Forward. This was the anthem of the Apostle Paul when the Holy Spirit spoke these words through him in Philippians 3:12-14, "Not that I have already reached the goal or am already perfect, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus."

Not only was this the theme of the Apostle Paul, it will be our theme this year for the 2021 SCBO Annual Celebration. I am thrilled to spend the day with you to not only cast vision for the future, but also to celebrate how the Lord has been advancing His kingdom through His churches over the past year. It will truly be an exciting day that you will not want to miss, including the new rollout of Send Network Ohio, an on-site luncheon and also a panel discussion in the afternoon session.

You will be receiving an email with registration information soon. The on-site luncheon is free, however you *must* pre-register to be included. When I served as your President in 2016, we witnessed a historic shift as messengers overwhelmingly voted to move to a 50/50 CP split. I have never forgotten that day and I believe it was truly a sign of things to come here in the great state of Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and I am excited to come back home and for us to keep moving forward together. I will see you on Tuesday, November 16th at Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington.



Dr. Jeremy Westbrook  
Executive Director-Treasurer

**Keep.  
Moving.  
Forward.**

**ANNUAL  
CELEBRATION**

State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

**November 16, 2021**  
**Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington**

Continental Breakfast and Registration  
8:00-9:00am



**Dr. Jeremy Westbrook**

Executive Director-Treasurer



**Dr. Art Fulks**

Pastor FBC Lancaster, Annual Sermon



**Reginald Hayes**

Pastor United Faith International, SCBO President

**REGISTER FOR  
THE LUNCH HERE!**

**SCBO.ORG/CELEBRATION**



By: Jack Helton

On Sunday morning August 15th, our new executive director, Jeremy Westbrook, and I had the great privilege of attending Jersey Baptist Church and celebrating the 40th anniversary of ministry for Pastor John Hays and his wife Jan. Jersey, a mission church of Brookside Baptist Church, began its ministry in 1980 and called John and Jan to lead them in August 1981. From that day until this day God has used this ministry family to impact the lives of countless thousands of people.

John and Jan have led the members at Jersey to invest their time, talent, and treasures to serve others. In the past 40 years more than 21,000 short-term mission opportunities have been undertaken and more than \$14 million has been invested in missions endeavors worldwide. Additionally, more than 20,000 folks have called Jersey home during this

time and most of all, **more than 3,800 people have come to know Christ as Lord and Savior** and have faithfully followed the Lord in believer's baptism! On celebration Sunday eleven new believers were baptized, to the glory of the Lord!

Our State Convention, the Metro Columbus Baptist Association, and countless other churches throughout Ohio (and around the world) have benefited from the ministries of Jersey Church, and the leadership, faithfulness, and commitment of John and Jan. Truly their lives epitomize Jersey's continuing emphasis of "Caring for People and Connecting them to Christ." We'll look forward to seeing what lies ahead for Jersey, John and Jan as their journey continues! May the Lord continue to bless their lives, multiply their ministry, and strengthen their spirit!



# 40

# CELEBRATING



[Click here to read John and Jan's story.](#)



## Resolutions for Annual Celebration to Be Submitted by November 1

The Resolutions Committee of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio will be accepting proposed resolutions through November 1 for the Annual Celebration which will be held November 16 at Violet Baptist Church, Pickerington. Prior to the Annual Celebration, the Resolutions Committee appointed by President Reginald Hayes will review all resolutions and will present resolutions at the Annual Celebration. Please submit proposed resolutions to Katrina Umphrey at [kumphrey@scbo.org](mailto:kumphrey@scbo.org) along with the name, church, email, and phone number of the author by the November 1 deadline.



## Grace Point Baptizes 12 Students at the Beach!

One of the greatest things in ministry is seeing someone come to know Christ and be baptized. Grace Point Fellowship, a church in the Franklin/Springboro area was planted 6 years ago. Seventy-six people came to know Christ and were baptized in the last twelve months. Twelve of those were students baptized this summer at Grace Point's Beach Camp. Grace Point took 100 students and counselors to camp, with many making decisions to follow Christ.

Grace Point's Lead Pastor, Reagan Wagoner, said this. "Even in the midst of a crazy year, we have seen God move and almost triple our effectiveness in reaching the lost. People need hope that can only be found in Jesus now more than ever, and though it may take more boldness in our changing society to share with them, God still moves when we invite them into a relationship with Him." Grace Point has recently placed a major emphasis on the responsibility of every believer to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. At the camp, every individual baptized was baptized not by a pastor, but by a counselor, parent, or an older sibling who was instrumental in them coming to know Jesus or who will be a part of their discipleship process moving forward.



## Praying the Lost to Christ

**October 24, 2021 @ 6:00PM**

Hosted by: Evangelist Jeremy Fryer  
Pastor Jim Fryer  
Pathway Community Church  
8019 Fields Ertel Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

You are invited to come and learn as Lee E. Thomas, an evangelist and an author, teaches on how to pray effectively for the lost.

Book signing and refreshments will be provided after the service.



# Zip Code Lift Up

## PRAY \* ENGAGE \* PLANT



We praise God that the number of churches in Ohio is increasing; but we know that the number of people in Ohio who are not in any church remains significant. To help identify some strategic locations within the state, an Opportunity Scan from MissionInsite brings to the forefront multiple zip codes with substantial populations where a church could be planted. With each issue of the Ohio Messenger, we plan to highlight four of those zip codes in Ohio with no Southern Baptist church.

Would you join us in prayer to begin to impact those areas with the gospel of Jesus Christ? Ask God to direct you to a specific zip code for which you will pray or pray for all four. Perhaps you can involve your whole church in adopting one or more of these zip codes and began to pray specifically for that area.

Watch for more zip codes and information in the next issue of the Messenger!

### CHOOSE ONE OR MORE TO PRAY FOR:

• **ZIP CODE 43230 – GAHANNA**

Gahanna is located in Franklin County, just outside of Columbus. Franklin County has a population of over 1.3 million with 59,755 people living in Zip Code 43230. Of the people living in this Zip Code, 22% claim to be Protestant, 13% Catholic and 60% claim no church affiliation. The most common industries in Gahanna are Company Management and Enterprises. FUN FACT: Gahanna is known as the verb capital of Ohio

• **ZIP CODE 44857 – NORWALK**

Norwalk is in Huron County in the northwest part of Ohio. There are 23,557 people living in this Zip Code with 23% claiming to be Protestant, 23% Catholic and 54% claiming no religious affiliation. The Huron County population is 58,507. The nearest city with a population over 50,000 is Lorain. The most common industries in Norwalk are Healthcare and Social Assistance. FUN FACT: The population in Norwalk is 48.2% Male and 51.8% Female.

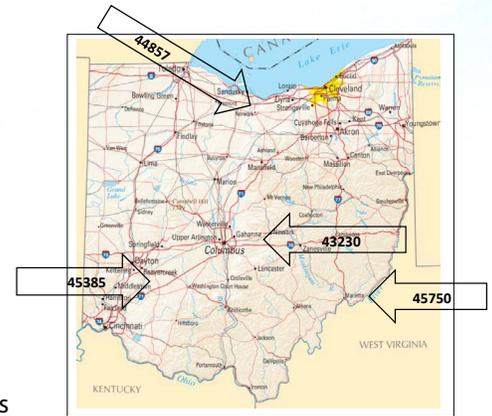
• **ZIP CODE 45385 – XENIA**

Xenia is located in Greene County. The population in this Zip Code is 39,565 with the county population reaching almost 169,000. The nearest city with at least 50,000 in population is Kettering. The religious affiliation of people living in 45385 is 23% Protestant, 9% Catholic and 65% claiming no religious affiliation at all! The most common industries in this Zip Code are Healthcare and Social Assistance. FUN FACT: Only city in US beginning with the letter “x”.

• **ZIP CODE 45750 – MARIETTA**

Marietta is located in Washington County. The population in this Zip Code is 26,761 with the county population reaching 60,600. The nearest city with at least 50,000 in population is Charleston, West Virginia. The religious affiliation of people living in this Zip Code is 29% Protestant, 9% Catholic and 62% claiming no religious affiliation. The most common industries are Healthcare and Social Assistance. FUN FACT: Oldest city in the state of Ohio.

*Some of the data provided may be up to two years old.*



## ADOPT A ZIP CODE PRAY

For lost in the area  
For planters to be called  
For new churches

## ENGAGE

In prayer walking/driving  
In exploratory events  
By meeting area leaders

## PLANT

As a supporting church  
As a sponsoring church



# IMPACTING YOUNG HEARTS ONE BIBLE AT A TIME

Cuyahoga Valley Church held Sports Camp, a week long day camp, morning and evening, this July and reached out for assistance recently to the Evangelism and BTL Resource Groups. SCBO was able to assist in providing CVC with 800 Bibles to be given to every Sports Camp participant this year! The kids loved and treasured unwrapping them and taking them home. Here are just a few testimonies from Camp!

## From the Mom of the little boy:

*CVC Sports Camp 2021 was the highlight of our children's summer. In June of 2021, we adopted two little boys from the foster care system in a neighboring county. We carefully planned their summer activities in order to bond with them and help them grow in all areas: academically, emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Bringing them to Sports Camp was the perfect opportunity for them to engage with other children, get some exercise, and learn about The Lord!*

*The boys were so excited to receive their Bibles on the first day of camp and to bring them home on Friday! When he got home, our youngest son fell asleep holding his new Bible. He also spends a lot of time discussing God's purpose for his life (and he is only 6!). The prayers of God's people have a very powerful effect-- and both our children were lucky to experience that effect during their week at camp.*

*We were also particularly impressed with the organization of such a vast group of dedicated volunteers. I am especially thankful to Denise Petek and her crew. They must work tirelessly throughout the year planning for this special event. We are also thankful to everyone who contributed financially-- the beautiful leather-bound Bibles were such a wonderful blessing and surprise. Our kids would get so excited pulling off 77 each morning when they saw the inflatables. They would then spend the entire car ride home telling me about the fun they had. Both kiddos were sad the week after camp (they wanted it to go on for the rest of the summer) and are counting down the days until they can attend next summer!*



*The lives reached by CVC Sports Camp extend far beyond what many probably realize. Even though our little boys were abandoned as young children and placed in the foster system, they've told me daily (since Sports Camp) that "God had a special plan for their lives and that He kept them safe until they could come home to their new family." Thank you to all who helped keep the tradition of this outstanding camp going--even in the midst of the pandemic! Thank you so much, CVC. Thank you.*

**Greta, a member of the CVC staff sent this. Cheryl is a co-worker at her second job.**

*Hi there....*

*Cheryl is a day-shift Giant Eagle cashier but I do very occasionally run into her. Last night was one such occasion, so I asked her how her son liked Sports Camp. She raved about it...said he was so excited to attend each day, can't wait to attend again next summer. She also said that he was especially excited about the Bible he received, that HE is bringing it to HER each day for Bible-study time, and that they are reading it together in small bites. He's basically leading their Bible study by choosing passages, telling her what he thinks it means, and then asking her what she thinks it means, and then discussing their differences. Cheryl is totally amazed at his interest and leadership!!!*





# Volunteers Ready to Serve

## Church Launch in Springdale, Ohio

By: Pastor Duane Walz

August 15, 2021 was a day that was truly God ordained. The Covering Church had been planning and preparing to plant in the Springdale area for a little over a year before the official launch date. A lot of prayer and time went into not only launch day but preparation to begin and minister in this community and the surrounding communities. There was such an amazing energy in the church that morning.

The Covering had volunteers ready to greet people in the parking lot, at the door, the welcome center, the coffee area, and for kids check-in. Some people came to just love and support the beginning of a new ministry while others came to check out this new church. Overall there were a little over 100 people that came to worship together that morning! During the worship time there was an announcement video to help everyone know when some of the upcoming events will take place as well as the next sermon series that the pastors would be starting in September on Nehemiah. The energy level and participation during the worship time was absolutely wonderful.

An important part of the service time was a special message from The Covering's sending church's pastor as well as a special message and prayer from another supporting church. The three pastors were able to present the purpose statement; Find Jesus, Discover Purpose, and Change the World to the people in order to make sure those present truly understood what The Covering is all about. The Lord truly blessed that day and our prayer is that this ministry will grow and flourish for many years to come.



# BEACON of Christ Church

## A Model of Revitalization

By: Pastor Ron Renner

We began as First Baptist Church of Dent, Cincinnati with an intentional process of revitalization in August 2018. Through five months of training, the entire church committed to do whatever it took to keep our church from dying. This included our six charter members. God put together two of the most essential things when it comes to bringing a church back to life. One, a leader. I believe the leader makes all the difference.

It has to be a man who has the skill-set and the giftedness to help people understand what has happened in their church, what to do about it, and how to get it moving forward again. Two, a group of people that realize reaching people and growing the kingdom is more important than personal preferences and heritage.

What we've seen God do at Beacon of Christ has been phenomenal. Not in terms of size, but in relation to kingdom impact. Here are just a few of the highlights we've experienced as a result of trusting God, trusting leadership and surrendering 'personal preferences.'



- Change the name from FBC Dent to Beacon of Christ Church.
- Change the Constitution and By-laws which led to a redesign of our ministries and organizational structure that match our vision and purpose. About 60 percent of the church is serving in some capacity.
- 20 Baptisms in 36 months! All but two have been professions of faith with people between the ages of 14 and 77. Most of these have come from a Catholic background. (About 90 percent of our community is Catholic.)
- Developing a different church 'culture.' This is a mind-set that takes time, patience and a lot of prayer.
- Be committed to the Word! Every time we presented a change to the church we put together a biblical basis for 'why' we needed to do this.
- I heard this once, 'love the people, love the place.' I remind myself of that every day. Stay the course. If you start, finish! Don't compromise God's leading, but always, always let your love for people and God supersede all.

Can any church do this? Maybe. The question lies in, 'are we willing to?'





Accepting Today's Reality and Laying it at Jesus' Feet

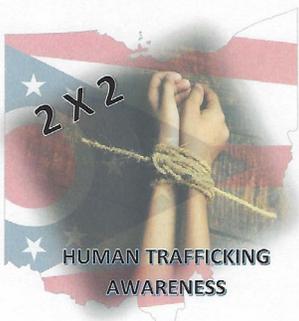
# RELENTLESS

## Mission Celebration & Ladies Fall Retreat

Jean DiFilippo, Ohio WMU President

September 10 and 11, Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly was alive with 115 women from all over Ohio. The theme, Relentless, based on Scripture truth, Hebrews 10:39 "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved," was tested over and over.

Mission Celebration and retreat keynote speaker, Dr. Kay Bennett, Friendship House New Orleans, was not able to get a flight because of schedule changes due to the recent hurricane, Ida. However, the Ohio team Kay trained in Human Trafficking Awareness shared from their hearts. Using statistics and true stories, Ohio women were challenged to pray, taught what to do in the event they suspect trafficking, and to give. The \$761.00 offering was sent to Friendship House to help repair damages from Ida.



Paint Therapy Breakout, Lucian Christian

Just before leaving, Dee D. Amico summed up the experience, "leaving the Ladies Retreat has me pumped up for the Lord. Being around so many people who are like-minded is an encouragement to all of us. The morning prayer walk to Vesper Hill was amazing. Thank You Jesus!"



## Taking a Moment to Reset Ministry Wives Tea, Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly



It is always a joy to be able to bless those in ministry. Please pray for our pastors wives who attended the retreat.

Top Row L-R: Tabitha McKeeth, Union City First Baptists, Sonya Ng, Living Water Baptist Sardis, Robin Hale, Lighthouse Ministries, Mary Beth Greene, Parsons Baptist Church, Peach Hendrix, Avon Baptist Church, Claire Faught, Parsons Baptist Church, Amy Blake, Parsons Baptist Church Bottom Row L-R: Lori Howdyshell, New Lexington Baptist Church, Linda Locke, New Lexington Baptist Church, Kari Harkness, Uniontown Baptist Church, Jennifer Moffatt, Friendship Baptist Church, Dawn Whiteford, Central Baptist Church Williamsburg, Charlotte Barbo, Circleville FBC, Amy Young, Friendship Baptist Church

# Around Ohio

Visit [sco.org/calendar](http://sco.org/calendar) for details on all upcoming events.



**October 15-16**  
**African American Fellowship**



**November 6**  
**VBS Director Preview**



**November 16**  
**SCBO Annual Celebration**



**WORSHIP 4:24**  
SPIRIT + TRUTH  
**January 28-29**  
**Worship 4:24**

## Brookville Road Baptist Church in Oxford

Thank you, SCBO, for partnering with us in our "Concrete & Cranes" VBS July 29 - August 1, 2021. We averaged over 110 per night. Four students plus two adults accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Praise GOD from whom all blessings flow!

*Pictured: group shot & worship rally*



# How to Become a Christian

If you are not a Christian, have never surrendered your will to the Lord Jesus, let me share briefly how you can make this life changing decision. **GOD WANTS YOU SAVED.**

**FIRST**, you must believe that God loves you and wants you to have peace in your heart and an everlasting life (John 3:16).

**SECOND**, you must recognize that you are a sinner, that you have done things which have displeased God and that you have separated yourself from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

**THIRD**, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24). However, it's not enough just to

know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

**FOURTH**, you must personally ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you of your sins (Revelation 3:20).

You can pray this prayer now and if you mean it with all of your heart, Jesus will come in just like He said. He cannot lie.

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I'm really sorry for my sins, Lord. I ask you now, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I now receive You into my heart. Thank You for coming in. I will follow You all the days of my life. In Your name I pray, Amen.*

# We want to hear your story!

Send church news and stories to Amanda Mishne at [amishne@sco.org](mailto:amishne@sco.org)

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*Ohio Baptist*  
**MESSENGER**



The State Convention  
of Baptists in Ohio  
AMPLIFYING LEADERS TO ACCELERATE GOSPEL IMPACT