

June
2020



The KBA BEACON

A Word from Brad Horne:



In the fall of 1985, as a sophomore at Baylor University, I took a class, Introduction to Computers, that changed my life by opening my eyes to the wonderful world of computing. Among the many new terms that I learned during that semester, an extremely important term, was “reboot”.

Webster defines “reboot” as to start anew: to make a fresh start. Now that many churches are opening up their buildings, it’s like rebooting their church services. For the last couple of months, churches have been meeting virtually, but we are rebooting church services and starting in person anew.

Who would have believed that almost all churches worldwide would cancel their weekly services and activities and essentially close their doors to a world in crisis, all in the space of just a couple of months? Computers and technology have come to the rescue. If the coronavirus had hit the world 30 years ago, churches around the world would have stopped meeting. But today, the church has the technology to continue to meet online. It’s amazing when you think about it. Every church building was shut down, and yet the church survived and, in some cases, thrived.

What have we learned? We learned that the church, the family of God, the body of Christ, can survive without a building, and can at least temporarily survive by meeting virtually on-line. We have learned that the church can reach those that would not come to our buildings and even reach people around the world. We have learned that people value convenience concerning their church services. They want to worship anytime and anywhere.

In 1975, McDonald's opened its first drive-thru window, following Wendy's lead. This service gave Americans a fast, convenient way to procure a quick meal. The company's goal was to provide

service in 50 seconds or less. Everyone knows that McDonald's doesn't make the best burger, but they became known for making food fast, and the term fast food was born. McDonalds learned that Americans are busy, want something fast, and that we love convenience. Now, many of their restaurants are open 24/7. In a word, convenience, to reach anyone, anytime.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, many people have become used to staying home and enjoying watching their church services, which were convenient and shortened. Although we might be tempted to discontinue streaming our church services, we need to continue on with this new practice of streaming our services, which gives everyone opportunities to watch or listen to the church service anytime and anywhere. Obviously, this is needed for our members who are older and not yet ready to return to public services or for those who are ill and not able to get to church. In addition to that though, is the need to make our services more convenient and accessible. It is great for church members who want to watch the service over again during the week at their convenience. And then, as we've learned, people who have never come to our churches in person are out there searching and may more readily come to a virtual service so we need to continue to stream as an outreach to those who might not desire to come to the church building to hear and learn about God. Our churches need to be available 24/7 for anytime, anywhere, anybody.

In a church reboot, we can get rid of all of the things that hampered the church and start again with a focus on discipleship and evangelism. It seems like the church has been bound inside the 4 walls of the church building for over a thousand years, and it's time for the church to be let loose, scattered, deployed out into all of the world. Keeping the main thing, the main thing. Making fishers of men. We do this by having our church services available and convenient for church members, the marginalized, and as outreach tool that might reach those who are curious about the church but unwilling to attend their local church.

For the last 12 years or so, I have exclusively read and studied my Bible that is located on my phone, iPad, or computer. My prayer journal is also electronic, located on my phone. Even the watch I use is digital. I read my Bible that's located on my phone because I can read my Bible at any time and it's always with me. It's convenient. I personally listen to church sermons as I drive around town, listening anytime and anywhere.

We are on the verge of a major change, with the church going on-line and digital. Yes, this is a major change, but the Bible and history has had many changes. Jesus instituted huge change, as did the Apostle Paul. Christians went from meeting on Saturdays to Sundays, from the temple courts to houses. Gutenberg instituted change in that the Bible could be quickly printed, and Martin Luther instituted a "reboot" of the church in the 1500's. Then came translators, who translated God's Word into different languages, allowing God's Word to be read across the world.

It's time to reboot the church and infuse in it the vision to reach people the entire week, all 168 hours, instead of just the couple of hours on Sunday mornings. May churches grow their on-line presence and become an anytime, anywhere, anybody church.

Blessings! Brad

KBA Financial Update

As of May 31, 2020

Receipts through May - \$41,260.34

Expenses through May- \$24,754.91

2019-2020 Administrative Team

Moderator: Pastor John Buhr, Central Baptist Church
1st Vice Moderator: Pastor Adam Hedge, Memorial Baptist Church
2nd Vice Moderator: Dr. Pusey Losch, Mt. View Community
Historian: Bayard Bastedo, FBC, Hanover
Clerk: Tim Dedman, Red Land Baptist
Treasurer: Heather Barberis, Memorial Baptist
Assistant Treasurer: Pastor John Worrall, Mount Wolf Community
SE Zone Leader: Pastor Tim Parker, Stewartstown Baptist
North Zone Leader: Pastor Don Henrikson, Thompsontown Baptist
SW Zone Leader: Dr. Kenny Craig, Chambersburg Baptist

News from our Churches:

Mason Dixon: Update: In the April Beacon we shared about the Rearich Family that attends Mason Dixon Baptist Church. John & Erica Rearich, daughters Abigale (13) and Ella (10) have continued to make masks for members, friends, first responders, and anyone who needs them. Since reporting about the Rearichs in April they have accrued over 500 hours cutting material, assembling, sewing, and delivering masks.



Covenant Community is continuing to operate a food pantry at The Grace House located in Harrisburg. Over 3,000 meals are given out each month. There are multiple needs at the building. Heavy duty shelving, two window air conditioners, and the need for new flooring in several rooms. If your church would like to help, contact: Pastor Robert Conrad: rconrad@ccchbg.org

Memorial Baptist Church asks KBA to continue to pray for their food pantry ministry as they restock and help meet the needs and make a difference in the lives of the folks in the Gettysburg area.

Red Land Baptist Church provided 200 cards for the patients in The Gardens Nursing Home at the West Shore facility. When asking the Activities Director what the church could do for their patients, they were told that at that time patients could not have visitors, and many had not seen anyone but staff for a long period of time. She asked if the church could provide a card for each patient. Church members provided cards, many were handmade, and some were made by children. Each card contained a personal message and a Bible verse. Red Land also provided candy for the staff.



Mason Dixon Church is looking to fill a part time office manager position. The job description has been attached in a file to this email. If interested, please respond by email to: terry.felton@mdbconline.com or Britt.blum1@gmail.com

Friendship Baptist Church, Stewartstown, is seeking a part time Associate Pastor. This person should have theological training and some experience in leading a church. He must have a calling to preach and teach. FBC enjoys blended music, both contemporary and traditional. The church is on a main road and has an excellent potential for growth. The salary is negotiable. The Associate Pastor will work with the Senior Pastor to build a ministry that effectively reaches our community for Christ. If you are interested, please contact:

Ken Cademartori, Senior Pastor
14874 Winterstown Road,
Stewartstown, PA 17363.
Phone 717-818-7943

Reboot: *We asked four Pastors to share their experiences.*

Thompsontown Baptist Church has been meeting in our building since June 14 in two services. While coordination the wearing (or not wearing) of masks, social distancing, and cleaning requirements has been challenging, the blessing of once again being with brothers and sisters in Christ on the Lord's Day has been worth the effort. As we look forward to the day when we will meet with greater freedom here, we are trying to let that longing remind us of a greater longing for the day when we will enjoy perfect worship in the New Jerusalem. **Don Henrikson, pastor**

Carlisle Baptist Church opened for free gathering at the church on Sunday, June 14th. Prior to opening we took the opportunity to retrain our ushers and greeters. We've asked all serving as ushers & greeters to wear masks and strongly suggest all guest do as well. Reinforcing the emphasis on smiling behind the masks, saying hello, and leading guests to open seats. We also, took the opportunity to begin using parking lot greeters and that move has been very well received.

We made additional arrangements in closing off every other pew and marked each pew in 3' increments to aid with spacing. The service itself has been streamlined with no offering taken; an offering box is placed at the entrance and online giving is emphasized. We will continue to livestream our service. We continue not to have Sunday School, Children's Church, or nursery. We plan to phase them back in.

Attendance was expected to be 50% of past numbers and that has proven to accurate in our case. As with every church there are some members that are not comfortable returning yet and they continue to participate online. In retrospect I am glad we made the decision to re-gather when we could. It's not a perfect scenario but it is a step in the process. **Ed Roman, pastor**

Reboot: (cont.)

Memorial Baptist Church made the decision that after 12 weeks of worshiping together exclusively online, they were excited to begin "in-person" worship services again on Sunday, June 14.

We had 75 people in attendance for our first Sunday back which was above what we expected to see. Praise the Lord! We are currently only having Sunday morning worship services with no Sunday school, children's church, or staffed nursery, and we have physical distancing measures in place (all the information can be found at: www.memorialbaptist.org/schedule.) All are welcome to join on Sundays at 11am, or we continue to have an online service available for those people who may not feel comfortable coming back yet.

We are planning an "online" Lord's Supper this Sunday (June 28). I will lead the service and people can follow along at home with their families. This will be recorded on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-RLzOuUIWgaOqb9TymCMAg>) so really people could do this anytime they want once it's posted. **Adam Hedge, pastor**

Stewartstown Baptist Church answered the question, what does a post-pandemic church regathering look like? Well, for us it looks a lot like being outdoors. In fact, SBC started in-person regathering for worship on Sunday, June 14th under their outdoor pavilion.

Attendance was expected to be light due to Coronavirus fears. "God surprised us and answered our prayers for a good turnout. For the past two weeks we have seen gathering sizes about 75%-80% of our pre-COVID attendance. These numbers greatly exceeded our expectation. To God be the glory!"



Outdoor Service - June 14th.



Praise Team pre-service practice.

SBC technicians made it possible for the church to continue livestreaming the outdoor services for those who are not yet comfortable meeting in person and for those who watch the services from outside of the area. We continue to make

necessary adjustments but many of our folks are grateful to be back together. Pastor Tim stated, "God has given us great weather to meet these past two weeks. We are prepared from a social distancing aspect to move indoors if necessary."

SBC leaders decided to begin holding in-person gatherings after York County entered the Green Phase.

Reboot: (cont.)

To help the church mitigate potential spread of the coronavirus, outdoor services were determined the best and immediate option to allow for natural ventilation. Attendees were asked to maintain social distancing and masks were made optional, but **highly** recommended.

Pastor Tim said, "It has been an exhausting few months studying best practices and planning for our return to in-person gatherings. I am so proud of our folks and their commitment to their local church. I am truly blessed to be a part of the church family and to serve God's people at SBC."



If you have any questions or need any help regathering for in-person worship, you can contact Pastor Tim by email at: timparker@stewbaptist.org or by phone: 717-993-6382. **Tim Parker, pastor**

Pray for all KBA Churches as we negotiate the re-opening of our buildings and holding Sunday services.

Prayer Focus:

Country and Town –The Pastor Search Committee announces that members of Country and Town will be able to meet a prospective Senior Pastor on the weekend of June 27th.

Alice Worrall had major surgery on June 23rd. There was no cancer and the surgery went well. Please pray for her recovery.

Richard Krieg, pastor at Red Land Baptist will have a knee replacement on June 25th. Please pray for him and his recovery.



Rev. Steve Sheldon's mother, Doris D. Sheldon passed away on June 18th in Waynesboro, PA. Steve is a retired pastor last serving at Wrightsdale Baptist Church in Peach Bottom, PA. After retirement he and his wife, Kathy, moved to Waynesboro to be near his mother. A Memorial service will be planned for a later date. Please pray for Steve and Kathy.

Updates from KBA:

Dr. Jerry Dixon (Prayer Coordinator for KBA and Pastor) is planning a prayer conference: **RESTORE**. Dr. Dixon has asked Mark Mirza from Atlanta, Georgia to be the conference pastor. Mark's website is: www.MarkMirza.com. More information to follow.

Pastor Gusmane Michel from **First Haitian Church of York** along with Brad Horne will be planning a mission trip to Haiti for pastors in January 2021. More information to come.

2019 SBC ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE DATA

CATEGORY	2019 DATA	ANNUAL CHANGE
MEMBERSHIP	14,525,579	-287,655
CHURCHES	47,530	+74
CHURCH-TYPE MISSIONS	3,608	-477
ATTENDANCE	5,250,230	-47,558
SMALL GROUP ATTENDANCE	3,236,196	-11,485
BAPTISMS	235,748	-10,694

The Southern Baptist Convention released The 2019 Annual Church Profile Data.

This data is collected from each SBC church that fills out their Annual Church Profile report.



New Life at Penn State Prayer Request:

Pray for staff as we make some adjustments with the ministry for our Fall semester. Lots of new protocols are in place and we want to follow them while also providing a smooth transition to this new way of life for our students. **Kayla Smith**

WMU ~ Pure Water, Pure Love:

As a part of WMU’s Compassion ministries **Pure Water, Pure Love** has a three-fold mission: to supply missionaries with water filters, to provide the people they serve with wells that offer clean water and to supply missions teams with water filters for use on short-term missions trips.

Throughout the world, people are at constant risk of contracting a disease or parasites from their water. Many are forced to carry heavy jugs of water for miles just to be sure their families have clean, healthy water. For others, the prospect of clean water is simply non-existent.

With the help of hundreds of churches, PWPL provides thousands of water filters to missionary families and helps fund clean water projects. For more information:

<http://wmu.com/?q=article/support/national-wmu/pure-water-pure-love>

KBA Email:

Brad Horne: director@keystonebaptist.net

Theresa Krieg: office@keystonebaptist.net