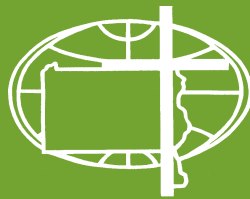


# Notes & News, Thoughts & Views



For ABCOPAD Churches from Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith  
Regional Executive Pastor; Regional Pastor for Mission and  
Communication — 570-435-2001 — [msmsmail@abcopad.com](mailto:msmsmail@abcopad.com)

Volume 34, Number 3

March, 2024

## Mission Trips

Mark 6:7-13 (NIV) Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

In Last month’s Notes and News article, I began to share some of the essential lessons we learn when engaging in hands-on missions. I believe Jesus uses hands-on missions to cultivate spiritual formation. Fairly early in the Gospel, Jesus sends out his disciples to experience Mission, knowing they can put into practice what they have been learning from Jesus’ teaching. Jesus wants the disciples to have not only education knowledge but also experiential knowledge or wisdom.

Just like Jesus’ original Twelve Disciples, Jesus calls us to embark on mission endeavors to provide opportunities for us to gain experiential knowledge (wisdom) amid spiritual formation.

Most, if not all, mission team members will experience an obstacle or crisis that will try to prevent them from going on a mission trip. Phone calls from mission team members telling me about a crisis in their family, at their job, or some other significant obstacle, causing them to question their call to the mission field. I’ve had team members who recently lost a loved one or had been fired from their jobs tell me that they cannot be on the team due to circumstances in their lives. God has shown me time and time again that Mission Teams are a unique therapeutic environment for healing. If I can convince a mission team member to move forward on a mission trip, it is not long before the hurting individual can take their focus off their own problems and begin helping others. When we take our eyes off our circumstances, God can bring healing. Coupled with the fact that most mission team members are a great source of encouragement and support, I consistently hear people tell me how therapeutic it was for them to go and serve others. Jesus often uses mission trips to bring about spiritual, emotional, and even physical healing for team members, even as they do the same for the people they are there to serve.

*continued on Page 2*

We also grow our cultural competency and sensitivity during a mission endeavor. Whether from a rural or suburban environment to an urban setting or from the United States to some other country, we realize God's Kingdom is MUCH LARGER than our small Christian community. Experiencing different styles of worship gives us an appreciation of God's diversity; hearing praise songs in different languages and different styles helps us better understand our brothers and sisters in Christ who are not like us. One of my favorite parts of a mission trip is taking the team to a worship service on Sunday morning. Even when there is a language barrier, the mission team will always tell me how much they appreciate seeing the movement of God's Spirit in the service. Mission Team members learn words are not required to experience God's presence. Our cultural competency and understanding of the Kingdom of God increase when we serve on a mission trip.

Finally, Mission Trips increase our capacity to be flexible and adaptable. NOTHING ever goes as planned on a mission trip. NOTHING. Schedules change. Projects are revised. Weather alters the plan. Supplies don't arrive. Flexibility and adaptability become imperative. For many people in our culture, we are driven by the clock and by our schedules. It does not take long on a mission trip to understand time is not viewed the same way in other countries, and people are often not driven by a schedule. Our capacity to come up with a Plan B, Plan C, and even a Plan D grows when we serve on a mission trip.

By now, I hope you can see how Jesus uses mission trips for Spiritual Formation. If you are thinking about a mission trip in 2024, let ABCOPAD help you put one together. We would love the opportunity to partner with you on a Mission Endeavor. Our staff has lots of experience with mission trips and hands-on Mission. Thank you for your partnership in ministry, and I hope to see you on the mission field soon.

God Bless.  
Mark

Dear Friends,  
Most of you know me from the many ways I've been involved in Regional Ministry here in ABCOPAD. Perhaps we first met when I was watching over the ABCOPAD Prayer Chain and doing email messages with web updates. We might have met on a national or international mission endeavor or a disaster relief trip. Maybe you remember me from an ACTS Mission Class or, most notably, just showing up with my camera or cell phone to take pictures during a congregational or association event. It has been a joy serving our Region for quite a few years and developing relationships along the way. If we've not met before, I hope our paths will cross sometime soon.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the last few years as our Region went through a significant season of transition. It has been a long journey, and through the journey, God has been teaching us and preparing us for this new season of ministry. I want to thank the ABCOPAD Search Committee and the ABCOPAD Regional Board for never losing hope

and for remaining faithful every step of the way. Moving into this new season of ministry, we continue to embrace our vision to create healthy partnerships with pastors, churches, and the wider ABC Family to fulfill Christ's Mission in the world. There is much to do as we move forward. In collaboration with our ABCOPAD Executive Team, we will determine the best way to staff for Regional Ministry. Whatever the next iteration of staff configuration looks like, including Geographic Pastoral Servants (GPS), Regional Ministry Associates (RMA), and Associate Regional Pastors, we will take all we have learned along with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to find the best way possible to serve the congregations and pastors of our Region. While there are many responsibilities in Regional Ministry, you can rest assured I will continue to lean into my passions for Mission and Evangelism, sharing the Good News of Jesus and serving as his hands and feet. Thank you again for your encouragement, support, and prayers. I am excited to discover how Jesus will use our Region to advance his Kingdom in the months and years ahead.



**Rev. Kelly Legg**  
**South Central Geographic**  
**Pastoral Servant**  
**pastorkdl@gmail.com**

I've been meeting with a younger woman for 5.5 years. Every other month or so we get a cup of coffee and talk. Our conversation rarely dips under the surface. If I try to steer it there, her guard goes up quicker than you can blink. So we chat about work, the weather and upcoming trips. Each time I ask about her prayer life & how she's growing in Christ. Every time her answer is noncommittal and vague.

About a year ago she asked why I keep asking. "It's not like I ever have much to say about my relationship with Jesus, after all." "That's true," I replied, "but I keep hoping that one of these days you're going to get tired of a lukewarm faith and you'll want it to be different. When you do, you'll do something different."

She just stared. Maybe that was too direct (I probably slept through that class in pastor school), but I meant it lovingly. If you want things to stay the same, do the same thing. Want it to change? Do something different.

Two months ago, we got coffee again. We chatted about the weather and work. Then I asked about how she's growing in Christ. She grinned shyly and said, "I was waiting for you to get around to that one. I actually have an answer this time." Turns out she decided to do something different. She opened her Bible for the first time and started reading it, asked a few close friends to meet with her regularly to discuss what they were reading and encourage each other, and is taking tentative, radical steps to follow His leading. She did something different. And now she's different.

I thought of that this morning while talking with a faithful, wonderful lay leader in one of our churches. She lamented the truth that for years now her church held to a "if we host it, they will come" mentality and had lost their drive to engage their neighbors with the love & truth of Christ. The Gospel doesn't move their hearts, so they move no further than the pews. After listening to her complaints for a bit I asked, "what if you decided to do something different. What if, instead of lamenting, you move out of the pew? You commit to meet with the pastor (who has been preaching & praying the Gospel powerfully) to pray for renewal? You start looking for opportunities to live & speak the Gospel to your neighbors? Do you think you'd become different and your church might, too, if you did something different?"

Maybe that's where you or your church are at. You're tired of things being the same. Are you ready to do something different? The steps don't need to be radical, just faithful. Perhaps yours will be to register for the Biennial Leadership Conference and simply show up to hear what the Spirit has to say about missional engagement with your community. Who knows? Do something different and see how God makes you (and your church) different for His glory.

~ Kelly



In the fall of 2023, your ABCOPAD Women's Leadership Team asked this question: 'WHAT WILL YOU PUT IN YOUR OVER & ABOVE GIVING JAR?' *Suggestions for moments to add to your giving jar included:*

- Celebration – add a coin!
- Found coins on the ground!
- Laundry money – those coins that are missed when cleaning out pockets and find their way into the wash!
- Changing coats? What's in the pocket?
- Switching purses for the season? What was left behind last season and you lived without and can spare for your jar?
- Teach tithing with the kids – as chore money is earned, have them put something in the jar!
- An unexpected financial windfall? Give thanks to God by adding to your jar!
- A blessing that causes praise? Give your jar a little jingle – make a noisy offering!

While we don't know what motivated each person to contribute, whether one of these suggestions or any other that may have been laid upon your generous hearts, we do know this! Your generosity has caused leadership to celebrate and feel abundantly blessed because of your participation in the Over & Above Offering and we want to share our JOY with you!

Through January 2024, YOU have contributed in excess of \$5,800.00! Gifts to this offering will stay *in* our Region and be designated for disbursement *by* our Region. What a blessing to be part of our amazing Region of PA and DE! Thank you all! You may designate your giving to 'Over & Above' by a check written to 'ABWMOPAD' with 'O&A' in the memo line and mail to our treasurer or online at the link below.

Sally Breski, ABWMOPAD Treasurer  
1381 Butler Road Worthington, PA 16262

Online: [Contributions and Payments \(abcopad.org\)](https://www.abcopad.org)

On February 12, 2024 over 50 ladies of our Region participated in our First Virtual Circle meeting. The Zoom meeting had not concluded before the question, 'When will we be doing this again!?' began. To answer that, 'Soon!' Watch for announcements about our Second Virtual Circle meeting!

**'FEED MY SHEEP, CARE FOR MY LAMBS'**

2023-24 ABCOPAD WOMEN'S MINISTRIES REGION  
PROJECT UPDATE

And again, we must share this JOY with you! Nearly \$4,000.00 has already been sent to Bill and Ann Clemmer to be used in the care of orphaned or displaced children of Goma. Full details on this project and how to give can be found here:

[5 2023\\_2024 REGION PROJECT FLIER.pdf](#)  
([abcopad.org](https://www.abcopad.org))



*Good Friday celebrates the day our Lord died for our sins on the cross. At one point He said from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He meant that God had accepted His work on the cross as the penalty for our sins.*

*Christ's death on our behalf is the reason God can forgive us and still be just. And His death teaches us the depth and breadth that there should be in our forgiveness of one another.*

*While that holy Friday was tremendous, it was only a prelude to Sunday morning when He was raised from the dead. Godly women had come to see His tomb, but angels made the glorious announcement, "He has risen!" (Luke 24:6). His resurrection guaranteed that we, too, will be raised, if we are believers and obeyers of His Word.*

*As you celebrate the truth that Jesus came from Heaven to redeem you, are you reflecting His likeness to those around you?*

-Billy Graham

**COMING EVENTS**

**April 19-20, 2024**

Leadership Team/Women at Large Spring Planning

**May 4, 2024**

South Western PA Women's Event

*Information and Registration online link*

[https://www.abcopad.org/Events/Practice-](https://www.abcopad.org/Events/Practice-Hospitality.aspx)

[Hospitality.aspx](https://www.abcopad.org/Events/Practice-Hospitality.aspx)

**June 20-22, 2024**

ABGirls/Young Ladies Retreat at Camp Hebron

**August 16-18, 2024**

2024 THRIVE RETREAT at Camp Hebron

**October 17-19, 2024**

ABCOPAD Biennial in Altoona, PA

Questions about these scheduled events, please contact

*President* Sue MacDonald 717-682-8516 or

*Spiritual Enrichment Coor/Director* Jodie Vasbinder 814-845-2355

# The Essentials of Suicide Prevention for Busy Pastors

April 4, 2024, 7-9 p.m. • Register by March 28

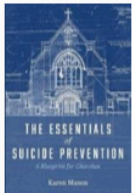


**Instructor: Dr. Karen Mason**

**Professor of Counseling and Psychology / Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary**

## One-Day FREE Event

The U.S. suicide rate has steadily increased since 1999, though it briefly decreased during the pandemic. About 6% to 11% of your congregation may be thinking about suicide. Given the increasing numbers of lives lost to suicide and the presence of suicide in churches, it is imperative that pastors are equipped to help prevent suicide. In this course you will learn all relevant and basic aspects of suicide prevention. We will discuss the unique role of faith in protecting congregants from suicide. We will develop a theology of suicide and life (reasons for staying alive). You will learn how to help a suicidal congregant who reaches out to you for help. You will plan how to help loved ones and a community following a suicide death. We will also discuss how to develop a personal plan for self-care.



### ***The Essentials of Suicide Prevention: A Blueprint for Churches***

This book will provide the resources needed to help prevent suicide in a church, even when a church does not want to start one more program.

Visit the ABCOPAD website: [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org) to register.



For more information on this event or WIM, contact Pastor Apryl Crossover-Glunt, Regional Ministry Associate - Women in Ministry ([aglunt@abcopad.com](mailto:aglunt@abcopad.com) / 814-259-3083)

As we look to a new season of ministry in ABCOPAD and our churches, we hope you are planning to join us for our 2024 Biennial Leadership Conference, with Rev. Dr. Michael Beck. Michael will be leading us through discussion and interactive exercises that will help us apply his teaching to our individual ministry contexts, and allow us to take home action items to help our churches grow and thrive! We are asking that each pastor bring a key lay leader and we are offering a significant discount on early bird registration AND scholarship funds for a key church lay leader to join you!

## “RENEWAL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH”

*Biennial Leadership  
Conference*

OCTOBER 17-19, 2024

Join us in Altoona at the Blair County Convention Center for this year's conference.



Keynote Speaker  
and Facilitator  
**REV. DR. MICHAEL  
BECK**

(Register early, funds are limited) For more details and to register visit: [www.abcopad.org/Events/ABCOPAD-BiennialLeadership-Conference](http://www.abcopad.org/Events/ABCOPAD-BiennialLeadership-Conference)

## News From our Associations ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org))

### Allegheny

**FBC, Emporium** has been very busy, under the guidance of interim minister, Rev. Rusty Horning, who grew up in our church. Looking back over the last several months, we have been able to help plan and implement Community VBS where we asked ministers from our local churches to take turns telling the Bible story. A baptism was held in September for one of our members. The church is instrumental in planning a Trunk or Treat event where we were able to reach 300-400 children and share the light of Jesus! Another fun event is held with our ABWM group is our quarterly socials. At each event, we hold a basket/bag auction. Members bring a “white elephant” or other gift hidden in a basket or bag. The bidding is intense and monies raised are used for our mission projects. Our search committee continues to work with FBC of Port Allegheny in pursuit of a full-time minister.

### Bradford

Have some time to spare? Trying to get yourself out of the gutter? Then this might be right up your alley! The folk at **Lighthouse of Faith, Canton**, had a great time during a recent Family Fun Day. It was a lively afternoon at the bowling alley, as many pinned their hopes on a perfect game. Aim... release... pray... and strike! Hey, that’s how they roll!

In February, the **Federated Church in East Smithfield** planned a lovely Sweethearts Dinner. The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated (candles and roses!) for the occasion. A delicious meal was prepared and there was time for singing, riddles, and conversation around the tables.

### Central Union

Gospel Fest 2024, at **Lower Providence Church**, was an awesome afternoon of praise, testimony and gospel music. To say that the church was rockin’ is putting it mildly!

### Delaware

19 students and 5 adults from **Calvary, Newark**, participated in our region’s winter snow tubing retreat at Camp Ichthus in Palmerton PA. The retreat was filled with outdoor games, fellowship, worship, small group Bible study, food, and sonic snow tubing at Blue Mountain ski resort.

**FBC, Dover**, continues to serve the community with its monthly commitment to provide meals for 40+ men who find shelter at the Interfaith Mission for Housing.

### Harrisburg

**West Shore, Camp Hill**, is excited to announce that, after several months of behind-the-scenes work, they rolled out the WSBC Church Center App last month! The app allows members to log-in to one platform to give online, sign-up for groups like Sunday school classes, register for events such as women’s breakfasts or potlucks, find meeting agendas & minutes from boards, and even submit prayer requests. There’s even a picture directory and links to their livestream services, as well as a way for parents to check-in their kids for Sunday morning children’s ministries.

**FBC, Lancaster**, is now officially **Thrive Community Church**. New Name — Same People — New Vision.

### Northumberland

Folk at **First English, Bloomsburg**, take scriptures seriously! The author of Ecclesiastes writes: “So I recommend having fun because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life”. And the next thing you know — there’s a party for Mardi Gras!

At **Lewisburg Church**, Pastor John Colatch is leading a Lenten Study focused on “Creation Care” from a biblical perspective.

### Oil Creek

It was a “Gospel Jam” at **Centerville Community** — an informal evening of fellowship with lots and lots and lots of singing ..... and (what else!) food!

### Pittsburgh

At **Woodlawn American Baptist, Aliquippa**, Coffeehouse Worship takes place on the fourth Thursday of each month. It’s a relaxing evening of worship music, coffee & snacks, and fellowship. Worship music is led by the praise band with occasional breaks for prayer, sharing, and meditation on scripture.

Like many churches, **Mt. Olive, Canonsburg**, has been offering “Right Now Media” to its members. This gives access to over 20,000 videos of Christian based authors who share the truth of God’s Word as it relates to everything that you can think of. And, it is available 24/7 to anyone who has an electronic device.

The congregation at **FBC, Monongahela**, celebrated big time as Kevin Zufall was installed as the new pastor. Songs were sung. Prayers were offered. Hands were laid. And a meal was shared. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Charles Fox will be retiring from the **FBC, Pittsburgh**. Chuck has completed over 40 years of ministry — at three churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio and with International Ministries in Thailand. His last Sunday is April 28th. If you would like to attend the celebratory worship service and luncheon following, please contact Ruth Fox (ruthiefox@gmail.com). Thank you!

### Reading

**FBC, Bethlehem**, observed Scout Sunday, as several resident scouts helped out with Sunday morning activities. Eight scouts in the church family represent several troops & pack. The scouts helped get coffee ready, greeted folks at the door, handed out bulletins, read Scripture, and helped pass out cake after service!

### Riverside

**FBC, Lansdale**, hosted their 6th Annual! Chile Cook-Off. There were those who had the chance to show off their cooking skills in a friendly competition, while others who came to satisfy their tastebuds. Flavors were mild, wild, hot, and spicy... all proceeds benefited the 2024 mission trip to La Paz, Mexico

### Ten Mile

Breaking News: At **Jefferson Church** --- The last Sunday of every month is Donut Sunday. Just say'n!

### Wayne Susquehanna

Saw it posted on the Facebook page of **Honesdale Community Church**: "Nerf Gun Battle". I don't know what the rules are, but count me in!

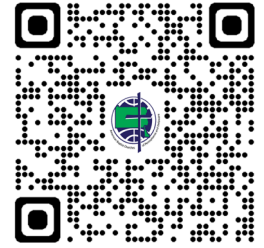
### New Testament Studies

Rev. Scott Jones, Pastor of **FBC, Greensburg**  
Saturdays, March 23 — May 11 — 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

This study covers the entire New Testament including the history and writing which make up its background. Each book will be analyzed as to the setting in which it was written, the author, the group of people to whom it was written, the content, the type(s) of literature contained, and its theology. The Gospel accounts will be examined to see how they relate to each other. The modern text of the New Testament and how it is put together by scholars will also be discussed. For more information visit — [www.actsmistryschool.com](http://www.actsmistryschool.com)



*March comes in like a lion  
and goes out like a lamb!*



	2024	2023
United Mission Basics	\$15,966.00	\$15,703.00
Love Gift	\$314.00	\$797.00
Partners in Ministry	\$45,506.00	\$16,642.00
Over & Above	\$675.00	
Annual Offerings		
AFC	\$153.00	\$159.00
WMO	\$2,420.00	\$5,596.00
RMMO	\$17,201.00	\$12,399.00
OGHS	\$1,458.00	\$3,073.00

*The cumulative comparison figures*

United Mission Basics is ahead for Jan. 2024 by \$263.

The decrease in United Missions (includes UMB and Love Gift) amounts to (\$96) less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received in Jan.

Over & Above is the ABCOPAD Womens Ministry offering.

AFC is behind by (\$6). This decrease amounts to (\$2) less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received in Jan.

Partners in Ministry is ahead by \$28,864. for Jan. PIM received a gift of \$30,063.

In actual dollars, from UM, AFC and PIM, ABCOPAD has received \$29,031. more this Jan.

ABCOPAD Womens Ministry supports ABCOPAD monthly.

**Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead  
one hour on Sunday, March 10!**

**April, 2024 Deadline:**

**Items to be included in the April issue of Notes & News need to arrive by 5 p.m., Thursday, April 4.**

Please send all material to Denise Veselicky via one of the following:

**Mail:** ABCOPAD • 159 N. Bellefield Ave. • Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2609 • **Email:** dveselicky@abcopad.com

**Phone:** 888-687-0883 • **Fax:** 412-687-3941

Thank you! Donna L. Schneff, designer • deeschneff@gmail.com



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# GROWTH POINTS

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With Gary L. McIntosh, D.Min., Ph.D.

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## Reaching Secular People

For over sixty years, George G. Hunter, III, has studied how to reach secular people with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. The following is a summary of his major discoveries.

Churches that reach secular people...

1. Know that people who are not disciples are lost.

People who are not following Christ cannot find abundant life by themselves. They are lost and need to be found. As Donald McGavran said, "It's God's will that his lost children be found and enfolded into local churches."

2. Know that lost people matter to God.

"Authentic evangelism," notes one pastor, "flows from a mindset that acknowledges the ultimate value of people—forgotten people, lost people, wondering people. The highest value is to love them, serve them, and reach them."

3. See their church as a mission to lost people rather than a gathered colony of the faithful.

The local church's main business is mission rather than maintenance; not nurturing Christians but discipling non-Christians. The local church is not called to renewal before reaching out but reaches out in obedience to begin renewal.

4. Have high expectations of their members.

Churches that reach secular people expect their people to worship regularly, give generously, study scripture diligently participate in small groups, ministry with their gifts, and share their faith among family and friends.

5. Know what to change and what to preserve.

Churches that reach secular people are slow to change their theology, but they are quick to change the cultural forms and styles that communicate their theology.

## 6. Understand unchurched people.

The congregation is taught how non-Christians think. People are encouraged to engage in conversation with non-christian friends, family, and associates. They know they must understand unchurched people in order to reach them.

## 7. Accept unchurched people.

People understand that, just as they were once accepted in their own sinfulness, the church is called to reflect God's posture toward sinners— acceptance and compassion. Acceptance is often a prerequisite before unchurched people will consider a new lifestyle. Secular people desire to belong before they believe.

## 8. Use music that is S.L.A.M.

Effective evangelistic churches know what music their secular target audience appreciates. They make celebratuvw worship a priority by focusing on making a S.L.A.M. dunk, that is, in the Style, Language, Aesthetics, and Music of the non-Christians they desire to reach.

## 9. Start new ministries.

No one church or ministry can reach everyone. It takes different churches and different ministries to reach different people. Thus, churches that reach secular people start new programs, groups, and ministries on a regular basis.

## 10. Are focused on sending their people out in mission.

The church is concerned for people beyond its own ministry area. They support missions and missionaries, send their people on short-term mission trips, and give generously to take the gospel to non-Christian people's around the world.

### *Questions to Ask and Answer*

In which of these ten insights does your church excel?

In which do you find your church struggling?

What is one step you can take this year to position your church to better reach secular people?

**Growth Points** is published twelve times a year. Individual subscription is \$29 (US Funds) per year. Permission is granted for use in a local church. Executive subscripsts for wide distribution available for \$150 (US Fundsper year.

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## Partners in Ministry Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World



**Rev. Randy Powell**  
**Northwest GPS**  
**rpowell@abcopad.com**

During this past year, I've had the opportunity, and the responsibility, to work with a number of churches as they worked through transitions to new pastoral leadership, and churches that were in need of help to overcome difficult situations within their community. In both cases, these are chapters in the life of a local church when their vulnerability increases.


Things could take a turn for the worse, if a new pastor isn't found in a timely matter, if the new leadership the church chooses fails to live up to Paul's standard for servant-leaders, or if internal squabbles blow-up and send people running away from the church to protect themselves. It is at moments like these that churches need outside support, encouragement, and wisdom.

The Partners in Ministry offering enables ABCOPAD to provide that support through a variety of mechanisms, including our Geographic Pastoral Servants. We don't have all the answers, nor any particular power that the world might recognize, but we serve the God who has everything our churches need, and that makes all the difference.

## Partners in Ministry Fulfilling Christ's Mission in the World



### You can give to Partners in Ministry...

1. Through your local congregation's weekly offering by designating your gift to ABCOPAD - *Partners in Ministry*.
2. Through ABCOPAD's Online Giving option, available on the Regional website ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. By giving through your mobile device 
4. By sending your check (made payable to ABCOPAD WMS) to:  
ABCOPAD; P.O. Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040

Thank you for your giving to **Partners in Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together in Pennsylvania and Delaware.



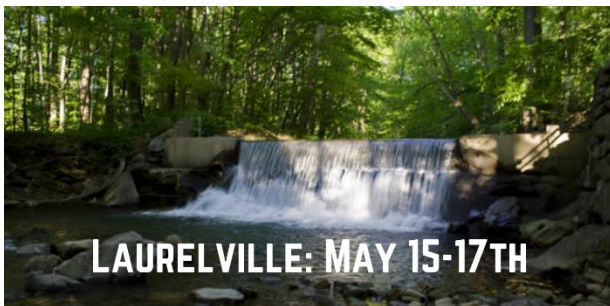
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**American Baptist Churches of  
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**2024 RETREATS**

**“AN INVITATION FROM GOD”**

**OPEN TO PASTORS AND SPOUSES**

**COST: \$150 (INCLUDES MEALS/LODGING)**

**EARLY BIRD RATE: \$125 (UNTIL 3/15)**

**2024 Pastors and Spouses Retreats**

Retreat is a strategic withdrawal from the battle lines, whatever and wherever they may be in your life, to take a breath, physically and spiritually, and reconnect with God. This year, ABCOPAD welcomes you to do precisely that. To intentionally retreat and purposefully say ‘yes’ to God’s invitation to take refuge, to rest & to return encouraged and strengthened to join in His work. We will be led by Rev. Jeni Pedzinski, spiritual director and Director of Mission Mobilization at International Ministries (IM).

Our clergy & spouse retreats provide the space to worship and relax, pray and play. And this year we’ve added a second location in the western part of the state to make the experience even more accessible to all!

Join us at [Laurelville Retreat Center](#) in the western corridor May 15-17 or at [Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Center](#) in New Jersey June 19-21. Cost is \$150/person, providing lodging & 5 meals, and the retreats are open to all ABCOPAD clergy and their spouses. Register before March 15 for an ‘early bird discount’ of \$125/person. Scan the QR Code to register and pay online.

If cost is an issue, please contact Rev. Rob Rice or Rev. Kelly Legg. We have resources to help make it possible for you to come to the retreat.

