

January
2025



News From Our Churches:

Chambersburg Baptist Church

Held their candlelight Christmas Eve service with more than seventy in attendance. Pastor John Healey read scripture, and the church sang Christmas carols in between the scriptures. They ended the service with singing Silent Night and lighting candles.



First Baptist Church of Hanover

Pastor Gary Buchman had the honor of baptizing a couple who, although Christians for many years, had not been baptized as adults. Gordon and Winnie, being an octogenarian and a nonagenarian, were also the most senior members Pastor Gary has had that privilege of performing this ordinance for. In addition to being new members, Gordon had been Pastor Gary's shop teacher in the 1960's making this an even more joyous celebration for them both.



Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto) hosted their CHAMPS and Youth Groups to a Christmas Party. Pastor John Buhr stated that "A good time was had by all."



Living Faith Evangelical (Littlestown)

Pastor Jim Gould (center) baptized Heather and Kyle on December 29th. The baptism was held for this mother and son at Memorial Baptist Church.

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](#) continues to meet by Zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30pm.

[Annual Church Letters](#) are due by February 15th, 2025. Each church should have received a paper copy of their letter from BRN (Baptist Resource Network.) Churches can also submit the profiles online by going to: www.sbcworkspace.com and entering your username and password. If you do not have a username or password, let us know and we can send them to you.

[Artificial Intelligence Seminar: AI in Action: Practical Tools for Pastors](#) was held on January 21st. If you missed it, the recording is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpLgx-73OWU>.

Pray for:

- KBA churches. Pray for their pastors and their church staff.
- Wanda Edmondson (pastor's wife at Family of God). She will be having surgery in early February.
- Rev. and Mrs. Chris Ammons. Chris' mother Hazel passed away on January 11th.
- Karen Gerstmyer as she continues to battle cancer.
- Our new KBA pastors: Dr. Bill Burcher (Fellowship, Fairfield), Rev. Larry Baker (Mt. Wolf Community) and Rev. John Healy (Chambersburg).
- Pastor Search Committee at Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Continue to pray for Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker's (Stewartstown Baptist Church) grandson. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.

[Congratulations to](#) Brad and Jeanine Horne. Their eldest daughter Sarah and husband Ian welcomed their first child, Wesley Ian Crosby, on Christmas Eve. Wesley arrived at 9:21pm. He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces and was 20 ¾ inches long. Brad and Jeanine went to Tennessee to meet their first grandchild and enjoyed being with all their all children during the Christmas season.



Word from Brad: Evangelism Thought: Listening for the Faint Cry

One morning, I was tossing and turning, half-asleep, when a faint sound stirred me. It lasted only a second, but it was enough to wake me up. Lying there, I wondered what it could be. Could it be our neighbors outside, or maybe a change in the weather? Was it the wind chime from next door? My curiosity grew as I waited in the quiet to hear it again.

After about 20 seconds, I heard the sound once more—brief but clear. This time, I knew exactly what it was. It was our smoke detector, signaling a low battery at the worst possible time: 4:15 a.m. I got out of bed and followed the sound down the hallway. With each beep, it grew louder, leading me to our guest room, where the smoke detector was “politely” reminding me it needed a new battery.

This situation got me thinking about evangelism. How does this relate? In the same way that I was woken by a faint but persistent noise, there are people around us, crying out quietly—faint cries we may barely notice unless we are truly listening. Many are reaching the end of their own strength, having tried to navigate life without God. Their “battery” is running low, and they need an alternative, eternal source of power and hope. Just as the battery in my smoke detector had come to the end of itself, there are people who have come to the end of themselves and realized that life is not about them.

Just as I had to wake up and take action to stop the smoke detector’s alarm, we as Christians need to wake up and respond to these faint cries around us. These individuals need help to find the strength that comes from a relationship with God. They need us to guide them toward the Holy Spirit, who provides the true “power source” they’re searching for. They need to know the way to forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Six Principles for Evangelism Inspired by the Smoke Detector (And the Holy Spirit):

1. We Must Wake Up

Just as the sound jolted me from sleep, we need to be alert and aware of those around us who are quietly crying out for help.

2. We Must Listen Attentively

Pay attention to subtle signs. Like “sleeping with one eye open,” we must be ready to hear even the faintest hint of need.

3. We Must Go to Them

The cry won’t come to us. We must be willing to go where people are and meet them in their need. This is being incarnational—meeting people in their reality.

4. We Must Be Prepared

Preparation is key. Just as I had a spare 9-volt battery on hand, we must be spiritually prepared to respond when someone is ready to hear about Christ.

5. We Must Take Action

It’s not enough to hear the need; we have to intervene. Share the good news of Christ boldly, offering the hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

6. Remember the Limits of the Illustration

Word from Brad (Cont.)

Like all analogies, this one has its limits. But I hope it serves as a reminder: just as I responded to the smoke detector's low-battery alert, we must respond to the spiritual "low battery" of those around us.

Let's be attentive to the needs around us, ready to bring light and life to those whose strength is running low.

Blessings! Brad

2024 KBA Financial Update

2024 Total Church Income: \$ 126,491.24

2024 Total Expenses: \$136,632.52

2024 Guidestone: \$144,285.07

New Life -Penn State: Eric Reiber

Week One for the spring is in the books!

We hosted a welcome back ice cream fellowship at a local coffee spot called Fraser Street Commons, did our Tuesday New Life, and got Breakfast Crew going this morning. The big blessing of the week was having a 4 person Vermont mission team here to join us as their semester starts next week. They joined in and became a part of



the New Life PSU family for a few days. Please say a prayer of thankfulness to God for us. It was a great first week! God is clearly working on the hearts of students.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering We asked KBA churches if they participated in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in December. We heard from 17 of our churches with 13 of them sharing that they had participated. These 13 churches gave \$46,661.36. Every dollar that was given to this offering will go directly to missionaries serving across the world for projects and needs.



Weekend to Remember
by FamilyLife

Family Life will be hosting their annual marriage getaway on February 28th through March 2nd at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. The cost is \$175.00 per person.

There is a special rate for pastors and their wives. For additional information go to:

<https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember>.