

July
2023



News From Our Churches:

Chambersburg Baptist Church enjoyed a church wide picnic on Sunday, July 2nd, following the morning worship service. The congregation met at a local park and picnicked together.



On July 4th the church invited their neighbors who were preparing to watch fireworks near the church for popcorn, snacks, and drinks. They also opened their restrooms to the public.

Memorial Baptist Church (Gettysburg) is providing a way that the church can track their care for others. Pastor Jeff Sours shares: "The idea of the ping pong balls is one that has been around student ministry for a while. It's been used as a way to keep track of Gospel conversations, salvation, etc. As we set the goals for 2023 for Memorial, we wanted a way to be reminded of it every time we walked in the door. We were able to tie this into the church-wide initiative to care for others both in and out of the church."

The four areas they are tracking are: care, share, reach and disciple. **Care** - different care challenges are given out every couple of weeks. **Share** - the next step after caring is to share the Gospel. **Reach** - the goal of sharing the Gospel is to see lives changed and reached. **Disciple** - reaching is not the end but the beginning as new believers are helped to grow in their walk with Christ.

Pastor Sours continues "the great thing that we have seen, along with seeing each area being accomplished and accountability built in, is the questions about what it is and why we are doing it. Kids who are wanting to drop a ball in are taught what each of these mean (this training and teaching is discipleship)."



News From Our Churches (cont.)

Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church (York) will once again come together for “Church in the Park” on Sunday July 30th. They will meet under the gazebo at Farquhar Park instead of at the church for a time of worship, food, and fellowship.

Thompsontown Baptist Church youth made desserts and served them with their baked potato fundraiser. All the donations they receive goes towards their fall retreat to Camp Joy El.



Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto) held their VBS the week of July 10th on the Mont Alto Volunteer Fire Department carnival grounds. It was a great week that included the fire department bringing over a fire truck over one night for the children to explore.



Pastor Buhr said “The VBS this year was a great success.” He goes on to share that last year they had 12 children. This year they had 39 children and youth in attendance. Pastor Buhr stated “We had 77 people at the VBS closing event at the Northside pool. We had 8 people baptized in the pool and we raised over \$3300 for a well in Africa.”



Stewartstown Baptist Church held Twist & Turns VBS July 10-14. Pastor Tim Parker shared that they averaged 65 children during the week.

The church will have a team of volunteers serving at the Fish & Fry stand at the Eureka Carnival July 17-22. Pastor Parker shared “This team is serving the community by helping the Eureka Fire Department during their week-long fundraising event.”

News From Our Churches (cont.)

Hanover Fellowship held their VBS in June. Bill Gunter, Children's Ministry Director, reported that "Hanover Fellowship held a weekend VBS in June with 16 children attending. They enjoyed fun, crafts, and games while learning about Jesus."



New Hope Baptist Church (Middleburg) held their VBS on July 10th through the 14th. Pastor Mike Miller shares "It was exciting to see a team of adults and teen volunteers work side by side. Two teams, crafts and games were led by teenagers and teens were an integral part of making VBS happen this summer."



One mom from the community who heard about our VBS on social media commented, "My daughter looks forward to coming every night. She felt very welcomed even though she did not know any of the other children before attending."



Covenant Community Church (Harrisburg) welcomed a team from Mt. Sanaï Baptist Church from Shelby, NC. June 26- July 1st. They installed a new floor in the fellowship hall and hosted a children's party. There was also a block party at Covenant on June 30th and then a block party at Grace House on July 1st. Currently, Sandy Creek Baptist Church from Louisburg NC is working at Grace House and are also hosting a children's program in the evening.



News From Our Churches (cont.)

Noble City Baptist Church (York) Pastor Ben Murray shares his thoughts about their Kid's Camp. "One way we are empowering next-generation leaders is through Kid's Camp. In the early days of church planting, we used to do a teen camp. But the kids grew older and went off to college. It took a few years, but God has slowly built a small army of children at the church (approaching 50 kids).

Kid's Camp is designed to empower older children to disciple younger children. A few adult volunteers worked to help prepare 8-12-year-olds to lead camp through teaching, leading worship, running game time, leading crafts, and performing skits. Kid's Camp ran from 9-12, and then for the afternoons, we took the camp team to different adventures throughout York County: swimming and boating at Pinchot, Kilgore Falls, trampoline park, and a pool party. We are already looking forward to next year."



News From KBA:

Pastor's Prayer: Pastors continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am and 7:30 pm for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

Pastor's Roundtable will not meet in the month of July. However, pastors will meet for prayer on July 27th.

KBA Israel Tour: The trip is scheduled for February 8-17th, 2024 and is open for any member of a KBA Church. There is still time to sign up. Do you need a brochure? Contact the office for additional information.

Pastors' Wives continue to meet by zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30 pm. They met on Saturday, July 15th for a time of fellowship and food at John's Diner in New Cumberland.



Brad's Father, Tom Horne, passed away on Monday, July 17th. Brad and Jeanine will be heading for Texas and Brad will deliver his eulogy at his funeral on Thursday, July 27th at 2:00 pm. (CST) Please pray for Brad, Jeanine, the girls, his two brothers, his two sisters and other family this week.

A Word from Brad ~ From the December 2021 Beacon

A Story of Vision Drift and a Memory of a Dad.



I had one job. To tell my father if the fence slat was the correct height. My dad asked me, “Is it the right height?” I replied, “It’s good.” To myself, I was thinking, “It’s good enough.”

When I was nine years old, I helped my father build a picket fence in our back yard. It was a waist high, wooden fence for our new Toy Poodle, Tiffany. No, I didn’t pick the name!

My dad would place the vertical slats in the approximate place, ask me if the slat was the correct height, and each time I would reply, “It’s good.” I thought to myself that the slat was close enough to being the correct height, but I was a nine-year-old just eyeballing it. The next slat was also close enough, and along we went down the fence line. At the end of the fence row, you can imagine how far off the last slat was from the first slat.

Later, after my dad had inspected the fence and all of the vertical slats, he asked me if I could see alright. He told me I needed to go to the optometrist to have my eyes checked out, because obviously, I couldn’t see well enough to help him nail the slats on the picket fence at the correct height.

The problem wasn’t with my eyes, but it was with my willingness to settle for “close enough” or “good enough.” Over time, we drifted further and further away from the correct measurement.

In the same way, we can drift away from the original reason for celebrating Christmas. This movement away from the original is called vision drift. We have drifted away from a pure celebration of Jesus’ birthday at Christmas.

At this time of year, we are all thinking about Christmas: the lights, the decorations, the tree, the presents, and the Christmas services. But are we thinking about Jesus? It’s like going to a birthday party and ignoring the birthday boy. We celebrate Christmas because God sent His Son, who died for our sins and defeated death by rising up on the third day. Then Jesus passed the baton to his disciples, hence us too, that we need to share the good news of Jesus Christ with everyone.

Just as I had one job in telling my father if the slat was level, we have been left on this earth for one purpose and one purpose only. That is to share the good news of Jesus Christ. To be a witness and ambassador for Jesus. This is our sole purpose.

KBA Financial Update

2023 January through June Income: \$62,960.84

2023 January through June Expenses: \$65,284.43

NAMB Serve Tour: Philadelphia

Send Relief has launched an exciting new missional experience with events in cities across the United States and around the world, and you're invited. KBA churches are invited to participate in this mission experience serving in Philadelphia September 15th and 16th. For additional information, go to:

<https://www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour/philadelphia/>.



New Life at Penn State- From Eric Reiber:

I want to share a story from my summer in ministry. We had a student, Beth, who was a part of New Life for a couple years, but I wouldn't describe as overly committed. We would connect every few months to talk about life and the highlight of her time with us was joining our York disaster relief trip a few years ago.

Beth just finished her masters and is moving out of the area. A few weeks ago, she shared that there is a girl from her MBA class that was interested in Christianity. They met a couple times, and she gave her a Bible. The friend is from East Asia. Ann wanted to build a bridge to pass the conversation to me for more local follow up.

Last week my family hosted Ann's friend and her husband (a PHD student) for dinner at our house. We talked for hours! They just kept asking questions about the Bible and asked us our story. They grew interested in the faith when recognizing that people of faith seemed to be more resilient. I called that 'hope.' Pray for us as we continue to walk alongside this sweet couple.

The nations have come to the college campus.

One-way KBA has been supporting New Life Students at Penn State is by providing hot chocolate and breakfast bars that are brought to the KBA annual meeting.

WMU: will host its annual meeting on November 4th, 2023, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Red Land Baptist Church. The cost will be \$10.00. If you want additional information, send an email to: pa.sjwm@gmail.com.

Keystone Baptist Association:

“Equipping and Connecting Churches to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. “