

# SUMMER 2015

## CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

[parkstreetbrethren.org](http://parkstreetbrethren.org)

park  
street  
BRETHREN CHURCH

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PASTOR // p. 2  
CAMP BETHANY // p. 3  
CHICONTLA MISSION // p. 5  
GENERAL CONFERENCE // p. 7  
ENGAGE CONFERENCE // p. 8  
DAYTON MISSION // p. 9  
GET INVOLVED // p. 10

We had an incredibly full summer! Not only did we hire a new senior pastor—we also sent a large number of our people to camps, conferences, and mission trips. However, it sometimes becomes difficult to communicate about all of the fun God moments occurring in the midst of all the frenzy. This little update booklet is meant to serve as a guide to help give you a little taste of all that happened this summer. Hopefully, it will be an encouragement to you! Thanks for all of your prayerful support for all of our events and ministries this summer.

## Welcome to Our New Lead Pastor

- Nate Bebout -

On June 28th our congregation affirmed Nate Bebout as our new Lead Pastor, and he was installed a few weeks later on August 2nd. Nate and his wife, Leah, have two kids—Rosie and Whitaker. They are so excited to join us as we head into the next chapter of our journey together!

We have been on a long journey—full of prayerful discernment, healing, learned humility, and a wonderful sense of reconnection and joy within our church family. We are so grateful to the work our Interim Pastor, David Fisher, did to help us through this tough season. And we are eager to see what lies ahead!



## CAMP BETHANY // JUNE-JULY

I wish I could put into words the way I feel about Camp Bethany. To be in a community of people with such a deep passion for Christ and to share in a mission focused on bringing Him glory while deepening their personal relationship with God is amazing. When you arrive you feel like you've known the people forever and you love them like family. God's presence is so alive and apparent there. This year at Camp we had about 30 campers accept Christ for the first time. I love getting to know the campers; I love the laughter and the relationships I am blessed to build with them and the staff. Life at camp is easy - to the point that we joke about having to return to the "real" world. It's easy because it's like a bubble of Jesus protection from all the crud and distractions of the world.

Senior High week I saw the entire camp really come together. The campers all comforted and had conversations about faith and trials together... all on their own. Just to see that maturity and connection among high school kids was pretty neat. Another week, after a particularly challenging campfire talk one night we got to witness a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys rally around and pray for each other under the security light. There were no staff, counselors, or adults involved and it was awesome to see them encourage and uplift each in in prayer. God brought healing, joy, and love to camp , just like he does every year. It is a special place that will always be very near to my heart.

- Aubrey Edwards, Camp Counselor

Camp this year changed my life. I was a person who wouldn't open up to anyone. I would keep every emotion as concealed as possible. At Camp Bethany, it was a combination of all the campers and staff pushing me toward God—the songs, the classes, and just the environment there during the week—that turned me around and kept me from falling away from God. I am very thankful to God and the people I encountered that week for everything they taught me and just for loving me and always being there for me.

- Abby Sanders



## CHICONTLA MISSION TRIP // July 13-20

Our mission team to Chicontla consisted of 5 students (high school and college age) from Park Street, and 4 adults from Park Street, as well as Jaime Juarez and his daughter, and 2 other friends. Park Street has a deep relationship, with our sister churches in Chicontla, and one of the purposes of this trip was to continue to strengthen that relationship, particularly with their youth ministry.

Our work on this trip was to build relationships. We shared meals together, met with church leaders and others for daily prayer time and devotionals, got to know our local host families, talked, laughed, swam and played lots of soccer, volleyball, and basketball. We were also able to visit some buildings (churches, schools, and a basketball court) that PSBC and Coffee Growing Community have helped to build by providing materials. It was amazing to see first-hand, how vital these spaces were to building community, and helping churches, and children, without them programs like Compassion International would not be able to come in and work. These were all things I knew about, and had even seen pictures and videos of, but seeing these places used and meeting the people that use them gave me a new level of understanding, and thankfulness to play a small part in what God is doing in Mexico.

There are so many things I could share about what I learned from this trip, and am still learning. Maybe the best way is to share what is on my heart when I pray for Chicontla.

I pray for Alfredo, a young man who has been given a scholarship to study and become a pastor; he works, goes to school, and on the weekends walks a long way up the mountains to another village to minister to people there. I pray for Conchita a widowed mother of 5 from San Martin, who has been helped by our giving to be able to raise chickens for food and eventually some income for her family. I pray for Pastor Horatio and his wife Pastor Rocio who minister faithfully in their church in Chicontla, and are working with young leaders who will carry on. I pray for Luisa and Ricardo, our host family who work during the week, and pastor a congregation in nearby Palta.

I believe our circle of church family has expanded after spending time in Chicontla. I am so thankful for the opportunity, and thankful for my church family in Ashland who helped us be able to go.

- Teresa Swain, Youth Leader



## GENERAL CONFERENCE, JULY 14-17

I served as a ministerial delegate from Park Street to General Conference, July 14-17. The conference was held in Winchester, Virginia, this year at Grace Community Church. There were a number of highlights for me.

- ◆ The congregation did a marvelous job of hosting the conference, and it was great to fellowship in one of our larger Brethren congregations.
- ◆ The congregation's worship team prepared our hearts for the Lord's presence and work before each worship experience and business session.
- ◆ The conference appropriately honored Ken Hunn for his twelve years at the helm of the denomination and had a powerful installation/prayer time for the incoming Executive Director, Steven Cole.
- ◆ There was a real sense of optimism and excitement about the future of the denomination that was shared by the participants.
- ◆ As a member of the task force that has been working on the proposal to move from districts to regions in the Brethren Church, I was truly gratified that the proposal received nearly a 3/4 vote of support.  
(If you are interested in details, watch for information in the Brethren Evangelist.)

- Dale Stoffer, Ministerial Delegate

## ENGAGE YOUTH CONFERENCE, JULY 20-24

We were excited to bring two student, Hanna & Naomi Strickland, up to youth conference this summer. We had a great time visiting with friends from across the country as we worshipped, learned, served, and prayed together at Indiana Wesleyan. We're looking forward to next year's conference back here in Ashland, OH!

- Cory Smith, Student Ministries Director



I had a really fun time serving alongside our youth girls, Hanna Strickland and Olivia Plank, this summer as we partnered with 5 Stones and Gretna Brethren Church to serve our ministry partners in Dayton, OH. We were able to serve Reggie Harvey's church by helping to do a lot of demolition and some construction on a new building for their ministry. The front of the building is being made into a barber shop/beauty salon which they are using as a missional outpost to bless folks in their community and form relationships. It was really fun to see youth from these three different churches bond together as we served our friends in Dayton.

- Lydia Smith, Youth Leader



Feel like you missed out? Don't worry, there's always more fun ministry to be a part of here at Park Street. If you are passionate about camp ministry, cross-cultural missions, and/or being a part of our larger denominational gatherings then feel free to follow up with us and find out more!

### CAMP BETHANY

We have summer camps and retreats throughout the year and always welcome new faces. Whether you want to attend as a camper or come and help as a counselor, nurse, or kitchen aid—we'd love to have you come join in the fun! To learn more, contact Sherry or Ken Van Duynes or visit [cambethany.org](http://cambethany.org).

### CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY TEAM

We regularly serve ministry partners in the U.S. and around the globe through mission trips, prayer, and financial support. If you'd like to get involved, you can join our Cross Cultural Ministries team. Contact Cory Smith for more information—[csmith@parkstreetbrethren.org](mailto:csmith@parkstreetbrethren.org).

### GENERAL CONFERENCE & ENGAGE CONFERENCE

Getting involved with adult and youth national conferences connects us to our larger family and gives us an opportunity to be a part of decision making for our future. Contact office for details on how to get involved for next year's conference, July 18-22.