

**“Do you see a man *who* excels in his work?
He will stand before kings;
He will not stand before unknown men.”**

The Hebrew word for *excels* here in Proverbs 22:29 literally means, “quick, skilled, prompt, ready.” Such excellence demands time and commitment. James Hettinga II has been rehearsing to serve the King of Heaven with his music since he began taking cello lessons at the age of four. Now, 18 years later, James has been given the rare opportunity to play for the White House in the military’s premier ensemble, the U.S. Army Strings. The ensemble, also known as “Pershing’s Own,” serves as musical ambassadors for high-level military and government events here in the United States and abroad, as well as in concerts for public audiences. The manner in which God has revealed His unique plan for James has been a composition of different tempos—requiring quiet patience *and* ready submission.

An *andante* tempo (walking-pace) to determine God’s will for his future seemed to be James’ experience for the past six years or so. James comes from a patriotic and musical family—all seven siblings playing a stringed instrument, and all faithfully striving to use their musical talents for serving the body of Christ. In his junior year of high school, James participated in a short-term mission trip to South America, intentionally using his music as a means of sharing the gospel when he gave his personal testimony during 15 concerts in three Peruvian cities. After high school, James attended college at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) to pursue further training in cello performance, and he continued to improve his orchestral and chamber music skills by playing with various chamber groups and orchestras at CIM and in symphony orchestras in Cleveland, Akron, and Canton.



James Hettinga II

Upon graduating from CIM, James encountered an unexpected *fermata*—a pause of unspecified length on a note or a rest in music—in the composition God was orchestrating for him. He had auditioned for a position with the U.S. Air Force band and for several graduate schools to continue his musical training, but he had been rejected on all fronts. He admits that he was struggling to know how God wanted him to use his cello in the future. So, James took six weeks to serve as the music ministry leader and a counselor for Higher Ground Baptist Bible Camp in Sterling, Alaska. It was a role he had enjoyed for several weeks in 2020, and it gave him additional time in 2021 to seek God’s will. The *fermata* hold ended in August when he began a pastoral internship at First Baptist Church of Elyria, Ohio.

Council of 12

2018-2022

Mark Ashley, *Vice-Chairman*, Northfield Baptist, Northfield
Noel Hack, *Secretary*, First, Lagrange
Dave Kisner, *Wash. Heights*, Dayton
Brad Rickard, *Immanuel*, Columbus

2019-2023

James Beight, *Abram Creek*, Brook Park
Sean Ingram, *First*, Stryker
Matt Nihiser, *Calvary*, Lancaster
Dave Ryan, *Treasurer*, Grace, Canton

2021-2024

Dave Conrad, *Chairman*, Calvary, Xenia
Adam McCune, *Shawnee Hills*, Jamestown
Matt Oliver, *Grace*, Lima
Steve Strong, *Grace*, Westlake

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The Link

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Gloria and James

Since then, James has been helping lead worship at the church, teaching the junior high class on Wednesday evenings, leading the adult choir on occasion, directing the K-6 grade musical, and teaching several weekly music classes at First Baptist Christian School.

In recent weeks, God’s orchestration has reached *presto* tempo as His unique will for James has been revealed rather rapidly. First, James recognized God’s will for his life’s partner in the person of Gloria Koch, a young woman whom he met at Higher Ground (the greatest blessing of his *fermata* experience in Alaska). He has been courting Gloria for a little less than a year, but he proposed in February, and she accepted. Just before their engagement, James was made aware of the cellist audition opportunity for the U.S. Army Strings.

Within five weeks of being engaged, James was one of 32 musicians who went through three rounds of auditions and a personal interview at Ft. Myers in Arlington, VA. At the end of the second day, James was offered a position as one of four cellists for “Pershing’s Own,” celebrating its centennial year of musical service in the armed forces. This clear appointment to the post, by a sovereign and music-loving God, means that James and Gloria’s wedding plans had to be moved from September to May. Moreover, Gloria is finishing her formal training at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa, just a few days before their wedding. She will complete her studies with a degree in local church ministry and a minor in women’s ministry. James then enters Basic Training in July, and they potentially will be stationed by October of this year.

And with that move to the Washington, D.C. area, at double time *march* tempo, James anticipates a commitment of a minimum of four years as a cellist with the U.S. Strings. He is thrilled by the opportunity he may have to share the gospel with his fellow musicians, as well as openings he may have to speak truth to those in the elite circles of government and the military. James admits that he feels a little bit like Daniel serving in a demanding environment, but he keeps thinking of the skillful man in the proverb. James skill is with a stringed instrument, and he desires to be a man who is “quick, prompt, and ready” to stand before his Glorious King and other rulers. James and Gloria appreciate your prayers for them as they begin this next opus in God’s sovereign plan. It will be a composition allowing them to serve as a couple, in a unique city, and in a rare capacity. Their prayer is they will serve solely for God’s glory—whatever tempo of obedience and ministry He requires of them.

—Judy Wilcox, First Baptist Church, Elyria

A WORD FROM THE REP

It’s May and I am looking forward to consistent warmer weather! I hope you are having a good day and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. God has been very good to Linda and me, giving us good health and opportunities to minister and safety in travel.

The two Church Solutions conferences in April held at Jamestown and Northfield were well attended. The presenters did an outstanding job presenting their focus on revitalization and developing leadership. Each participant received a number of books for continued study on the subject. It is my prayer the training will be helpful in “Spreading the Gospel in Ohio through Healthy Churches.”

The OWM met for their spring conference in Fostoria and had an excellent time together. The ladies offerings totaled over \$15,000 for our three camps in Ohio, our ministry partners. Praise God! See OWM President Donna Victor’s report on page 6.

I want to remind you about the GARBC annual conference this year at Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, June 27-30. It is in driving distance this year. Get the details at www.garbc.org. We are planning to have an Ohio Gathering Tuesday evening for supper. We will be sending you the time and location.

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 is the date for our annual OARBC Senior Adult Luncheon. This year we are at Camp Patmos on Kelleys Island. The cost is \$25.00 which includes lunch and the cost of the ferry. You can register online at www.oarbc.org under “Ohio News!” We hope you can come and bring others with you.



Chuck Pausley

I hope you have placed on your calendar the tri-state meeting at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Toledo, October 17-19, 2022. We are looking forward to great preaching and extended fellowship with our neighboring state fellowships in Indiana and Michigan. This conference is for all of our OARBC family.

Continue to enjoy reading about what God is doing in the state of Ohio and give Him praise. Note several prayer requests in this issue and remember, God is able.

Serving Him and serving you,

Chuck



Westside Christian School

From 1909 to 1913, Memorial Baptist Church, Columbus, had a mission school on its campus. Fast forward over 100 years later, and we hope to open our doors to a school once again.

Our church has been praying and following the Lord's direction in how we can best serve and reach our community with the Gospel and love of Christ. I truly believe our church has been faithful over the years in our mission of "Inviting People to Know and Follow Christ."

Recently, we were presented with an opportunity to do this very thing in a significant way. To be honest, I laughed when I first heard about it. It reminds me of the reaction of Abraham and Sarah when they heard the news of having a baby as centenarians.

Our community has seen many kids struggle educationally, and has seen many try to make a change, but they are in a cycle of poor education and academic failure. Nearly one-quarter of our community age 25 and older does not have a high school degree. On top of that, many students on the Hilltop are either educationally behind or have little parental support or both. As a result, if they try to enter a Christian school setting – they are literally grades behind. And even if they succeed in enrolling in a Christian school, it is a 2-hour bus ride.

A number of years ago, God burdened the heart of Ben Douglass, a pastor in our community, to start a Christian school on the Westside of Columbus. After striking a friendship, he presented this idea to me and also to our church leadership. As God has allowed the dream of a Christian school on the Westside to become a reality over the past year, our church was asked to put our name in as a possible ministry site for the Christian school. After thinking this is impossible – long story short – our church was chosen as the top choice for one of the pilot Christian schools here on the Westside, and Westside Christian School is scheduled to open in the fall of 2022, beginning with grade Kindergarten through second grade.

This is God's House, not ours. This is God's church. And we cannot hold on to our building too tightly that we do not allow a few scratches on the walls and the utility bill to go up. These rooms lay vacant all week long – and this is a chance for us to use our building to help with a community need and to share the Gospel with kids from all over the neighborhood.

Would you pray alongside us? We pray for relationships built with students and their families. We pray many will see and hear of the love of Jesus Christ, and join God's family and our church family or the other churches that are partnering with us in this community project. We pray and hope to be part of the solution for our community educationally, but more importantly, help provide the solution for the needs of our community spiritually.

If you or your church feel led to give towards this project or can provide resources, feel free to contact me or our church. But above all, please consider praying for this incredible opportunity to reach our community with the Good News and to provide these children a faith-filled future.

—Pastor Jeff Beckley, Lead Pastor, Memorial Baptist, Columbus

WELCOME NEW PASTORS

Calvary Baptist Church, Norwalk



Pastor Andy Johnston

Calvary Baptist Church, Norwalk, officially welcomed new senior pastor, **Andrew B. Johnston**, on Sunday, March 13, 2022 with an installation service and an all-church dinner following.

Pastor Andy was born and raised in nearby Huron. He graduated from Baptist Bible College and Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2008. After a year-long internship at his home church, Calvary Baptist in Sandusky, he then served twelve years at Franklin Road Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN as the Associate Pastor.

Pastor Andy and his wife Liz and have two boys, Jack and Titus. He enjoys sports, camping, fishing, hunting, traveling, and eating New York style pizza. We warmly welcome Pastor Andy, Liz and family back to Ohio.

Grand Heights Baptist Church, Fairborn

Grand Heights Baptist Church, Fairborn are pleased to announce the calling of **Mark Warren** as their new senior pastor. Sunday, March 27, 2022 was his first Sunday in the pulpit.

Pastor Mark is no stranger to the OARBC. He has served the last 12 years at Calvary Baptist Church in Bellefontaine as Associate Pastor giving leadership to the Mid-Bethel Fellowship of churches and his parents are Dave and Pat Warren, former State Representative of the OARBC. Prior to serving in Bellefontaine, Pastor Mark served at Highland Hills Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, MI and First Baptist Church in Blanchester, OH. He graduated from Cedarville University in 1998 and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary earning his MDiv in 2001 and ThM in 2004.

Pastor Mark enjoys jogging, biking, hunting, reading, football, and family. We are happy God has seen fit to keep him here in Ohio.



*Pastor Mark and Darcie Warren and family
Noah, Molly, Sadie, Emma and Ezra*

Faith Baptist Church, Mount Vernon



Pastor Alvin and Carrie and family

Alvin Cheng, new Associate pastor at FBC, grew up in Malaysia until he came to the United States to attend Eastern Kentucky University under a tennis scholarship. After college and grad school, he began a 15+ year career in collegiate tennis coaching. He began working at Faith Baptist Church in June 2018 as the Pastoral Administrator while pursuing his Master of Ministry degree from Cedarville University graduating in May of 2021. On January 16, 2022, he began his role as an Associate Pastor which includes church administration, and overseeing FBC's children's ministry, young adult ministry, and missions.

Growing up in Malaysia, he practiced Buddhism until age 17 when Jesus changed his life. He is married to Carrie and the couple have three children. After years of working in higher education and para-church ministry, he is excited to serve the Lord full-time in the local church. His hobbies include reading, languages, and honing his culinary skill. We welcome them to the OARBC family.

Faith Baptist Church, Mount Vernon

Wes Harrison, new Associate Pastor in Youth Ministry at FBC, grew up in Madison, Wisconsin until joining the Air Force in May of 2000 as a firefighter. After four years of service, he separated from active duty and accepted a firefighter position in Colorado at the Air Force Academy. During that twelve-year span, Wes met his wife, Christina, had three children (Noah, Josiah, and Samuel) and earned his Bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies at Front Range Institute.

In August of 2016 the Harrisons packed up all their belongings and moved cross-country to central Ohio where they had another son (Silas), started working in camping ministry and began attending and serving at Faith Baptist Church. He officially began as Associate Pastor on Sunday, February 13, 2022. When not wrestling his four sons, Wes enjoys maintaining their property and working outside in the family garden. A warm welcome to the OARBC family!



*Wes and Christina Harrison
Noah, Josiah, Samuel and Silas*

Association News

Thank you, Christine Stammer, OARBC Assistant Treasurer 2016-2022



We would like to thank Christine Stammer of Toledo, Ohio for her nearly six years serving as the OARBC Assistant Treasurer. The role of Assistant Treasurer is a “behind the scenes” ministry of recording and receipting gifts and support, paying the bills, keeping accounting records, publishing reports for the Association and other miscellaneous duties as they arise. She willingly served in addition to her full-time job, sometimes during difficult days. Thank you, Christine, for serving us. May God bless you in your new endeavors.

Welcome, Kathee Ingram, New OARBC Assistant Treasurer, 2022

Kathee Ingram of Stryker, Ohio will be filling the position of the OARBC Assistant Treasurer, officially starting on May 1, 2022. Kathee is the wife of Pastor Sean Ingram and she has served alongside him in ministry at First Baptist Church, Stryker since 2014. She is the owner and operator of an accounting business in Stryker; however, she will be handling the OARBC finances on a separate basis. We thank her for her willingness to serve the Lord and the OARBC.



Kathee Ingram

As of May 1, 2022, all financial gifts from churches and individuals should be mailed to:

**Kathee Ingram
112 South Defiance Street
P. O. Box 86
Stryker, Ohio 43557**

This information has been sent to supporting churches. Additional information on ACH transactions will be coming from Kathee. She may be contacted through email at katheeoarbc@gmail.com. The GYVE option at OARBC.org is still operational for giving on-line and for special events.

Ohio Women for Missions (OWM)



April 2022

Greetings OWM Ladies:

From time to time we need to be reminded of the purpose of the OWM: ***The object of the organization of the Ohio Women for Missions is to provide a fellowship for all women's fellowships of the parent organization (OARBC) of churches and promote missionary projects that join us together.***

As we are reminded of the purpose of the OWM, it is our hearts' desire to **"PRESS FORWARD"** for the cause of Christ. Philippians 3:13-14 states: *"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* No more looking back. Let us get on with life and on with the job God has given us. May this be our goal for the coming year.



Deb Searles leads in worship

What a wonderful time we had at our OWM Spring Meeting. Sixty plus ladies gathered at Fostoria Baptist Church to hear how the Lord has opened doors of opportunities to the children in the school systems of Elyria. Deb Searles challenged our hearts as she shared how the Lord led her to start Bible clubs in their elementary schools. Deb has materials and resources for any one who is interested in starting clubs in your community. You can reach out to her for more information.

We welcome, Michaela Brown, pastor's wife of Fostoria Baptist Church, as our OWM Secretary and Elizabeth Bird, pastor's wife of Vermillion Baptist Church, as our OWM Treasurer. Thank you, Karen Blasdel and Kim Kozy, for serving as OWM officers for these past several years.

GOAL MET!!! Our state project for our 3 camps has concluded and we are so grateful to the Lord for his provision of **\$15,580.00**. But that is not the complete total as we have other donations that have not yet been added in. We will give you the final total as soon as we know all donations have been received. Praise the Lord!! Thank you ladies for your sacrificial giving.

STATE PROJECT FOR 2022-2023: Our next project leads us to help provide for Don and LeAnne Waite, BMM serving the Lord in Kezmarok, Slovakia. The Waites have been serving in Slovakia since 2001. The fence and wall around the church property has deteriorated rapidly the past two years due to the construction that is going on right outside the church. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for the repairs to be done by next spring. With the help of the OWM, they hope to complete this need. Let us pray fervently and give graciously as the Lord leads us to provide for this need for the Waites.



Don and LeAnne Waite
BMM, Slovakia

OWM Ladies Fall Retreat

November 10 & 11, 2022

Carlisle Inn — Sugarcreek, Ohio

Speaker: Linda Luedeman, Women At Risk / former OWM President

We will have more details for our fall retreat as the time approaches. Save these dates! Plan to join us! Keep pressing forward, keep looking up,
Donna Victor, OWM President

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CAMP NEWS



Scioto Hills is Excited to have Youth Campers this Summer!

We are so glad to be heading back to the “new normal” at Scioto Hills. It's been amazing to watch God repeatedly prove Himself faithful during these past two years of “uncharted waters.” But, by His grace, we have clearly witnessed His guidance.

Praise the Lord for answered prayer and for the benevolence of our many churches and camp friends. And *Praise the Lord*, after two years without summer youth camps, we anticipate a **wonderful summer filled with kids, teens and families!** We have learned some valuable lessons these past two years and believe we are “better for the wear.”

Summer camps are slowly starting to fill up. We recognize the concerns parents have with rising inflation and I've heard it said, “*As gas prices go, so goes summer camp numbers.*” But we're not going to let that stop us from planning and preparing for a great summer. May I suggest our churches, who have always supported and assisted summer campers financially, raise the bar a bit higher and **be proactive in funding more scholarship** opportunities for those who really need it. We never want money to be the reason a child misses a week of summer camp. The investment is worth it. Scioto Hills has a growing scholarship fund as well, so between our churches and our donors, let's get kids back to summer camp so they can experience life change.

Our **ONE BIG PRAYER REQUEST** is our need for more Cabin Leaders/Counselors. The two-year “drought” has impacted our momentum. Please promote our need in your churches and help us recruit qualified 18-24 year-old young adults that will not only make a difference in the lives of their campers but be transformational in their own walk with Christ. We do pay them but are quick to say, “*You may not get rich materially but you will be much more rich spiritually.*” Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

To God be the Glory! Great Things He is Doing!
Scott at Scioto Hills



OARBC Friends,

Psalm 100:2 reminds us that we ought to “serve the Lord with gladness,” which can often seem like a difficult thing when the task is hard. But when we are reminded of His goodness, serving Him with gladness is not such a challenge. We are looking forward to serving the Lord and serving our campers this summer, and we would ask that you pray with us that the Lord would do a mighty work at Skyview Ranch! The task is certainly not an easy one, but we are trusting God to continue His work.

In just about a month our summer staff will be arriving at camp to begin training! Like many organizations, we are finding it difficult to hire staff. **We are still in need of five female and two male counselors, along with a few program staff.** Perhaps you, or someone you know, would be willing to come serve this summer? We are trusting the Lord to send us those willing to “serve the Lord with gladness” at Skyview Ranch.

If you haven't been to Skyview in a while, we'd love to have you out. God is doing much at camp, and we are thrilled with the progress being made, as we work to rebuild our ministry. Some of the projects we have and are currently raising funds to complete include a RV site installation, new stairs on the lodge, a new summer staff laundry facility, completion of the gym floor, a new camp minivan for travel to churches and colleges for recruiting, and vet care for our horses. If you'd like to hear about any of these projects and how you or your church can get involved, we'd love to connect with you.

Would you pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and strength in the days ahead? Our leadership is currently working through and planning some building projects that are necessary to continue our ministry. I look forward to sharing more details with you all in the future.

We so appreciate our ministry partners! Thanks for all you are doing for His Kingdom. Let us all continue to “serve the Lord with gladness” until He comes. If we can be of help to your ministry in any way, please let us know.

Serving the Savior at Skyview Ranch,
Jonathan Casbohm, Executive Director

Hello from Camp Patmos!

The Kelleys Island Ferry is running again so alongside our amazing volunteers, we've been working hard opening Camp Patmos after our annual winter closure. May is a busy month with all the repairs and preparations that come with being away. This month marks the official start of our 2022 season as our first guests arrive to enjoy our annual FamilyLife® Marriage Retreat, May 20-22. It's always such a joy to begin bringing our staff together in May and spending two weeks (four with our leaders) catching up, getting to know each other and training for the programs and activities we've developed over the winter. Each and every position plays a specific and important role and this is our time to invest and prepare. If you know someone who loves Jesus and would enjoy spending the summer serving alongside us, it has been an especially difficult season for hiring and may not be too late to join our team. Have them contact us (info@camppatmos.com or [419.746.2214](tel:419.746.2214)) or visit our summer staff web page: www.camppatmos.com/staff/summer-staff.



Our weeklong Summer Camps begin June 13 and will continue for eight weeks through August 6. Our Summer Camp age groups are Juniors (rising 4 – 6 grades), Middle School (rising 7 – 8 grades) and High School (rising 9 – graduated seniors). Scan the QR code to determine which week meets your needs and sign up before your week fills up. We've provided at least two options for each age group to help as many as possible to be able to attend.

Did you know our donors are amazing!? Through the incredible generosity of a donor, Camp Patmos received two new Yamaha 212 twin-engine jet boats. This donation brings a much-needed upgrade to the Camp Patmos fleet and will be an amazing surprise for our campers this season and for years to come.

Roof repairs, painting and all kinds of general landscaping, upgrades and maintenance are surely happening as you read this article. If you make your way to Kelleys Island, be sure to stop by and see us or better yet, send a camper to camp or join us at one of our amazing retreats. Here's to a great and Godly season for all. To God be the glory!



OARBC Senior Adults Tuesday, September 27, 2022



Catch the am ferry with us at Marblehead for the 25-minute ride to Kelleys Island.

The camp tram will meet us and take us to Camp Patmos for lunch followed by an old-fashioned camp meeting in the chapel.

Relax, see the camp and catch the afternoon ferry back to the mainland.

Cost: \$25 per person includes lunch and ferry

NEW registration instructions:

Go to www.OARBC.org

Click the Register **Here** under the **Ohio news** on the front page

Camp Patmos Senior Luncheon

You can register individually or as a church group by September 12

CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUE TERMS

CRITICAL RACE THEORY. CRT theory contends, “If you are white, you are an oppressor. If you are black, you are oppressed.” “Immigrants came to America to allow slavery.” Those foundational axioms have been skewed into school curricula. In some public schools, children are shamed for being white as **anti-white racism**. That was the methodology used by Hitlerism in Europe. We appreciate the **change of terminology** from “slaves” to “enslaved people” to indicate what was DONE to them rather than who they WERE. Still, we cannot ignore that some freedmen owned slaves. Or that it was Christians who led the charge against slavery in the USA, as the irascible Bishop Wilberforce did in England.

BLACK LIVES MATTER. In view of some police brutality, a movement sought racial justice in its larger social context. While Black lives do matter, the statement “ALL lives matter” is not a rejection of all that the movement stands for. See the Wikipedia article on “Black Lives Matter.” “Black Liberation” has long been a radical leftist theme.

Until we regard racism as a sin problem, rather than just a social problem, we are not ready for cross-cultural ministry.

We recognize that activism seeking racial justice has highlighted a neglected theme in America. It has shown there are still major hurdles for minority populations. The varied white population is now the largest minority group, being less than 50% of the overall population. Hispanics have passed Blacks, now as 2nd and 3rd largest American populations. **There is no excuse for “white supremacy” prejudice.** ALL of us are immigrants apart from the original Native Americans. Even they have been displaced by the African and Hispanic Americans who outnumber them.

Racial prejudice is derived from our fallen human nature and is sinful as both attitude and behavior. It is not merely a social problem, but serious corporate and private **sin**. The cry for equal justice under law cannot be ignored. Signs accusing, “White silence is white violence” provoke negative reactions. Community conversations are far more constructive, and involve more people who need to understand and accept one another.

The most effective cure for racial discrimination occurs in churches where common faith in Christ outweighs cultural differences. Churches used to be legally segregated which is no longer in force. People prefer to worship and serve with people like themselves, in cultural similarity that tends to fall along racial lines. The fact in most churches where a single ethnic group predominates is now a matter of **choice**, as people are free to worship where and how they please. Ethnic mixing cannot be legislated, but is encouraged.

A missiological principle is that **churches should reflect the ethnic makeup of the communities they serve.** As neighborhoods develop, the churches should purposely welcome those who represent the future of the community and integrate them into visible leadership as fully as possible. The fault for racial tensions comes from both sides.

The term **WOKE** or **STAY WOKE** emerged from African American activism, including Black Lives Matter. It has the sense of “stay awake” or “be aware.”

The recognition of **JUNTEENTH** as a national holiday is an improvement. Once President Lincoln signed the **Proclamation of Emancipation in 1863**, it was not ratified in Texas until **June 19, 1866**. President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on **June 17, 2021, making June 19 a national holiday**. This is a healing time for ALL racial minorities in the country, and real healing must also take place in the white minority population.

Biblically, we recognize **the unity of the human race**. The Apostle Paul told the philosophers, [God] has made from one [blood] every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...Acts 17:26. The physical features of ‘races’ were brought onto Noah’s ark by the wives of Noah’s sons. The men were all from the same gene pool. God preserved the diversity that already existed as a treasure for our post-flood world. We are all equally human. **Until we regard racism as a sin problem, rather than just a social problem, we are not ready for cross-cultural ministry.**

—Bill Smallman, D.Miss., former Baptist Mid-Missions Administrator, and member of First Baptist Church, Medina

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Ohio Student Awarded GARBC Christian Character Scholarship



Becky Smith

Becky Smith, a member of Litchfield Baptist Church, Litchfield, Ohio is the recipient of a \$1,000 GARBC Christian Character Scholarship for 2022. The competition was open to high school seniors who exemplify Christian character and express an ongoing desire to serve God through the local church.

Becky plans to attend Bob Jones University and major in Environmental Technologies and Resources, perhaps serving as a park ranger in the future. At Bob Jones University, she looks forward to making godly friends, growing in her relationship with God and getting through college with little or no debt.

She has been faithful in her attendance and service at Litchfield Baptist Church where her dad is the pastor. She serves as church pianist and in whatever capacity she is needed. She has been active in the youth group at nearby First Baptist Church in Wellington. In her community, she has been active in the Buckeye FFA, the Buckeye National Honor Society, the Litchfield Town Band playing the clarinet, as well as working at the town's Subway restaurant.

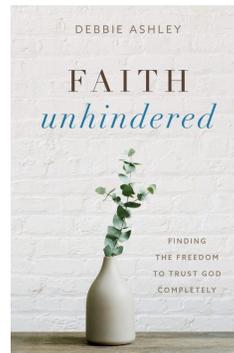
As one might expect, Becky loves the outdoors: nature, biking, and hiking. But she keeps busy indoors as well with crocheting, needlepoint and her music.

The scholarships are funded and awarded by participating colleges, with matching dollar amounts, as available, given through the [GARBC Christian Character Scholarship fund](#). The colleges providing scholarships are Appalachian Bible College, Bob Jones University, Cedarville University, Clarks Summit University, Faith Baptist Bible College, and Shasta Bible College.

Whether students plan to pursue vocational ministry or enter the secular workforce, attending a Christian college or university will help students develop a Biblical worldview so they can start their careers on the right foot and prepare to serve in their churches.

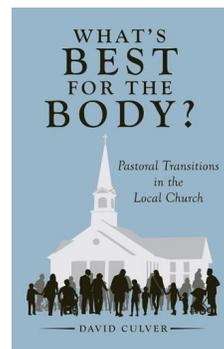
High School Seniors who are members of GARBC churches may apply after September 1 and by November 30, 2022 at <https://scholarship.garbc.org/apply>

Two new books authored by OARBC family



Debbie Ashley

Debbie Ashley, has served with her husband Mark for over thirty years at Northfield Baptist in Northfield. She loves to teach the Word of God and equip women with tools for their faith. ***“Faith Unhindered”*** is her new book in which Debbie identifies eight specific life experiences that can cause women to stop believing God will help them. Each chapter explores a woman in the Bible who experienced those same life challenges. Study questions and journaling responses help women strengthen their faith in God. Order your copy at www.debmashley.com.



Dr. David Culver

Pastoral transitions are often awkward at best and damaging at worst for a local church. **Dr. David Culver** has written a book, ***“What’s Best for the Body?”*** that presents a transition model that prioritizes the well-being of a local church’s congregation as it and its leadership navigate change. David served as a lead pastor in four local churches and writes from his varied experiences in transitions, positive and negative. Recently retiring from Shawnee Hills Baptist Church in Jamestown, he continues to do pulpit supply, pastoral leadership training, and is a Bible department adjunct instructor for Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio. David and his wife Carolyn live in Jamestown, Ohio. The book may be ordered at

<https://www.westbowpress.com/en/bookstore/>

ACROSS THE STATE



*Pastor Forest Greetham
Mogadore Baptist, Akron*

Church Solutions Conferences Challenge OARBC Pastors/Leaders

Two Church Solutions Conferences were held in OARBC Churches in April. Shawnee Hills in Jamestown hosted the April 5 conference and Northfield Baptist in Northfield the April 12 conference. Over 70 pastors and church leaders attended the conferences where they were challenged to be more intentional as disciple-making churches and were given specific steps and suggested structures to move a church in that direction.

The conferences were offered through ABWE EveryEthne and were sponsored by the GARBC Generate, OARBC and Cedarville University. These conferences were offered as part of an initiative of the OARBC Council of 12 to help our churches be intentional about the vision of “Spreading the Gospel in Ohio through Healthy Churches.”

Because of the generosity of the sponsors, all of the registration monies for both conferences can be used in an OARBC church plant or revitalization work.

Pastor David and Faith Hixson Celebrate 30 Years of Ministry

Calvary Baptist Church in Sandusky honored their pastor and wife, Pastor David and Faith Hixson, for 30 years of faithful ministry the weekend of March 25-27, 2022. The church family blessed the Hixsons and their three grown children and grandchildren with a weekend together at the Great Wolf Lodge right there in Sandusky.

On Saturday evening a lovely dessert open house was held at the church in their honor. Many church and community friends attended as well as others who came from a distance. The following day, Sunday morning, the Hixsons’ two sons, Aaron (Bay Area Community Church, Anapolis, MD) and Ben (Bethel Chuch Hobart-Portage, IN) preached in the morning service. Their daughter Amy and other family members participated in worship and music. It was a great time to celebrate faithful pastors and churches who love them!



Pastor David and Faith Hixson

Men’s Conferences Well-attended Across the State in March



Dr. Jeremy Kimble, Cedarville University, was the keynote speaker at the Man Up Conference at First Baptist Church in Medina, March 5, 2022.



Bruce Hooley, Speaker and Author was the keynote speaker at the Men of God Conference held March 5, 2022 at Calvary Baptist in Bellefontaine.



The NEO fellowship held their annual Men’s Conference at Nottingham in Willoughby Hills March 26, 2022. **Mark Pitts**, Baptist Mid-Missions Resource Center, was the keynote speaker.

EASTER ACROSS THE STATE



"Easter Alive" presented Good Friday and Easter evening at Pleasant Hill, Smithville



NEO (Northeast Ohio) Fellowship combines for Good Friday service at Cedar Hill, Cleveland Heights



Shawnee Hills, Jamestown, Children's Puppet Ministry leading "Victory in Jesus"



Calvary Baptist, Byesville, Easter Choir



The men of First Baptist, Niles, prepared and served a delicious Easter Breakfast during the Sunday School hour (above, left and right)

Easter Choir and worshippers at First Baptist, Elyria (left, upper and lower)



M.S.N. Program Ranked in Top 15

Cedarville University's Master of Science in Nursing program is one of the best in the country, according to OnlineMasters.com, and has the highest-ranked M.S.N. program among all Christian universities.

In a recent ranking, Cedarville's M.S.N. was ranked No. 15 (out of 50 programs). The national ranking puts Cedarville's program second to Ohio State University among Ohio institutions, but ahead of national powers like the University of Missouri, Florida State University, and the University of Southern California. The top five M.S.N. programs are St. Xavier University, Ohio State University, Johns Hopkins University, North Carolina Greensboro, and the University of Kansas. Cedarville also ranked best in "flexibility."

"The majority of our students depend on part-time or full-time employment, and the flexibility of an online learning environment allows the graduate students to work and take courses simultaneously," said Dr. Joy Higginbotham, Cedarville University assistant dean of graduate programs and assistant professor of nursing.

"Cedarville University's M.S.N. program and curriculum prepare graduate students for advanced nursing practice roles and to use nursing as a ministry for Jesus Christ," said Higginbotham. "We maintain academic excellence through diverse expertise of the faculty and low student-faculty ratios."

Cedarville strives to build community within its online graduate programs. Many M.S.N. courses include interactive sessions for students to connect with their professors and peers.

"The M.S.N. program continually improves and is successful as the result of Dr. Higginbotham's astute leadership, expert M.S.N. faculty collaborative efforts and a supportive graduate culture at Cedarville," said Dr. Angelia Mickle, Cedarville University professor and dean of nursing.

Cedarville offers three online M.S.N. programs: nurse educator, family nurse practitioner, and global public health nursing. Each program is offered for part-time or full-time completion, and all courses are online and biblically based. Students gain real-world experience by completing clinicals or practicums where they apply learned concepts and collaborate with nursing faculty and professionals.

For more information about Cedarville's M.S.N., visit <https://www.cedarville.edu/MSN>.