

April/May
2024



News From Our Churches:

Hanover Fellowship Church hosted a "Missions Sunday" on February 18th.



Peggy Harling shares "We were blessed to have some of our missionaries come join us in person for a time of sharing about themselves and their country. We heard from Ken and Carrie Liles focusing on sharing Christ with the "unreached" Iranian Diaspora, Charlie Brown serving in Baltimore, Maryland, and Brad and Jeanine Horne, representing the Keystone Baptist Association ministering to our churches.



After the morning service, we had a special time together enjoying a potluck lunch and asking questions of our missionaries regarding the strategies they use in sharing the gospel with the people they serve.



On March 3rd, we heard from David and Tanya Liles serving in Peru and Dwight and Melissa Poggemiller via zoom serving in Romania. What a blessing to hear what God is doing in other parts of the world and to learn how we can better pray for these faithful servants."



Stewartstown Baptist Church will be leading a trip to Dominican Republic on August 3rd-10th, 2024 and inviting members of KBA churches to join them. If interested, call Rev. Chandler Robinson at: 717-993-6382 or by email: chandler@stewbaptist.org.

News From Our Churches (cont.):

Chambersburg Baptist Church baptized five on Sunday, April 7th during their morning



worship service.

On March 30th, they held their annual Easter Egg Hunt. They met in the

sanctuary for the Easter story followed by the Easter Egg Hunt and ending with a lunch of grilled hot dogs. 114 participated in this event and enjoyed perfect weather.



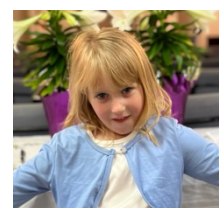
Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto) enjoyed ice cream with their children's group (CHAMPS) along with their youth group. They had a great time of fellowship and even fed a few deer that were standing near the ice cream parlor. Pastor John Buhr shared "A good time was had by all."



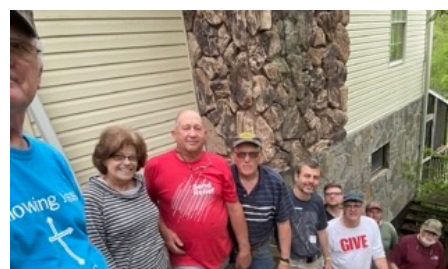
Red Land Baptist Church (New Cumberland) baptized three new believers on Easter Sunday. On the same morning the church and the Frank family dedicated Kardyn Frank.



The day prior Red Land hosted their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Storytime. Approximately 75 families were in attendance. Along with the hunt, each child and their parents had the opportunity to hear the stories of Jesus and participated in an Easter craft.



Thompstontown Baptist Church took a team of 15 people to join in the Send Relief Serve Tour stop in the West Virginia coalfields region. The team was divided into two projects. One group ministered to a woman in Williamson, WV by building staircases/ handrails/porches on the outside of her home. Another picked up trash, held conversations with people, and prayed for people in Logan, WV. Before returning on Sunday, the TBC team worshipped with New Covenant Fellowship Church in Logan. The Serve WV coalfields effort included 60 churches and 475 volunteers.



News From Our Churches (cont.):

Greencastle Baptist Church hosted David Liebman from Jews for Jesus on Good Friday to celebrate a traditional Passover meal. Pastor Robert Sheldon shared “David highlighted the aspects that correlate to Jesus’ time on earth as well as our modern Christian traditions. Jews for Jesus works around the globe presenting Jesus as the true



Messiah to the Jewish people. The Passover Feast, harkening back to the time of slavery in Egypt, ties all your five senses to remembering what God has done and looking forward to what He will do. It’s very meaningful and memorable.”



Texas Men’s Choir performed at four KBA churches during the week of April 17th- 21st. Chambersburg Baptist Church, Memorial Baptist Church, Country and Town Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church hosted the choir of sixty for a time of singing and worship.



Remembering Dr. Bob LaForce Dr. Robert Harry “Bob” LaForce, 72, of Lancaster, passed away on April 10, 2024. Dr. LaForce obtained his doctorate from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and served in numerous Presbyterian churches. Most recently, he was the Associate Pastor at Family of God Community Church in Red Lion, PA.



He was married to Barbara and was predeceased by his first wife, Shirley. Shirley and Bob had one son, Oliver who is married to Sara along with six stepchildren, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Bob loved to learn, study the bible, read, and help others. He enjoyed spending time with his family, watching baseball and football games, and was known for his love of mashed potatoes and peanut butter sweets. A service to honor and celebrate Pastor LaForce was held, April 20th at Family of God Church with Pastor Howard Edmonson officiating.

A Word from Brad: Reaching the Future Church

Most of our KBA churches do not have youth leaders and many do not have youth in their churches. The majority of our KBA church members are 50 years old and up. What does this say about the future of our churches? We are losing our youth today, and in turn our churches will grow smaller and smaller.

I want to give you some statistics from Barna about youth:

- The church dropout rate among 18–25-year-olds is 64%.
- (59%) of Gen Z (Born 1997–2010) believe “Church is not relevant to me personally”.
- 1 in 5 young adults with a Christian background (22%) has left the faith.

But the good news is that 77 % of U.S. teens are curious about Jesus. Pastor/church leader/follower of Christ, guess who knows a lot about Jesus and can tell them all they want to know? You and Me! We can make a difference. So, how are we going to reach youth today? What can we do?

I believe there are 6 Steps that We Can Take to Reach Our Youth

- 1. We have to pursue the youth of today:** Edward Kimball, went to a shoe store, where a member of his Sunday School class worked, and shared the gospel. That 18-year-old became a Christian, and later became the greatest evangelist in the 19th century. His name was D. L. Moody. What youth around you can you reach out to and pursue?
- 2. Second, we have to be intentional:** If we don’t plan to reach our youth for Christ, it won’t happen. Make a plan, set a date, put it your calendar.
- 3. Third, we have to train up the youth we currently have.** For the most part, we who are 50, 60, and 70 will most probably not be able to reach youth. We have to train up the youth in our churches to reach their own generation.
- 4. Fourth, consider having summer youth interns in your church.** When I was a senior in college, my pastor came to me, and asked if I could intern for the church. Those few months helped me fall in love with ministry.
- 5. Fifth, we need to take our youth on mission trips:** locally, nationally, or overseas.
- 6. Prayer.** We need to pray for our youth and pray with our youth.

Let’s be intentional about this last step and pray for our youth. I want all of you to take out your cell phones so you can set an alarm on your phone. Right now, please set an alarm to go off every day at either 9:38am or 9:38pm to remind you to pray for the youth. You might be asking, why 9:38. Matthew 9:37-38 “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

If we all pray together for laborers, God will hear from Heaven! Let’s watch Him work!
Blessings!

Brad

News from KBA:

[National Day of Prayer](#) is Thursday, May 2nd. All pastors and church staff are encouraged to join in this time of prayer for our country and our world at 10:00 am with Brad by zoom.

[Pastor's Fellowship](#): Brad and Jeanine are planning their annual barbecue at their house on May 25th, 2024. More information to come.

[Pastor's Prayer](#) continue to meet Thursday mornings on zoom at 10:00am for prayer. All pastors and pastoral staff are invited to join.

[Pastors' Wives](#) continue to meet by Zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30pm.

[Mission Trip to London](#). Brad, Dr. Tim Parker and his son Caleb will be heading to London for a mission trip on May 10th – 18th. Please be praying for them as they prepare to travel.

[The TellGate Grill](#) is available for your church to use for an evangelistic outreach event. Contact the KBA office for additional information.

[The KBA Evangelism Tent](#) will be available for your church to use during events such as: festivals, carnivals, street fairs, or sporting events. Reserve the tent for your next outreach event by calling or emailing the KBA office.

[The KBA Administrative Team and Executive Board](#) met Monday, April 22nd in State College. Hosted by Eric Reiber with New Life at Penn State, the meeting was well attended . After the meeting several pastors met two Penn State/New Life students for lunch.



KBA Financial Update

2024 March Income: \$7,072.42

2024 March Expenses: \$11,278.29

2024 First Quarter Income: \$39,484.66

2024 First Quarter Expenses: \$34,139.30

Pray for:

- 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 Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Rev. John Worrall as he recovers from knee surgery.
- Rev. John Harling as he also recovers from knee surgery.
- Rev. Caleb Snook as he continues to recover from foot surgery.
- The Bob LaForce (Family of God) family as they mourn his death.
- Sharon Douthwaite and her children as they mourn the loss of Rev. Larry Douthwaite.
- Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker's grandson. He has been able to come home, but still needs our prayers. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.
- Rev. Pusey Losch pastor at Mountain View Community and his homeless ministry in Sebastian, Florida.
- Karen Gerstmyer who is in remission from cancer. Please continue to pray for her.
- Stewartstown Mission Trip to Dominican Republic in August.
- Pastors and their families physical and spiritual needs.

WMU: **SAVE the DATE:** The WMU Annual Meeting will be held November 2nd 2023, 10:00am to 3:00pm at Red Land Baptist Church. The annual meeting will be for girls in 6th grade through 12th grade and for all adults.

Women on Mission at Country and Town (Mechanicsburg) met on Tuesday, April 23rd with Brad and Jeanine Horne. Brad and Jeanine shared about their missionary service with the International Mission Board in Ukraine and Russia.



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