

April
2023



News From Our Churches:

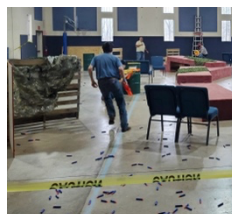
Covenant Community Church (Harrisburg) hosted a mission group from First Baptist Church located in Aberdeen, N.C April 5th – 7th. They provided work on the church building. On the 5th and 6th they provided a children's program. Then on April 7th, they helped with a block party.



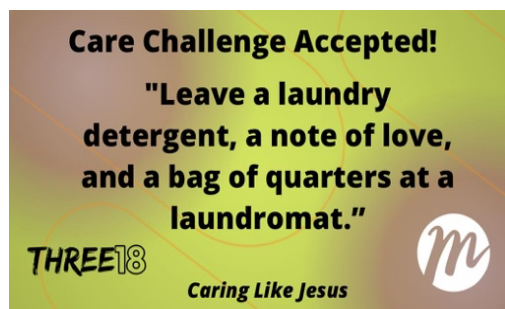
Chambersburg Baptist Church hosted an Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Fellowship on April 8th. They had over 70 in attendance. One family returned on Sunday morning for the church service and was baptized on April 16th.



New Hope Baptist Church (Middleburg) hosted "Nerf Wars" as a youth fundraiser on March 25th. The money will be used for their mission trip in June.



News From Our Churches (cont.)



Memorial Baptist Church (Gettysburg) has introduced a new effort to show Christ's love to their community. They call it the "Care Challenge" and suggests ways to impact their community by sharing their faith. Memorial has distributed coloring books and crayons to ER and urgent care, and written notes of appreciation and thanks. Each project directs the receiver to their webpage: <https://www.memorialbaptistpa.org/care/>.

Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church (York) celebrated Super Resurrection Sunday by hosting a "tailgate" dinner for the MMMBC family. Pastor Ryan Johnson said in a video clip "It's all about Jesus, not about what you have on, it's about what is in your heart."



Red Land Baptist Church: (New Cumberland) hosted their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th with over 50 children attending. The children participated in different activities moving from room to room prior to the Egg Hunt. Included in the day's event was the opportunity to hear the Easter story.



Red Land Baptist Church along with KBA and PA/SJ WMU will be hosting the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 4th from 7:00 am – 6:30 pm. The church will be open for individuals and groups to come and pray for America, Pennsylvania, and those in our communities. There will be areas designated for specific prayer requests along with scripture and prayer prompts. KBA churches are invited to join us on this day of prayer.



News From KBA:

Collecting Diapers: Jordan and Chantel Alturas (Pastor at Fellowship Church, State College) are awaiting the birth of triplets! KBA will be gathering diapers for this family through June 1st. Chantel is requesting the Pampers brand of diapers and they will need all sizes beginning with preemies. Brad will take them to the Alturas family. You can also bring them to the KBA office at Red Land Baptist.



Pastor's Prayer: Pastors continue to meet on Thursday mornings at 10: 00 am and 7:30 pm for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

Pastor's Roundtable is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th at 10:00 am.

KBA Israel Tour: The trip is scheduled for February 8-17th, 2024 and is open for any member of a KBA Church. **Deposits for this trip are due on July 1st.** Contact the office if you need additional information.

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

The KBA Executive Board will meet in person Monday, May 1st, 7:30 pm at Oakwood Baptist Church. The Administrative Team will meet at 6:30 pm prior to the Executive Board.

Mississippi Mission Teams: We have churches in Mississippi who are ready to plan a summer mission trip to PA. If you are interested in a team coming to your church and helping this summer, please let Brad know. There are construction teams, VBS teams, and church outreach teams ready to come.

Pray for:

- The Jerry Dixon family. Dr. and Mrs. Dixon's grandson, Isaiah Palm, passed away on March 30, 2023 at the age of 14.
- Karen Gerstmyer and her health.
- Joan Theisen as she faces knee surgery.
- The London Mission Trip. Brad Horne is leading this team that includes Gary and Debbie Buchman (1st Hanover), Rob and Sarah Sheldon (Greencastle Baptist), and Greg and Josh Keefer (Carlisle Baptist).
- Good News Bible Clubs and Bible Adventure Clubs. Children ministry programs that are being led by KBA churches.
- The continued partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and that it will be fruitful.
- 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 Living Faith Evangelical in Littlestown as they seek a pastor.

A Word from Brad ~ Partnering Together: KBA and BRN

In 1707, five Baptist churches in Pennsylvania joined together to form the first local association. Pennsylvania made history by having the first local Baptist association in the United States. The Philadelphia Baptist Association, now affiliated with American Baptists, predates the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) by almost 140 years. But as the SBC has grown since its founding in 1845, associations have been a vital part of its development.

KBA is among the more than 1,100 local associations across the country, representing more than 47,000 Southern Baptist churches. Associations are led by a Director of Missions (DOM); Brad Horne is the director for KBA.

An overwhelming majority of church leaders in the United States—80%—say the local association is a valued partner in their mission to reach people with the gospel. Average Americans are increasingly less connected to the church. Churches often struggle to know how to speak into the spiritual lostness of their communities, and that's where an association can help. The KBA tries to connect with churches that are linked by geography. Sometimes churches are an hour or more away from each other, so that's where technology, like Zoom, comes in handy.

The KBA used to be a supplier of the latest resource, but now most churches can access resources or programs with the click of a mouse. Google will suffice. Lately, the KBA has been focused on building relationships with pastors and church members, helping them to feel like they are not alone.

Churches used to gather for fellowship and training programs to help them grow stronger and reach others. Now, ministry seems less dependent on programs and more focused on intentional, long-term relationship-building.

Here's what the association has that nobody else has: proximity. Because we have proximity, we can get together, have conversations, and do missional activities together that we would not be able to do if we were not a part of an association in the same area.

KBA provides local missions opportunities in ways that the BRN can't, and the BRN can often provide specialized training, resources, and services that the KBA doesn't offer. In other words, the KBA and BRN can work together in a partnership, helping churches and pastors to grow in encouragement.

The KBA is great at connecting pastors and churches for fellowship, leadership development, local projects, and missions emphasis. The BRN is often best equipped to come alongside those efforts with more specialized training, resources, and expertise.

This year, the KBA and the BRN are partnering together to hold several pastor's retreats as a way to encourage pastors. The enemy doesn't want us to be united and working together. He would rather have us think being independent is best, but we are stronger together, united in belief and purpose. When we come together for a united goal and cause, there is a synergy that we get from serving side by side.

I look forward to working and serving together with the BRN to help and encourage pastors and churches of the Keystone Baptist Association.

KBA Financial Update

2023 March Income: \$11,022.88

2023 March Expenses: \$9,046.54

2023 Income: \$37,078.00

2023 Expenses: \$34,380.88

Ministry Opportunity:

Rev. John Worrall is available for pulpit supply or interim work. Recently John and Alice completed their 10-month interim at New Hope Baptist Church which concluded with the blessing of New Hope finding their new pastor. John's Contact information: Cell: 814-460-7576 and Email: PastureJ@gmail.com.

New Life at Penn State:



The New Life Breakfast crew has been going strong all spring semester. On a white board in their office, they write the list of friends they have met through the spring and commit to pray for them.

Pray for:

- Their staff as they recruit more staff and interns.
- Students who are grieving losses in their personal life.
- The final stretch of this year and that they continue to grow a sense of community in their group.
- Interviews for student leaders for the next school year.

One way KBA has been supporting New Life Students at Penn State is by providing hot chocolate and breakfast bars that are brought to the KBA annual meeting.

WMU:

Save the date. of November 4th, 2023, for the WMU Annual Meeting at Red Land Baptist Church. The time will be 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. More information to come.

May 4th: National Day of Prayer – WMU will join KBA and Red Land Baptist Church in hosting a day of prayer. Red Land Baptist will be open from 7 am – 6:30 pm for prayer.

Serve Tour: Philadelphia

Send Relief has launched an exciting new missional experience with events in cities across the United States and around the world, and you're invited. KBA churches are invited to participate in this mission experience.

For additional information, go to:

<https://www.sendrelief.org/serve-tour/philadelphia/>.



The International Mission Board is hosting the **MedAdvance 2023** seminar for health care professionals August 3-5th in Nashville Tennessee, joining together hundreds of healthcare professionals, students, and church leaders.



During this training, health care professionals will be able to connect with IMB missionaries and leaders for networking and questions. Discover how God is at work as healthcare missionaries share stories from around the world and learn how they can serve God's mission at home or overseas. **For additional information:** imb.org/medadvance

The KBA Website: Be sure to check the KBA website for updated information, videos, and future events. www.keystonebaptist.net.

Keystone Baptist Association:
**“Equipping and Connecting Churches
to reach the world with the gospel
of Jesus Christ. “**