

February 21, 2008

Cooperating Church Annual Report Form for 2007

<http://annualreport.abcis.org>

Dear Church Clerk, Moderator or Pastor:

Just about everyone loves a party and most especially when that party is for them or someone they love and care for. Can you imagine the scene now? The invitations have been sent, the cake is made and the places are set for the guests to be honored. The hour approaches for the party to begin and no one shows up. Minutes and hours begin to tick away. Phone calls are made, hoping to catch someone at home, checking to see if anyone from that house might be coming. Eventually a few people come to the door. They think they have the right night but they aren't sure. They thought they'd put in an appearance but they made no special preparations. They found an old present in the back of the closet and they brought it along so they had something to give but they can't remember exactly what was in or if it's still good. That sounds like a terrible party, doesn't it? How do you celebrate without guests? It's hard to honor the guests when all you have is old presents to offer that no one has looked at for years.

That's what happens when we send out the annual report forms. The invitation is sent, sometimes twice. Phone calls are made following up with churches, hoping someone wants to be part of the celebration. We want to be able to thank churches for what they have done in giving. We need the information from every church. Many times the smaller churches surpass the bigger churches in per capita giving, but if the present (*annual report information*) is old, the "guests of honor", may never be recognized.

Are churches still baptizing members? Are there new youth pastors that should be contacted for student ministry events? Did any church in Pennsylvania or Delaware increase in their membership, number of services, or pastoral staffing? We don't know without **your gift** of your **annual report**.

Please R.S.V.P. for the party! We want to celebrate with you.

Partnering in Ministry,

Caryl J. Casey  
Treasurer