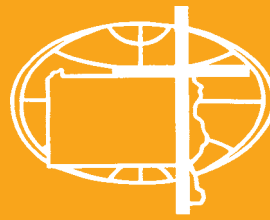


# NOTES & NEWS, THOUGHTS & VIEWS



FOR ABCOPAD CHURCHES FROM  
REGIONAL EXECUTIVE PASTOR REV. FRANK FRISCHKORN

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## GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

As you ALL know, we've just come through the wettest April on record. And if the rain totals of April weren't challenging enough, our country has experienced a record in another weather phenomenon: tornados. Wikipedia writes:

*One of the largest single-system tornado outbreaks in United States history occurred from April 14 to 16, 2011, resulting in at least 155 confirmed tornadoes across 14 states and severe destruction on all three days of the outbreak. A total of 38 people were killed from tornadoes and an additional five people were killed as a result of straight-line winds associated with the storm system. The outbreak of severe weather and tornadoes has led to 43 deaths in the Southern United States. This was the largest number of fatalities in an outbreak in the United States since the 2008 Super Tuesday tornado outbreak, until the April 25 – 28, 2011 tornado outbreak, which killed over 300 people.*

I've never been in a tornado or whirlwind, but it certainly is a life-changing event, isn't it?

As a regional family, we've come through a 'whirlwind' of our own over the last few months, but instead of being a whirlwind of destruction this has been a creative whirlwind

as we've moved forward in our new regional ministry design.

- We've completed a mission trip to Haiti and in so doing have established a partnership with Conscience International to build even MORE rubble houses in future trips (the next is planned for November, by the way!)
- We have seen Jeff Johnson come on as our new Regional Pastor with Congregations, and he's already criss-crossed the region a number of times! ☺
- We've seen our regional staff g-r-o-w as we've trained more than 40 staff adjuncts to provide leadership as Search Committee Consultants, Conflict Mediation Team members and Leadership Learning Community mentors.
- We've had two retreats for Pastoral Leaders and now are anxiously awaiting the start of the Leadership Learning Communities next month.

It's been a whirlwind ... but how exciting to see all of this come together!

At it's heart, our reason for establishing Adjunct Staff is quite simply to help free up our Regional Pastors to strategically serve in the three areas of our regional vision — building healthy partnerships with Congregations, Pastoral Leaders

and our wider ABC Family to fulfill Christ's Mission in the world. More and more, we believe that the ministry we share together has to be about challenging pastors and churches to honestly grapple with what it means to be Salt and Light in the midst of this ever-changing world, and that a 'business as usual' mindset simply will not work if we are serious about extending God's Kingdom in the contexts where God is calling us.

To that end ...

- Our 10 Leadership Learning Communities will be challenging pastors to honestly consider the insights of 10 different authors who have written very pointedly about issues related to leadership transformation, while also building quality relationships with one another.
- Congregations will be challenged to explore what it means to be missionally focused in life with their communities and the lost of the world, rather than seeking ways to simply maintain their corporate hold on what has been.
- Youth leaders will be equipped to reach young people in light of the ever-changing culture, and ABCOPAD's youth ministry will reach out beyond our borders through the upcoming Puerto Rican Mission Trip.

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- Congregations will be confronted with the changing climate of stewardship in our world today, as well as the rich possibilities of partnerships in mission throughout the world.
- We will also be anxious to partner with leaders and congregations to continue developing Ministry Teams throughout the region. God's Spirit is alive and

well in our regional family, and the LORD continues to give vision and passion for mission and ministry, and we want to help you to see those passions take root.

The 'winds of change' certainly have been blowing in our midst, but I am excited to see where God is going to take us. I am hopeful, because I take God at

His Word. The LORD said to Jeremiah and I believe He says to us as well:

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11

Grateful to partner in ministry with you,  
*Frank*



**REV. MARK MAHSERJIAN-SMITH**  
**REGIONAL PASTOR FOR**  
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Ministry funding is challenging in our world today. For many congregations in our culture, the methods used to fund ministry have not changed in over 50 years. Perhaps you can identify with this process. In September and October the Trustees or the church council develop a budget that will cover the cost of ministry for the next year. The budget is then presented to the congregation to inform the church on how much it will cost to do ministry. Often this future budget is simply a reworking of the previous year's budget, seeking to maintain the current ministry of the church (no thought for the future). Those that create this budget are usually applauded if they are able to lower the budget or at the very least come close to the previous year's figure. The budget is distributed, believing it is sufficient to inform the congregation of the church's need and then they wait for the money to roll in. A pastor may (or may not) be encouraged to do the "once a year" stewardship sermon and tell people they need to give out of a sense of loyalty and duty. This is a method that comes out of a business model made popular in the 1940s and 1950s as an effective way to fund ministry. While our culture has changed dramatically, for most churches the way ministry funding is accomplished has not.

One of those changes in our culture has been the growth of non-profit organizations seeking charitable contributions. In the

'40s and '50s, the only non-profit operating in a community was the church. There was little or no competition for the non-profit dollar. A church merely had to present the need and expect people to give. Today, most people in our churches receive multiple weekly requests for donations. The Red Cross, United Way, The American Cancer Society and many others send mail or make phone calls asking for a financial gift. These requests come in regularly throughout the year. While other non-profits have no problem seeking financial contributions all year long, the church often limits its requests to once a year and is even embarrassed to ask then. Also note, none of the organizations mentioned above simply send their budget and ask for a donation. They effectively share stories of how the work they are doing is changing lives and making a difference, then asking the donor to become a partner in that work and saying thank you, rapidly after a gift is received (often included in the thank you is an opportunity to send yet another gift.) As the church is doing God's work in the world, church leaders should never be too scared or ashamed to ask people to give. Throughout the year the church needs to remind the congregation how their gifts are making a difference for the kingdom, as well as how important it is to continue to contribute to kingdom work. If your church is struggling with ministry funding in today's culture I am anxious to help you to find ways to become more effective in underwriting ministry in your local church. Thank you so much for your support of our Regional Ministry through Partners In Ministry. Your gifts make it possible for all Regional Pastors to come alongside churches and pastors, in order to be more effective in ministry in our world.



**REV. KEVIN WALDEN**  
**REGIONAL PASTOR WITH**  
**PASTORAL LEADERS**  
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I am privileged to report that the pastoral retreats went great! We had 65 of the Region's pastors involved in the two events! One pastor said, "I expected the retreat to be good, I didn't expect it to be great, but it was. I really had no expectation that it would be life-changing, but it was ... I will never think about friendships in the same

way." Dr. Spitzer did a great job explaining the importance of friendships and in showing us how to determine which friendships will last, as well as having an appreciation for treating the relationship with God in a very careful and intentional manner. We need each other in our walk with Christ, especially in regard to helping us have Christ-like friendships. "A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NLT)

Starting in June the Leadership Learning Communities will begin meeting. These groups of pastoral leaders from across the region will begin to study the ten leadership books chosen by

the Regional Pastoral Staff. Dr. Spitzer's new Judson Press book, *Making Friends, Making Disciples*, is our first read. The goal of these "LLC" groups is to encourage each other and at the same time grow in our understanding of how God is moving in the world today. To discover this, we'll be studying some books that highlight what other pastoral leaders have discovered in their settings. We are not looking for programs or methods, which may be challenging to replicate in our settings. Rather, we are looking for ideas and attitudes of faithful peers, who studied God's Word, followed His call, and experienced God's blessing — even through their mistakes. "As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

I hope you read Jeff Johnson's last article in Notes and News. I'm going to spend a couple of issues talking about the Pastor as Visionary. In his first acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, the then Candidate Bill Clinton quoted from Proverbs: "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but happy is [the person] who keeps the law." Proverbs 29:18 (NAS) He didn't say where the quote was from, but I knew it was Scripture. I jumped up from my chair and ran to my Bible to find the quote. This is an important Bible verse for pastors and congregations. If the pastor, as the called leader of the church, does not provide the visionary direction that God

puts upon their heart for that congregation, someone will rise up and provide a vision. If it is not the pastor, it will often lead to significant conflict.

No one leader in the church has the opportunities to communicate vision like the pastor. No other leader has a group of people gathered together like the pastor does on Sunday morning with the expectation that God will speak through this person — no matter the size of the church. Very few others have this amount of influence. The pastor preaches the vision that God has put upon their heart for the congregation. The pastor teaches the vision. The pastor has the opportunity to use written communication, emails, the church website, pastoral blogs, pod casts, etc., to communicate the vision. The pastor has the opportunity to share this vision in relationship settings with the congregation (i.e., visits, phone calls, potlucks, game night, etc.).

Pastors, you are a major portion of the vision of ABCOPAD. We are prayerfully working to encourage and equip you to communicate the vision God has put upon your heart for the congregation you are called to serve. The pastoral retreats we have just completed are just the beginning of the unfolding of this process.



**REV. ERIC KRAIHANZEL**  
**REGIONAL PASTOR FOR**  
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"Born Again" – As we gathered around a campfire at the pastor's conference at Camp Ichthus, I looked up into the trees and noticed what seemed to be hundreds of little branches with thousands of tiny buds ready to pop with beautiful green leaves. An amazing work of God is done every year as trees seem to be born again with new life as new leaves dress the branches to make the tree look complete again. Have we seen new life in our churches? Have we seen evidence of new life about to spring forth? Have we seen people become complete again?

My wife, who is amazing by the way, and my kids have been doing an amazing work bringing new families and friends to church. One of these families is definitely unchurched and not too keen on how we "think" we should do church. Last Sunday, during communion, their youngest son who is 3, wanted to share in communion. Well, he wanted his share of the bread and the juice because apparently he was hungry. He took a helping of bread and as the juice came by the parents gave him some juice too. The mother and the father and I talked later in the week and she felt bad but wanted to keep her 3 year old quiet. As I listened, and assured them it was okay, what she was sharing was amazing and then the conversation turned to how they like the church, activities for the boys at our camp, etc. ... I was seeing buds of new life beginning to sprout.

Two years ago this family was in shambles and the father was in deep trouble with the law and today it is wonderful to share

that through prayer and faithfulness from a few families in the community, this family is in a healing process and learning about the God who cares about them unconditionally. How did we begin to reach out to this family? There are lots of angles to the story but it was through our friendships we gained their trust and an ear to hear how good it is to know Jesus. And ...

As I sit at the Pastor's conference hearing Rev. Lee Spitzer talk about friendships and discipleship, I am reminded that this family did not come to church just because we asked them — they came because they knew we cared about them. For the past four years we have been getting to know this family at a deeper level through my boys. My son, Nate, has become friends with their oldest. My son, Jake, is friends with the middle son. It has taken years and lots of prayer and now by God's hand they are coming regularly to church.

I hope in the future to share with you how this family made decisions to follow Christ and how they participated in believer's baptism. But let us remember it is all beginning with the hope of being born again. My wife and I see little buds on the tree ready to bloom. Pray with me for this family and other families in your community who want someone to just care about them and be their friend. Who knows, maybe your neighbor next door needs someone to care for them and maybe they are waiting to be asked — "Would you like to go to church with me?"

ABCOPAD Student Ministries NEWS AND INFORMATION

July 15-17, 2011

ABCOPAD Girl's House Party at Camp Ichthus

July 30-Aug. 6, 2011

ABCOPAD Student Ministry Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Nov. 4-5, 2011

ABCOPAD Youth Gathering – Against the Flow

Nov. 11-12, 2011  
ABCOPAD Youth Gathering – Against the Flow

Nov. 18-19, 2011  
ABCOPAD Youth Gathering – Against the Flow

March 16-18, 2012  
REUNION Youth Gathering – EAST

March 23-25, 2012  
REUNION Youth Gathering - WEST

ABCOPAD Teen Puerto Rico Mission Trip July 30-Aug. 6, 2011: Join about 25 teens and youth leaders from across our region as we go to serve in Puerto Rico at Campamento Del Caribe. We will also be serving some of our sister churches with painting, minor fixes and general clean-up.

The On-Line Youth Ministry Track is Restarting Aug. 2011: The On-Line Youth Ministry Track is run through and by the CLI of Western, PA. , a Ministry of ABCOPAD and in conjunction with Eastern University Youth Ministries Department, St. Davids, PA.

“AGAINST the FLOW – By doing OutFlow!”: Fall 2011 Mini-Conferences to help teens go against the flow of worldly values and strive to put Christ at the center of their life.

See more information at [www.abcopadym.com](http://www.abcopadym.com).

NEED HELP? If you would like to ask Eric a question or would like to inquire about having him visit your church, you can contact him by either emailing him at [ejk1970@gmail.com](mailto:ejk1970@gmail.com) or calling him at 610-410-5871.



**REV. DR. JEFFREY JOHNSON**  
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The latest studies continue to show that 75 to 80 percent of the nearly 400,000

Christian congregations in America are either plateaued or outright declining. I don't believe this happened with intentionality (we knew it, we caused it), nor did it happen with intensity (right away, quickly). I assume to some degree these percentages hold true for our region. I hope not, but if they do, with the power of God, the region staff, our adjuncts, and you are going to do all we can to turn things around.

This state of the church occurred in part because over the last number of years, we have turned much of our attention and activity inward toward ourselves. The church has become a place of Serve-Ups instead of Service. I believe that even if God showed up in person in our churches today with the perfect plan to right the ship and reach unbelievable numbers for Christ, we wouldn't have the time nor resources to do it because they are already dedicated to other things, our things.

When church folk take into consideration the resources being spent on their personal life, work life, and then church life, there just aren't enough of anything to do it all. So too often we do what benefits most the individual and the institution, inside the walls.

We need to break this cycle. And that process starts with intentional and intense prayer, asking three critical questions, in this order.

God ...

*#1 What would you like me to STOP, in my own life and in the life of our congregation?*

Being Baptist and people of the Book, everything we do ought to have chapter and verse. Therefore, the scriptural basis for this question is “old things are put away” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This doesn't mean we write them off and act as if they didn't matter

and we don't care. Rather we celebrate them for the time that they were used. Ask yourself, what has served its usefulness, but is now time we move on to the next good thing God has in mind?

*#2 What would you like me to START, in my own life and in the life of our congregation?*

You cannot ask this second question until you have cleared some space on the proverbial plate and free up people, time and resources. Until you have made room for the “new thing” God would like to begin, He is not going to spend His time putting something else on the “mass or mess” you already have in front of you. The scriptural basis here is “behold, I do a new thing” (Isaiah 43:19). Notice that God expects us to see it. We should be looking for it, seeking it out. The entirety of the passage says God does a new thing EVERY day. I am willing to believe that He would be pleased if He had the chance in our lives and in the lives of our churches to do a new thing EVERY once in a while. Ask yourself, when was the last time God did a new thing in your midst?

*#3 What would you like me to SUSTAIN, in my own life and in the life of our congregation?*

The fact that you exist and your church exists means that God still has something more to do with you. God has a purpose for you both. It is not up to you to come up with that purpose. God declared, decreed and designed it. It is up to us to discover and do it. So, what is there that you would like to see continue, even enhance and enlarge? The scriptural basis here is “strengthen what remains” (Revelation 3:2). Ask yourself, what are we doing that continues to make a difference in people's lives?

Listen friends, we've got to get it together and keep it together for the eternal sake of those outside the church who don't know the Lord and for the sake of those inside the church who need to know the Lord better. Would you covenant with me to pray, asking these “hard” questions in your personal and/or pastoral life so that we are never settling for seconds, but only and always for God's very best?!

## NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGION

### ABINGTON ASSOCIATION

On Sunday, April 3, the **Abington Association** met at Mt. Bethel, Clarks Summit for their spring meeting. The group enjoyed a delicious covered dish supper at the church starting at 5 p.m. After dinner, Abington Baptist Association Moderator Debbie Loessy gathered everyone together in the sanctuary to hear a Lenten devotional mediation delivered by Pastor Ginger Daubenhauer serving at the Trinity Baptist Church. This was followed by a presentation of the ABCOPAD Mission Trip to Haiti. The choir of the Mt. Bethel church sang a song written by host pastor, Rev. Don Hassleman who also wrote the music for the anthem. After the mission presentation and anthem, the congregation celebrated Communion and then enjoyed the delightful music of the Gospel singing group, "The Sparks." Rev. Paul Fields (FBC, Factoryville) sings bass for the group. Many in attendance noted that this was the largest gathering of the Abington Association in recent memory. It truly was a great way to spend a Sunday night. ■

**Shiloh, Scranton** is searching for a new senior pastor following the retirement of Rev. Reginald McClain. As a way to help focus the church family on where God was leading them in the future, the leadership of the congregation invited Kevin Walden and Frank Frischkorn to lead the congregation in a day-long envisioning retreat. While the weather was stormy outside, the congregation made great headway inside, as they were able to carve out a challenging plan for the future.

Easter was a very exciting and eventful day for Shiloh. We had a 6 a.m. Sunrise Service, from Matthew 28:1-10, followed by breakfast. The Sunday School held their Easter Program at 10:30 a.m. We had approximately 15 children participate with recitations and song. Rev. and Mrs. McClain and family graced our presence this morning at Service. Minister Gloria Watson brought the Word from Matthew 26:31-32 showing the sovereignty and mercy of Jesus. One young man came forward for baptism. In the last six

weeks two people joined under Christian Experience, two people joined under Watch Care, and four people came forward for baptism (they were baptized on May 1). That's growth! God is really blessing His church! ■

The Palm Sunday Morning service at **United, Scranton** (*Earl Cassel*) was very well attended with more than 125 people. The main focus of the service was nine baptisms. Drawing from the Sunday School and members families, four girls and four boys, and a father of two of the boys were baptized, affirming their faith in Jesus. The church rejoices in the moving of the Holy Spirit and looks forward to the Sunday School picnic at Knobels Grove in Elysburg, Pa. ■

### CENTRAL UNION ASSOCIATION

The Parkesburg Baptist Church just celebrated a birthday! One hundred and twenty-five years ago, God planted a vision in the hearts and minds of a group of people that led to the founding of the church, and the existing flock came together on Saturday, April 30, to remember and dream about what the future might be as they continue to walk by faith. Moderator Aleta Connell was the emcee for the evening's festivities which featured greetings from Parkesburg Mayor John Hagan, along with written greetings by former pastors James Eldridge and Jerry Lee Anderson. Present for the event were Rev. Dr. Daniel MacDonald (and his wife, Sue) along with Rev. Elizabeth Congdon-Martin, both of whom provided interim leadership to the church immediately before the call of the congregation's current shepherd, Rev. Robert S. Coats. The Invocation and Blessing for the catered dinner was provided by Rev. Mark Biedeman, pastor of the Parkesburg United Methodist Church, with whom the congregation has shared in a number of mission outreaches over the years. Bringing greetings from the Region, as well as the message for the evening was ABCOPAD Regional Executive Pastor Rev. Frank Frischkorn. In addition, the gathering of more than 200 was blessed by special music provided by "The Experience," a duet by Mike and

Kristy Broadie, as well as a choral piece entitled, "I'm on the Battlefield," sung by the church's choir, with Elise Robinson providing a thrilling solo during the selection. The evening was concluded by Rev. Coats announcing the gift of a Communion Tray from Nan and Isabel Needham that dated from the ministry of Rev. Benjamin Needham, who served the church from 1902-1908. In addition, Rev. Coats debuted an Anniversary Booklet that spanned the life and ministry of the congregation. ■

During the month of April and through May 1, the congregation at **Parkesburg Baptist Church** (*Bob Coats*) has been celebrating its 125th Anniversary:

- April 2 – 9: Pastor Bob and his wife, Donna, led a team of 15 to La Paz, Mexico with ABC missionaries, David and Joyce Reed. They dug out of the mountain and laid a foundation of a one-room home for a single mom with two children from Emanuel Baptist Church. They returned late on April 9 and 10 members of the team shared highlights from their trip during the April 10 worship.
- On Palm Sunday, Pastor Bob baptized five youth and two adults with more than 200 present for worship.
- On Holy Thursday they had a tenebrae communion service.
- On Good Friday they hosted the Community Good Friday Service.
- On Resurrection Sunday, an Easter Sunrise Service occurred with more than 65 in attendance, and then there was the Sunrise breakfast. For the Easter traditional service there were more than 200 present for worship.
- On Saturday, April 30, they had their 125th Anniversary Banquet in Crane Fellowship Hall with 237 attending. Rev. Frank Frischkorn gave a very challenging message. Pastor Bob handed out the new 60-page history booklet entitled "His-Story of Parkesburg Baptist Church."

- On Sunday, May 1, the church's actual founding date, they honored 23 people with the status of being 50-year-plus-members. Nine people were welcomed as new members. Pastor Bob gave the anniversary message entitled: "LET GO AND LET GOD!" ■

## CENTRE ASSOCIATION

The **American Baptist Women's Ministries** of the Centre Association gathered at Logan's Valley, Bellwood on Saturday, April 16. President Apryl Glunt wanted to create a mini one-day Women's Conference. The ladies had a short business meeting followed by a mission presentation on the ABCOPAD Mission Trip to Haiti. Later in the morning, half the group did a Bible Study on Martha and Mary, while the other half went to serve in the food pantry at the Hope Center. Following a delicious lunch there were workshops led by a variety of leaders from the various churches in attendance. As the event closed Apryl encouraged all the ladies to attend Conference in June. ■

Please keep **Pastor John Staje** (*FRBC, Huntingdon*), his wife, Kathy, and their family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Pastor John's father, John "Jack" Staje Sr., who passed away on April 11. ■

## FRENCH CREEK ASSOCIATION

**Wayland Baptist** (*Harlan Nefstead*) recently started an outreach program using Max Lucado's *Out Live Your Life* series, and will be doing this through the month of May. Invitations were sent to churches in a 10-mile radius, as well as to those that have participated in French Creek Assoc. meetings, inviting them to join Wayland in this program. The goal is to unite small country churches in a unified effort to share the Gospel with those who are searching for the truth. Pastor Nefstead reports that so far attendance has been good! ■

Appreciation is extended to **Rev. Jim Bennett** (*FBC, Franklin: 2006 – 2010*) who retired in Dec. 2010. The church welcomed their new Interim Minister, Rev. Ray Williams, in January. The Search Committee has been diligent in their work and will be meeting with Rev. Frischkorn in May.

A special Maundy Thursday service was held entitled "Reflections at the Cross," which included music and Biblical portrayals of Simon of Cyrene, Mary Magdalene, the mother of Judas, Pilate, and Mary, mother of Jesus. It was a moving service, an idea brought to us by Pastor Ray and directed by church member Joy Lamphere.

First Baptist is gearing up for their annual ABWM Ladies Banquet in May and putting plans together for VBS in June, along with a Missions fundraiser. ■

## HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION

Sunday, April 10, was a day of rejoicing at the **Martin Luther King Baptist Church** as the congregation and *Sr. Pastor Rev. Lavette R. Paige* celebrated the movement of God in their midst as a new leader was ordained to the Gospel Ministry. Shelly Rose Broadwater Lewis, a former graduate of CLI of Harrisburg-East, completed her work on a Masters of Divinity degree from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2009. Following a unanimous vote at the Ordination Council called by the Harrisburg Association a number of weeks ago, the congregation, anxious to move forward with the Ordination, set the date. The Ordination Service was a time of great rejoicing, featuring a number of musical selections by the Martin Luther King Baptist Church choir, as well as a musical piece featuring Ms. Kara L. Lewis, daughter of Shelly. The preacher for the service was Elder Judy Ritter-Dickson, associate minister of the Fairview Full Gospel Baptist Church, and friend of Rev. Lewis. Representing the Harrisburg Association in the service was Rev. Roy Johnsen, Sr. pastor of the Westgate Baptist Church in Lancaster and chair of the Credentialing Committee for the Association. Rev. Johnsen brought the report of the Ordination Council and presented the candidate for ordination. ABCOPAD Regional Executive Pastor Rev. Frank Frischkorn officiated at the Act of Ordination, sharing the Ordination Vows with the candidate and leading in the Ordination Prayer. Rev. Lewis' family, including her husband, Robert, and a number of their children were present to help her celebrate the wonderful day together, and to support her as she received the prayer support and

gifts of a rejoicing congregation. The day also saw the installation of three pastors into their new ministries at the church. Rev. Paige had the joy of officiating at the Installation Service for: Rev. Shelly B. Lewis – Youth Ministry Pastor; Rev. Ralph D. Shaw – Comfort and Care Pastor; and Rev. Carolyn White Splawn – Women's Ministry Pastor. ■

On Saturday, April 30, the church family at **FBC, Lancaster (Rick Hill)** said goodbye to a dear friend. Mrs. Norma Faith, wife of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Faith, who had served as pastor of the church a number of years ago, went home to be with the LORD. Mr. Bob Allen, a life-long friend, brought a touching eulogy and Pastor Hill brought a stirring message about "normal" faith in the midst of challenging circumstances. The senior choir gave their tribute in song. ■

## LAUREL ASSOCIATION

The **Laurel Baptist Association Spring Fellowship Meeting** will be Sunday, May 15, at the Pine Ridge Park, Pavilion #2. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- Gather at 3 p.m.: greetings, socializing, games, etc.
- Dinner at 5:30 p.m.: covered dish (potluck), with meats, buns and condiments provided by the Association via the Executive Committee.
- After Dinner: informal worship service at the pavilion, with music by all and any who want to provide it. Pastor Charles Bowser (FBC, Jeannette) will share about his recent mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Please contact me *by Thursday, May 12*, at [shuttwe@comcast.net](mailto:shuttwe@comcast.net), with an estimate of how many are coming from your church, so that we can purchase the meats, etc., for the dinner. Blessings on you all. I am looking forward to seeing you on May 15.

*Bill Shutt, moderator* ■

## MONONGAHELA ASSOCIATION

The **May Clergy and Spouse gathering** will be held Monday, May 16, 6:30 p.m., at the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, Jay Hurley, pastor. R.S.V.P. to Diane Dean at [dianed812@yahoo.com](mailto:dianed812@yahoo.com). ■

## NORTHUMBERLAND ASSOCIATION

The **Coordinating Council of The Church Leadership Institute (CLI) of Northeastern PA** cordially invites you to attend the Graduation and Commencement Exercise of the Graduating class of 2011. The event will take place on Sunday, May 15, at 4 p.m., at the Calvary Baptist Church, 142 Washington Blvd. Williamsport, PA. A reception will follow. ■

Upon reflection, during 2010, the **Watsonstown** (*James Ritter Jr.*) congregation reported a significant number of “God Sightings.” A God Sighting is: 1) Any obvious answer to prayer; 2) Any unexpected evidence of God’s care; 3) Any help to do God’s work/will in the world; and 4) Any unusual linkage or timing. How many has your church experienced? ■

## PITTSBURGH ASSOCIATION

The **Fall Gathering and Continuing Education Event** will be held Sept. 23 – 24, 2011. The two-day event will begin on Friday evening with a Clergy and Spouse Appreciation Gathering at FBC, Monroeville (Tom Pesci). This year we have a special treat as Regional Executive Pastor Rev. Frank Frischkorn; Regional Pastor with Congregations Rev. Jeff Johnson; Regional Pastor for Mission and Communication Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith; and Regional Pastor with Pastoral Leaders Rev. Kevin Walden will be our special guests. They will share their ministries with us. On Saturday, Sixth Mt. Zion (*Eugene Downing*) will host the Continuing Education event. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Gary McIntosh, president of the Church Growth Network and Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University.

Dr. McIntosh’s presentation will be on Church Growth for the 21st Century. He will touch on 10 steps that will show how the Holy Spirit is ready and available to empower churches for growth.

Dr. McIntosh, is the author of the “Growth Points” newsletter included in this mailing. He has served as a consultant for over 27 years; written 18 books on church growth and six manuals on pastoral ministry; served as a pastor and

CE director for over 15 years; and is the recipient of the Donald A. McGavran award from the American Society for Church Growth, the Distinguished Alumni award from Colorado Christian University, the Donald A. McGavran award from the Fuller School of Intercultural Studies, and the Robert B. Fisher award for Faculty Excellence at Biola University.

The gifts of the ABCOPAD staff, combined with those of Dr. McIntosh, promises to be an inspiration-filled, challenging experience for both clergy and lay leaders. CEUs are available. Please join us. Everyone is welcome! Contact the ABCOPAD Western Office at 888-687-0883 for more information. ■

**Broad Street, Washington** (*Jay Freudenberg*) hosted VBS Children during an Easter Party that had stories, crafts, and good food. It allowed the church to stay in touch with the children (VBS is more than just once a year). On Easter Sunday, Pastor Jay sang an acapella version of “Because He Lives,” which happened to be the title of the sermon message. Upcoming events are as follows: May 20 and 21 are the dates for the annual Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and on May 28, the church will start a Prayer Walking ministry through the community on a monthly basis. ■

On May 1, **Franklin Park, Sewickley** (*Carol Ross Irwin*) dedicated a new Hearing Amplification System during the morning worship service, donated in loving memory of Warren E. Wright. The system was purchased through memorial gifts and the generosity of his family who wanted to help those in need, hear and enjoy the services more fully. ■

**FBC, Monongahela** (*Mark Schollaert*) will be hosting an evening of family entertainment with singer, songwriter and ventriloquist, Brent Vernon and his sidekick, Sam, Friday, May 20, 7 p.m. Bring a friend, all are welcome! A free-will offering will be taken. Call 724-258-7750 or email fbc258@verizon.net for more information. ■

As part of Holy Week observances at **Penn Hills, Verona** (*Ralph Prinkey*) Pastor Jeff Kipp of Chosen People Ministries presented a “Messiah in the Passover” program. This was presented

on Wednesday, April 20, in place of a Maundy Thursday program. Pastor Kipp led the group of about 36 people in the Seder meal, explaining each segment using a Messianic Passover Haggadah. Following the hour-long program, everyone enjoyed a meal prepared by members of the Diaconate. Pastor Kipp then concluded with some final thoughts about Passover and what it means to Christians today.

The Holy Week observances began at Penn Hills on Palm Sunday with special music from the church choir and a special message from Pastor Ralph. The service was followed by the annual “Bring-A-Friend” luncheon.

Easter Sunday saw PHBC with an early 8 a.m. service, followed by a light breakfast served by Pastor Ralph’s wife, Dauna, and daughter, Jaime. Sunday church school classes followed, and then a tremendous celebration worship observing the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, which featured plenty of special music and a message from Pastor Ralph entitled “The Meaning of the Cross to Satan” which was part of a six-part series called “The Meanings of the Cross.” ■

**Sixth Mt. Zion** (*Eugene Downing*) will celebrate their 112th Anniversary of reaching, celebrating, growing and partnering with their community in a week-long celebration of activities beginning Monday, May 16 and concluding Sunday, May 22. Monday will kick off the celebration with an evening of fellowship; Tuesday will be Men & Women’s Night; Wednesday will highlight music ministry Gospel Jazz Night, Thursday is Usher’s Night, Friday is Youth Night, and Sunday will begin with morning worship and an afternoon boat ride aboard the Gateway Clipper. ■

## READING ASSOCIATION

At **FBC, Reading** (*Michael Hall*) “The Baptist Bells of Praise” handbell choir has been ringing for 14 years under the direction of Kathleen Seltzer. The mission of the choir is to carry the word of God to the community through music.

This three-octave bell choir participates regularly in Sunday worship and also carries its message into the community by performing for various organizations,

senior centers, assisted living centers and local churches. Their performances include a segment that allows the audience to participate in ringing and thus become a part of the ministry.

The bell choir is composed of a diverse group of ringers ranging in age from 9 to 80, who work together to carry out its ministry. Interest in ringing has grown in the past months and a second handbell choir has been added to the program.

If you would like to hear FBC's handbell choir, please contact the church office at 610-375-2211 to inquire about performance dates and times. ■

### **RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION**

**Middletown, Media** (*Jeff Evans*) would like to share another testimony from their outreach ministry, The Healing Rooms of Del. Co.: "With the change in the weather, we have also seen a change in numbers at the Healing Rooms. As people want to get out and experience the warm weather, they also want to get out and experience the warmth and power of God through the Holy Spirit. The past two Mondays we have prayed and anointed a total of 14 people. The illnesses have ranged from Graves' Disease to depression. Exodus 15:26 reminds us; '...for I am the Lord that healeth thee.'" ■

The **Springfield Baptist** (*Wylie Johnson*) ABWM held a day-long retreat on Saturday, April 30, at the church. The theme was: "Broken And Spilled Out: A Day Of Spiritual Renewal." Twenty-nine women from three Riverside churches were thrilled to hear the teaching of Sue McDonald. It was an incredible day filled with the moving of the Holy Spirit.

Bob and Evie Wright, long-time members of Springfield Baptist are the leaders (14 years!) of the National Day of Prayer effort held outdoor each May in Rose Tree Park, Media. The program is a moving time of prayer, singing, and a guest speaker. The program begins under the flagpole at 11 a.m., and continues for 90 minutes.

Springfield Baptist is beginning a new COMMON GROUND coffee house ministry on Saturday, May 21, at the church. The coffee house will feature music, testimony, snacks and fellowship

from 6 – 9 p.m. A future schedule of coffee houses is in the works. This ministry has been underwritten by an ABCOPAD grant.

The congregation is collectively reading and praying through *31 Days of Prayer: Moving God's Mighty Hand* by Ruth and Warren Meyers during the month of May. The congregation has been dedicated to praying a list of 27 Vision Prayers during the past year. It is hoped this prayer effort will reach the heart of God and build His church. ■

### **TIOGA ASSOCIATION**

On Sunday, May 1, the Cochranville United Methodist Church Choir joined the Chancel Choir of FBC, Mansfield in the presentation of the Easter Cantata entitled, "A Time for Alleluia." The cantata was under the direction of Ashley McCormick, organist/choir director of FBC, and accompanied by Tyler Wetherbee from Mansfield University. The words and music of the cantata were from Joseph M. Martin with narration by Pamela Martin. On Sunday, May 15, members of FBC's Chancel Choir will journey to the Cochranville United Methodist Church to participate in the performance of the cantata at Ashley's home church. This is the fulfillment of a dream to join Ashley's home church and her FBC, Mansfield church choir in a joint cantata. Ashley graduated from Mansfield University on May 7. ■

### **WELSH WYOMING ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Jim Quinn and the church family at Immanuel, Edwardsville hosted the **Welsh Wyoming Spring Association gathering**. About half the churches of the association were represented at the gathering that started with a short business meeting followed by Regional Pastor for Mission and Communication Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith reporting on the recent ABCOPAD Mission Trip to Haiti. The Immanuel church family provided a delicious lasagna dinner, with much fellowship and sharing. After dinner, the group sang a few favorite hymns and then celebrated communion. Plans for a gathering this summer at a baseball game, along with a student ministries gathering at Camp Ichthus, are underway. ■

### **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Don't forget to check out our website often at [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org)! ■

#### **THE BAPTIST HOMES AUXILIARY NEWS**

The Charity Golf Invitational held at Pittsburgh Field Club will be Monday, May 16. Your efforts to make this outing a success are deeply appreciated. Last year, the Invitational raised \$89,000 for the resident charitable care fund. The Spring Luncheon Buffet is Tuesday, May 24, noon, in the Dining Hall. The 2011 Auxiliary Meeting dates are June 28, September 27, November 29. Please support the Baptist Homes and join in the celebration. Contact Sally Barnett at 412-793-4437 for more information.

#### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

CLI of Northeastern PA will offer a course on Clergy Ethics, Friday, May 20 (6 – 10 p.m.) and Saturday, May 21 (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) at Calvary Baptist Church; 42 Washington Blvd. and Packer St.; Williamsport, PA 17701.

Cost: \$125 (includes Friday snack and Saturday lunch). Registration deadline is Monday, May 16.

A list of area hotels is available. To register, mail your check for \$125 payable to CLI NE PA to; Eleanor Siegrist, administrator; 1331 Logan Blvd.; Altoona, PA 16602. For more information, call 814-944-1468 or email [ewsiegrist@gmail.com](mailto:ewsiegrist@gmail.com).

#### **COOPERATING CHURCH ANNUAL REPORTS**

It is not too late to file your 2010 Cooperating Church Annual Reports. A new shorter version is available. You can fill it out online at <http://annualreport.abcis.org> or mail a hard copy to the ABCOPAD Western Office; 159 N. Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15213. If you have questions or need the forms, please call 888-687-0883 or send an email to [pghbaptist@aol.com](mailto:pghbaptist@aol.com). Thank you!

#### **2011 CAMPING SEASON!**

EVERY EMPTY BUNK IS A MISSED OPPORTUNITY – Preparations are beginning for the 2011 camping season. It is exciting to see how God will be at work in the lives of campers. Camp is an opportunity to change the lives of children and youth. Visit the ABCOPAD website for more information on a camp near you.

## Celebration of Mission Giving

*This single month compared to the same single month last year.*

	2010	2011
United Mission Basics	\$64,051	\$49,820
Love Gift	\$3,754	\$3,036
Partners in Ministry	\$18,411	\$13,354
Annual Offerings:		
A.F.C.	\$31,270	\$25,530
O.G.H.S.	\$12,800	\$6,137
R.M.M.O.	\$5,413	\$1,246
W.M.O.	\$31,270	\$7,149

To view your own church's current giving amounts, visit our website and on the home page click on *World Mission Reports*.

### *The cumulative comparison figures*

United Mission Basics is behind by \$20,108. The decrease in United Missions (includes UMB, Love Gift and Designations) amounts to \$12,131 less in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received this year.

A.F.C. is behind by \$7,157. The decrease amounts to \$2,099 less in actual dollars that ABCOPAD received this year.

Partners in Ministry is behind by \$3,462.

### **JUNE 2011 DEADLINE**

Items to be included in the June issue of Notes & News need to arrive by **noon, Thursday, June 5.**

Please send all material to Carol Bicking.

#### **Regular mail:**

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Thank you!

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