

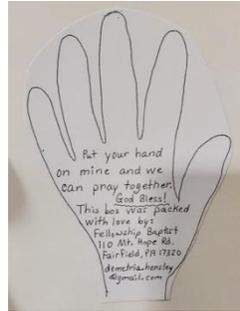
DECEMBER
2024

KEYSTONE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES: SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Fellowship Baptist Church - Coordinator Demetria Hensley wrote: "Our little congregation at Fellowship Baptist was able to pack and ship 91 boxes ready to spread the gospel! I was originally thinking we'd be able to maybe pack 25 boxes, then I attended my first ever project leader event and set my outrageous goal of 100 boxes, just praying to pack 50. Our church and community showed up!"



Demetria shares "This picture is packs of fabric we were able to put together. The handprint was cut out and glued to the back of a card front and placed in each box. The one picture is of the men using an electric drill to wind fishing line on cardboard pieces for the fishing kits. Our goal was to mainly pack for the 10–14-year-olds. I've got the drive and have already started purchasing items and planning for next year."



Mason Dixon Baptist Church packed 202 boxes.



Amanda Felton wrote:
"We had about 40 people at our packing party, and it took us about an hour and a half to fill 101 boxes."

The remainder of the boxes were packed by individuals in the church and brought to the church.

Mason Dixon took a group to the OCC Baltimore County Processing Center to help get OCC boxes ready for shipping.



Stewartstown Baptist reported through their pastor Tim Parker that they collected 64 boxes this year. 54 boxes were packed at the church and 10 boxes were packed online.

Shrewsbury Baptist Church collected 36 boxes. Pastor Knott said, “What a blessing those boxes will be to children.”

Greencastle Baptist Church packed 165 boxes.



Central Baptist Church

Pastor John Buhr wrote: “We as a church packed 38 boxes. I think this is a fantastic amount for us because the lady who use to do the boxes moved away and we were thinking maybe we should not do it this year. Then a lady and her daughter stepped up and took on this ministry. So, I was glad we could get this done.”



First Baptist Church of Hanover packed 200 shoeboxes.

Family of God packed 105 shoeboxes at the church. Pastor Edmondson noted that the number does not include the shoeboxes individuals built online themselves.



Chambersburg Baptist packed 79 boxes this year.



Country and Town Baptist packed 64 boxes this year.

Thompstontown Baptist held their annual packing party and pie social on November 13, where they packed 240 shoeboxes. Another 23 shoebox gifts were individually packed, bringing their church total to 263. The “Follow Your Box” look-up tool says that their shoeboxes are headed to Suriname, Burundi, and Uganda.



It was also their third year serving as a drop-off center during National Collection Week, Nov 15-22. They were thrilled to collect a total of 861 shoebox gifts, about 40% more than last year!

They also took a team of 10 people for a work shift at the Baltimore Processing Center on Monday, November 29th. They inspected gifts, sorted inappropriate items, worked with filler items, and boxed shoeboxes into their designated cartons by gender and by age.



TOTAL NUMBER OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES:

1,307 BOXES!

IN OTHER CHURCH NEWS:

Red Land Baptist participated with The New Cumberland Pastor's Ministerium and other churches in New Cumberland to provide 100 boxed dinners for seniors and others in need. Red Land provided the Apple Sauce. Each box contained scripture and a note of encouragement.



Central Baptist Church took part in the Waynesboro Christmas parade on November 20th. After the parade everyone returned to the church for pizza.



Covenant Community Church partnered with Sulphur Springs Baptist Church and invited children from the area to join them for an evening of pizza, chips, cookies, crafts and a puppet show. Sulphur Springs brought backpacks and did the faith-based puppet show. Their youth pastor also gave a gospel presentation. The backpacks were full of gender and age-appropriate gifts. Pastor Robert Conrad said "Along with the children there were parents and smaller children that came. It was the fullest I have ever seen our building.





Chambersburg Baptist Church ordained Assistant Pastor, John Healy on Sunday morning, December 12th at 10:30 am. Please pray for John, his family, and his ministry at Chambersburg Baptist.



Oakwood Baptist Church will ordain Joshua Bertsch to the gospel ministry on Sunday, January 9th in the afternoon.

ALSO: Congratulations to Pastor Josh and his engagement to Kimberly Thomas! Please pray for this couple as they plan their wedding.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Pray for:

- KBA churches and their pastors.
- Two churches that are considering joining the Keystone Baptist Association
- Jordan and Chantel as they await the birth of their baby.
- Jacob and Kristelle Shetron as they await the birth of their baby in January.
- Adam Hedge (former pastor at Memorial) as he serves as chaplain at Fort Hood in Texas. Along with his wife Meagan and their children.
- Pray for the potential partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.
- The missionaries that have been released from the captors in Haiti.

NEWS FROM KBA:

Pastor's Prayer: Pastors continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

KBA Pastor Wives continue to meet at 7:30 pm on Monday nights for prayer by zoom. If you are a Pastor's wife, please consider joining this Monday night group. For additional information, contact the office: office@keystonebaptist.net.

They will be planning another time of getting together for fellowship and breakfast soon.

Pastor's Roundtable will resume on January 27, 2022. They will return on the 4th Thursdays of every month.

Administrative Team Meeting will be held on Monday, January 10th at 10:00 am.



A graphic for the KBA London Mission Trip 2022. It features a red telephone booth in the foreground and the Big Ben clock tower in the background. The text 'KBA LONDON MISSION TRIP' is in a circular logo on the left, and 'April 16-24 2022' is in large red letters in the center. Below the graphic is a list of details:

- 4 days of Evangelism
- 3 days of touring
- cost \$1,300
 - flight \$700
 - in London \$600
 - double occupancy

Mission Trip to London:

KBA is sponsoring a mission trip to London, England, April 16-23, 2022, working with our IMB partners, Ben and Judy Armacost.

Please let Brad know if you would like to go, KBA will take a maximum of 10 people on a first come first serve basis.

ZONE CHRISTMAS PARTIES

The North Zone held their Christmas Party on November 19th at Bread of Life Restaurant. It was a great time of fellowship.



The Southwest Zone held their Christmas Party on November 29th. Dr. Kenny Craig said it was a great time of fellowship and an opportunity to be together.



The Southeast Zone held their Christmas Party on December 13th at Mount Wolf Community Church. John Worrall is the zone leader for the Southeast Zone.





A WORD FROM BRAD ~

It's All About Jesus

Leading up to Christmas, I'm sure by now that you are having visions of sugar-plums dancing in your head, but I want to share with you some of the ways that we can share about the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We can share with unbelievers why we have the tradition of giving presents to each other. It's from the Bible. When Jesus was born, wisemen came bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That is why we give gifts today, symbolizing the gifts that the wisemen brought, and the greatest gift that God has given us, His Son.

Many people have a tradition of placing a star on top of their tree, but most Americans do not know why they place a star on top of their tree. It's from the Bible. The wisemen followed the star until it stopped over the place where Jesus was born. This reminds us that we still need to seek Jesus out today.

The colors of Christmas, Red, Green, and white, also point to Jesus. The red color symbolizes the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross for our sins. The green color represents the new life that we can have in Jesus. The white represents us after Jesus has forgiven us of our sins; he cleans us as white as snow.

Even the candy cane represents and points to Jesus during Christmas. The candy cane is traditionally white with red stripes. Once again, the white color stands for how Jesus cleanses us from all our unrighteousness, and the red stripes stand for the blood that Jesus shed for our sins on the cross. The shape of the candy is also symbolic and represents a shepherd's staff since Jesus is our shepherd.

Most of the traditional Christmas carols are all about our Savior, who was born into this world.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Christ has now left us on this earth for one reason, and for one reason only; to share with as many people as possible, the Good News of Jesus Christ. God shared the Good News of the birth of Jesus by foretelling about it hundreds of years beforehand, by sending angels, and by the star that guided the wisemen to the manger. It's all about Jesus!

Jeanine and I wish you a joyful and meaningful Christmas and pray that you will have many opportunities this Christmas to share about the Good News about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings!
Brad

KBA FINANCIAL UPDATE

2021 October Receipts: - \$10,608.08

2021 October Expenses: - \$10,874.38

2021 Year to date income: \$102,079.50

2021 Year to date expenses: \$111,781.93

NEW LIFE AT PENN STATE: KAYLA SMITH

This year at New Life we are more focused on living out the "ministry of presence"— simply being there for students without having a formal agenda when we meet. It has been so cool to see how comfortable and open the students have become because of this, and to hear them express that it's been stress-relieving. Sometimes girls come over for lunch and end up staying for several hours, just talking about life and their faith, and asking questions about what I'm learning and growing in in my own life and faith journey.

In our large weekly club meetings, we have been going through the names of God (different descriptors of Him that we see used throughout the Bible), featuring a different name each month. So far, we have covered God being a god of peace, the God who provides, and the God who sees. We've really enjoyed preparing this content and learning so much ourselves as staff members, and the students seem to really be resonating with what they are learning, too! All of this being said, as a staff we know we still have blind spots and room for improvement as we attempt to adapt to the changing times and needs, and we need continual prayer for discernment on how to best serve our students.

PASTORS:

Immediate Action Needed: The Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations requires that all non profit organizations file a "Decennial Report of Continued Existence" by December 31, 2021. If your church fails to do so, it will no longer have exclusive use of its name. This means that, while the non-filing entity continues to exist, its name becomes available for the use of any other business registering in PA.

To find out if you need to report, look at the website:

<https://www.dos.pa.gov/decennialreport>. There is a \$70.00 fee for registering.