

May  
2023



## News From Our Churches:

Chambersburg Baptist Church deacons hosted a luncheon for widows on Wednesday, May 10. They also hosted the lady's monthly luncheon on Thursday, May 11.



On April 16, five people were baptized. Three were from the same family that started attending Chambersburg Baptist after participating in the church's egg hunt.



On Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>, Chambersburg Baptist celebrated all their women by hosting breakfast for all the ladies to attend. The men of the church cooked breakfast.



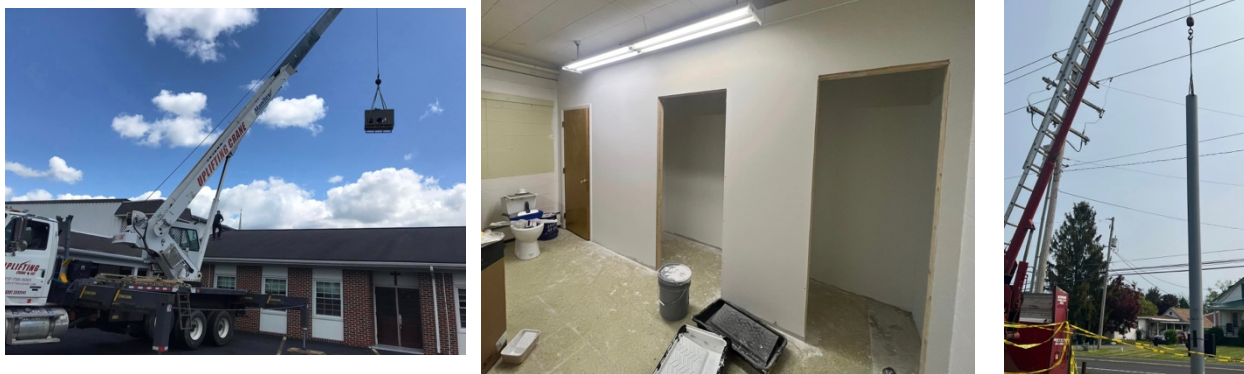
Concluding their week, they honored all their mothers during the worship service which included a baby and child dedication as a part of their service. Four babies and one child were dedicated. Some of these families started attending Chambersburg Baptist after attending the Easter egg hunt.

## News From Our Churches (cont.)

**Fellowship Baptist Church (State College)** has three new babies! Pastor Jordan and Chantel Alturas welcomed triplets on May 7<sup>th</sup>. All babies are doing well and are in the NICU.



**Memorial Baptist Church (Gettysburg)** is in the midst of major renovation. After selling some property the church has been able to update and repair the church. Five HVAC units have been replaced and the nursery/preschool area is being moved and renovated to include a check-in area and a bathroom. They are also replacing their sign with a new digital one that will not only be able to give out information about the church but will also reach out to the community. Pastor Sours said that they want to use the new sign to tell the many people that travel up and down the road that Memorial Baptist loves and values them.



**Thompsons town Baptist Church** youth and children hosted a lady's dinner on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> to honor the women of the church. The youth made salads, spaghetti, and linguini. The children served the meal, and the men provided desserts.





**Country and Town Baptist Church (Mechanicsburg)** hosted an evening of worship with the WAM children (WAM=Worship Arts Ministry 4 kids). This special presentation included several scripture songs with solos. The children shared scripture, a drama presentation, and even provided an opportunity for the church to see Pastor Todd Jones' happy dance. Check Country and Town's Facebook page to see the entire presentation.

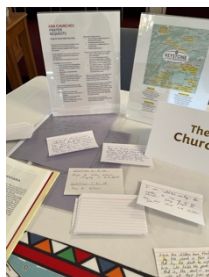


**Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto)** hosted a mother and daughter's brunch on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at Chris' Kitchen in Chambersburg. Kathy Sheldon was the guest speaker. The women had a wonderful time of fellowship.



## News From KBA:

**National Day of Prayer:** May 4<sup>th</sup> was the National Day of Prayer. KBA/WMU/ and Red Land Baptist provided a day long interactive opportunity for prayer throughout the day.



**Collecting Diapers:** Jordan and Chantel Alturas (Pastor at Fellowship Church, State College) triplets have arrived! KBA will be gathering diapers/gift cards/wipes for this family through June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, May 25th at 10:00 am. The topic for this meeting will be "Mentoring vs. Discipling."

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

**Pastors' Wives** continue to meet by zoom for prayer on Mondays at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm.

**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.

**Pastor's Retreat:** KBA is partnering with BRN for a pastor's retreat on May 22<sup>nd</sup> - May 24<sup>th</sup> at a cabin near Raystown Lake about two hours from Harrisburg. If you are a pastor and would like to join this retreat, let Brad know. There is still space available for you to attend.

**Pastors' and Wives' Barbecue:** May 27<sup>th</sup> at Brad and Jeanine's house from 3pm to 7pm. Bring a cold side dish or dessert with you and join us for an afternoon of fellowship. Please email Brad or the office if you are planning to attend.

## Pray for:

### **KBA Financial Update**

**2023 April Income: \$11,244.77**

**2023 April Expenses: \$9,986.87**

- Karen Gerstmyer and her health.
- Joan Theisen as she recuperates from knee surgery.
- Chantel Alturas as she heals from the birth of the triplets.
- 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.

## 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. (Yes, this is the correct email.)



# A Word from Brad ~ The Power of Example

“Example is not the main thing in life—it is the only thing.” These are the wise words of the famous medical missionary and author, Albert Schweitzer. He clearly stated the importance and power of example. Schweitzer’s statement is an overstatement, of course. Many other things are involved in a faithful life, but they themselves are all combined into the example someone sets.

I grew up in a home without a fatherly Christian example in my life, but as I became more involved in church, I watched godly Christian men lead their families, and learned what it’s like to be a spiritual leader in the home. It was the power of example. I’m still learning, by the way. I did not know how to witness to people when I was in college, but I watched godly men share their faith with unbelievers. I continue to watch, learn and do. It’s the power of example.

How many of us reading this, have been influenced by the powerful life of some pastor or Christian that we saw early in our lives. If I mention “a faithful pastor,” whose image crops up in your mind?

“Mentoring” may sound like a new concept, but it’s not. God has created us to lead by example. We are to follow God’s example, and to imitate his character. In the incarnation of Christ, God came in the flesh in a way that we could understand and relate to him, and, as Peter said, “leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps” (1 Pet. 2:21).

God planned for parents to follow God and then for our kids to follow us until they understand who God is and can follow Him on their own. This is His instruction to parents. “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Leviticus 6:4-7) Leading our children by example.

In the Old Testament, God called forth Abraham and his descendants to “be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy,” in Leviticus 19. They were to be a special, distinct people in the world, giving a godly example. Unfortunately, Israel failed at being a good example to others and God judged the nation in Ezekiel 5.

God has also intended the church in the New Testament to lead by example. In John 13, Jesus said that the world would know that we are His disciples by the Christ-like love that we have for one another. Did Jesus follow someone’s example? This is what Jesus told his disciples. “Jesus gave them this answer: ‘I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.’” (John 5:19) Then Jesus says 22 times in the gospels, “Follow Me.”

By our lives as Christians, we are teaching each other and the surrounding world about God. We are called to give people hope that there is another way of living than the lives of selfish people. We are to be the light in this dark world, meaning that we are to be the example to the world. Matthew 5:14-16. The power of example.

To pastors, what are our churches teaching the watching world about God? What example are you giving your church members? Do your church members only hear your sermons, or do they see your sermons being put into action? As you share your faith or tell about real life testimonies of you sharing your faith, then they will also share their faith. They will follow your lead. If they see you personally discipling people, then they will do likewise.

Have you noticed that in Paul's pastoral epistles, he seems particularly concerned about the reputation that a pastor would have with those outside the church?

What are we teaching the people that are watching us?

What a tremendous privilege God has given us, and how little we seem to consider it. We must be intentional about what testimony is every one of us providing right now? Think of the great responsibility that we have. Consider what example you set for the world around you. God has a great plan for his people and for this world; He calls us to show that by our words and our lives. Jesus said, "Go and do likewise". Luke 10:37

Blessings!

Brad

## New Life at Penn State:



Three KBA Pastors joined Eric Reiber, Pastor Daniel Arter, Theresa Krieg, and Austin Burton on a tour of the Penn State Campus on April 27<sup>th</sup>. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the campus and talk about collegiate ministries.

Pastors: You will soon be receiving a survey from collegiate ministries that asks about your graduating high school and college seniors. Please fill it out and send it back as soon as possible.

### Pray for:

- Salvation for students who are seeking: Shannon, Alex, Ethan, Dan and Jon.
- Students will walk with Jesus over the summer.
- Students who are grieving losses in their personal life.

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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for the WMU Annual Meeting at Red Land Baptist Church. The time will be 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. More information to come.

**The KBA Website:** Be sure to check the KBA website for updated information, videos, and future events. [www.keystonebaptist.net](http://www.keystonebaptist.net).

**Keystone Baptist Association:**

**"Equipping and Connecting Churches to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. "**