

June
2024



News From Our Churches:

Chambersburg Baptist Church hosted a Ladies Breakfast on Saturday, May 11th in honor of all the ladies in the church. Six men joined together to cook



for the forty-seven women that

attended the breakfast. The menu included eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy. The women agreed that "it was delicious."



On Sunday, May 12th during the morning worship service, Rev. John Healy baptized Mike Gerhold. Also as a part of worship, Pastor John and his wife Jackie Healey dedicated their daughter, Aubrey.

Country and Town Baptist Church (Mechanicsburg) will once again host their annual Kid's Performing Arts Camp (KPAC) August 4th-9th. It is designed for kids who are entering grades two through eight. It is a high-energy, kid oriented performing arts day camp from 9:00 am through 3:00 pm and ends with a 7:00 pm performance for the community on Friday night. The week includes music, acting, stage movement and dance combined with Bible study, and hands-on instruction. Coupled with plenty of laughter and hard work, the camp provides an awesome week of challenge, encouragement and growth. The cost for the week is \$75.00. For additional information or to register, go to <https://www.ctbc.org/kpac>. Registration ends on July 28th.



New Hope Baptist Church (Middleburg)

hosted a two-day Apologetics' Conference on June 7th and 8th with apologist and author, Curt Blattman. The conference was based on Curt's book, The Challenge: Dare to Weigh the Evidence. Curt is a graduate of Princeton University, New York University and Biola University. After leaving atheism he gave his life to Jesus Christ and developed a heart for apologetics driven by his passion for the Bible.



Pastor Mike Miller shared that he met Curt while he was pastoring at New Monmouth Baptist Church in New Jersey and developed a friendship with him. Pastor Miller shared that he "recommends Curt for churches looking to strengthen Christians' confidence in the faith and trustworthiness of the Bible."



In addition to sessions at the church, Curt spent time with teenagers, getting ice cream and listening to their stories. Curt writes a daily apologetic's devotional at Bibleapologetics.org.

Josiah's Way (Lewistown) On May 24th Josiah's Way had the opportunity to minister at a Veterans picnic in Lewistown. Pastor Snook shared that "Bibles were handed out and many good conversations took place."

Mason Dixon Baptist Church (New Freedom) Jan Cramer serving on the Women's Ministry team relayed that they are hosting book club during the 13 weeks of summer. Jan shares "We are reading Live Your Truth and Other Lies by Alisa Childers and meeting once a week to discuss a chapter." They also look forward to beginning a mom's support group starting in September that will meet once a month.

Red Land Baptist Church (New Cumberland) baptized four new believers on Sunday, May, 19th.



On May 26th, a week after their baptism, Reggie and Lindsey Benjamin joined the church in dedicating their children Kingston and Kacen.



On Sunday, June 9th, the church recognized their four high school graduates during the morning service. Pictured are Alexis, Olivia and Mickie.



During the morning worship service on June 16th, the church baptized Adam Smith. He and his wife, Ashlie, dedicated their two children, Jadeyn and Kamdyn.



News From Our Churches (cont.):

Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto) hosted a “Mother and Daughter”



banquet on May 12th. Jackie Healy, pastor’s wife from Chambersburg was the guest speaker. Pastor John related that “everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship.”



Central Baptist also provided a “Wind-Up” party for their CHAMPS youth and children’s groups.



After a time of pizza and games, awards were given to those who had perfect and/or good attendance.



Then on May 27th, the church provided a float and participated in the annual Waynesboro Memorial Day Parade.

Stewartstown Baptist Church’s Women on Mission group hosted a catered luncheon on May 18th for women not only in the church but in the community. The theme was “Go to the Well.” Pam Ammons, former IMB missionary spoke to the group of women.



Pray for:

- KBA churches and their pastors. Please pray for wisdom, discernment and God’s will for the Pastor Search Committees at Mount Wolf Community, Fellowship Baptist Church in Fairfield, Mountain View Community Church in Richfield and Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Covenant Community as they host a mission team this week and use the Tell Gate grill.
- Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker’s (Stewartstown Baptist Church) grandson. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.
- Rev. Pusey Losch (Mountain View Community) and his homeless ministry in Florida
- Karen Gerstmyer who is in remission from cancer. Please continue to pray for her.
- Stewartstown Mission Trip to Dominican Republic in August.
- Pastors and their families physical and spiritual needs.

A Word from Brad: VBS is Baptist History and Has Eternal Importance

When I was 10 years old, I remember waiting at my elementary school with some friends in the hot Texas heat of July, 1976. We were waiting for the FBC Plano (near Dallas, Texas) church van to pick us up and take us to the church's Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was a time that catapulted me into a deeper relationship with Christ during a one-week intensive Bible school.

So how did VBS get started? You will have a hard time believing this, but VBS was started in a New York Beer Hall! It all began as a plan of a compassionate doctor's wife who sensed a need to get children off the streets of New York during the summertime. Mrs. Walker Aylett Hawes moved to New York City from Charlottesville, Virginia, with her husband who was specializing in a medical ministry to children. She noticed that many of the children who came to her husband's clinic had injuries from playing in the streets of New York City. She realized that the kids needed something safe and fruitful to occupy their time.

In 1898, Mrs. Hawes, a Baptist and a sister-in-law of John A. Broadus, the founder and later president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, rented a beer hall in the city's East Side to hold the very first Everyday Bible School (VBS). That first VBS began with an evangelistic thrust of taking the Bible study to where the people were. This first VBS was not for one week like it is now, but it lasted all summer.

From that first VBS, summer Bible school for children morphed into a one-week only event and spread across the country and the world! In 1907, the very first VBS in Pennsylvania was held in Philadelphia. In 1937, Vacation Bible Schools first started to be promoted in numerous foreign nations. In 1992, Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools hit an enrollment record of 3,709,174 but had dropped to 3,000,000 by 2009. At that time, approximately 10 percent of participants identified themselves as unchurched.

Unfortunately, studies indicate that VBS is on the decline. *Barna Research* found that 81% of U.S. churches offered VBS in 1997, while only 68% did so in 2012. We in KBA cannot let loose of the reigns as long as we have the freedom to keep VBS going! After studying PA statistics, there is a direct correlation between the number of kids at VBS to the number of baptisms each year in many of our churches. Every year, kid's lives are changed for eternity in VBSs held around the globe. My life was changed by VBS and possibly yours as well. If you attended a VBS when you were a child, you understand firsthand of the importance of VBS.

VBS is still a much-needed evangelical tool in our present day. Most kids who attend VBS each summer, and even some of the kids who attend church, do not understand the good news of the gospel. This is the gospel, that God has a plan and loves us, we have a sin problem, but God has a remedy for our sin – in that he sent His Son, Jesus to die and pay the penalty for our sins, and so we have a response to believe in and receive Jesus' forgiveness that He offers. Let's remember to pray for all these children hearing the good news this summer through the hundreds of VBS weeks happening this summer!

Blessings! Brad

News from KBA:

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

Pastors' Wives continue to meet by Zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30pm.

The TellGate Grill is available for your church to use for an evangelistic outreach event. Contact the KBA office for additional information.

The KBA Evangelism Tent has been ordered and will be available for your church to use during events such as: festivals, carnivals, street fairs, or sporting events. Reserve the tent for your next outreach event by calling or emailing the KBA office.

Pastor's and Wives Barbecue KBA's annual BBQ was once again held at Jeanine and Brad's home on May 25th. Good food, excellent desserts, ongoing conversations and enjoyable fellowship.



KBA Pastors and Wives attend the SBC Convention

A group of pastors, and some wives, attended the SBC convention with Brad and Jeanine. Don and Debby Henrikson, Jeff and Becky Sours, Ed Roman and Tim Parker. Ryan Day, pastor at Wrightsdale Baptist Church also stayed with the group in Indianapolis. Fanny Grote, from Country and Town also attended the WMU Annual Celebration and SBC Convention.

83 newly appointed IMB missionaries joined in a sending celebration during the annual convention. Dr. Paul Chitwood, IMB President stated after their appointments "May we not waiver in our pledge to support them through our prayers and giving nor in sending reinforcements to serve alongside them. We've made a promise we must keep, together, that we'll hold the ropes for those we are sending and for the thousands they are joining around the world."

WMU: SAVE the DATE: The WMU Annual Meeting will be held November 2nd 2023, 10:00am to 3:00pm at Red Land Baptist Church. The annual meeting will be for girls in 6th grade through 12th grade and for all adults.

KBA Financial Update

2024 May Income: \$ 7,477.35

2024 May Expenses: \$12,446.48

Job Openings:

Stewartstown Baptist Church is looking for an hourly part time Administrative Assistant position. SBC is located at 18631 Five Forks Road, in Stewartstown Pennsylvania and has been engaged in reaching the community and serving believers for over 40 years. The Administrative Assistant will work Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 2:00 pm with a half-hour lunch. The position affords 30 hours of paid time off accrued per year after completing a 6-month probationary period. Salary will be commensurate to knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience. The salary range set for this position is \$17 to \$20 per hour. Applicants should submit their resume to office@stewbaptist.org for consideration.

Chambersburg Baptist Church is seeking resumes for a full-time pastor.

The Pastor, as Shepherd, provides leadership for all functions of the church. He will provide administrative oversight for all business aspects of the church including supervision of the paid staff. The Pastor will be responsible to the congregation, coordinating through the Deacons and appropriate committees. For additional information go to: <https://keystonebaptist.net/job-openings.html>.

Penn State: New Life with Eric Reiber

Eric shares: "The building pictured is the Spiritual Center on campus. New Life has an office here and our main Tuesday gathering meets in room 212 of this building as well. A space like



this serves PSU in interfaith concepts which makes it one of the most diverse spaces on the campus.

Pray for our group to be alive at 6pm every Tuesday this fall. May students worship God with their whole being in room 212. Pray for us as we go through the Sermon on the Mount this fall to teach and proclaim to the best of our ability with the power of the Spirit. Pray for minds and hearts to be open to hear from God in that space."

Keystone Baptist Association:

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