

May
2024



**Rev. Jeff Sours, pastor at Memorial Baptist shared this testimony.
I just led my youth guy to Christ in Starbucks...**

"It was a typical Monday morning. Trying to get my daughter ready for school and out the door. Following a Sunday, my brain is mush and I'm peopled out. My plan - grab a stack of books, hide from everyone, and get a jump on next week's message. But God had other plans. Our NextGen director Bill messaged me and ask if we could grab a cup of coffee. I sighed, not wanting any meetings or church drama issues, but I love the guy, so I said sure. He then followed it up with it wasn't church related, but personal.



I pulled into Starbucks, grabbed my normal white chocolate mocha. We exchanged small talk about the weekend, and then Bill changed the topic with one statement - I don't think or believe that I'm saved. This began a conversation that ended with the question - what are you going to do about this? That Monday morning at Starbucks, Bill gave his life to Christ. For the first time, he had security in his relationship with Christ.

This moment led to another question - what will we do with what just happened? Do we tell the church? Will they lose confidence in our leadership? The bottom line was we needed to share the full story of what had transpired in Bill's life. Following this he would be baptized. As Sunday arrived, people knew there was a baptism, but had not been told who it was that was being baptized. Bill publicly shared the events surrounding his realization that he had been religious, but now had a relationship with Christ. The response - lots of amens and applause. Following this Bill was baptized, and his son Zek prayed over him.

The message that morning focused on not just acting and looking the part on the outside, but making sure that we were truly a follower of Christ. At the invitation, a man in his 60's came up and said, "you know why I'm here, it's not real." Since that Sunday, a 15-year-old who was coming to church to please his grandparents was led to Christ, another was baptized in a creek, seven more want to be baptized, and eleven want to become members. What have I learned and observed walking through all of this?



1-Never assume. Never assume that just because someone is in church, in the pew, or serving, that they know Christ. Ask them the simple question of how they came to place their faith in Christ.

2-Be real and be a real church. No one wants the polished fake except for those who are fake and want to blend in. Be a church that shares the realness of the Gospels change in lives. Be a church that celebrates and cries together.

3-Be obedient. Is it always easy? No, but it is always right.

4-Stay focused on the Gospel. Nothing else you are about will truly change a life, but the Gospel will.

5-Share the Gospel constantly. If you have an opportunity to teach or preach and don't include the incredible life changing Gospel, you have missed an incredible opportunity. But I know all these people and they will wonder why I am sharing it.

Remember number 1? Never assume." ~ **Pastor Jeff Sours**



News From Our Churches:

[Chambersburg Baptist Church](#) baptized a believer on May 5th during the Sunday morning worship service. He has been a Christian for a long time but had never been baptized.



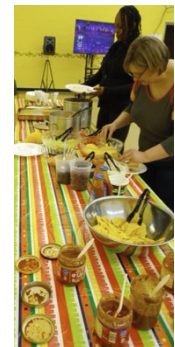
May 5th was also the last Sunday for Pastor Kenny Craig as pastor. After fourteen years in Chambersburg Dr. Craig has accepted a call to be the pastor at Greensburg Baptist Church in Greensburg Kentucky. The church celebrated their ministry and enjoyed a time of fellowship with a dinner held in their honor after the morning service. John Healy, associate pastor, will be their interim pastor.



The church also hosted a "Taco Trivia Night." Robin Appenzellar coordinator for this event wrote: "How many bones does a shark have? This was one of a hundred trivia questions Chambersburg Baptist Church had for our taco trivia night. We had 25 people from 1 years old to under 99 years old lol! We started with a Face Time visit from the Butlers who recently moved and then had a taco dinner with all the toppings, brownies, and a few other desserts. After eating, everyone found a sticker under their chairs and teams were formed. Competition



got heated a few times and the host was questioned and later controversial answers were googled. After answering the 100 questions the score was tallied, and team Eagles came out the winners! They are wanting to challenge another church...any takers?"

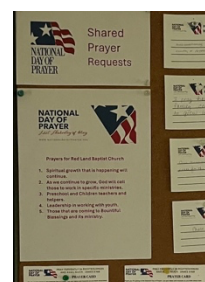


News From Our Churches (cont.):

First Baptist Church of Hanover along with Debbie Buchman (Pastor's wife), Norma Dowling and Cindy Nunnemaker hosted a ladies "Hat Box Tea" on Saturday, May 4th. 23 ladies attended the tea.



Red Land Baptist Church (New Cumberland) opened the church for National Day of Prayer on May 2nd. Pastor Richard Krieg encouraged the members to come and pray for the church and for the country. A bulletin board was provided for sharing prayer requests. During the afternoon, a high school student made his profession of his faith during this time.



News from KBA:

Pastors' and Wives' Barbecue Brad and Jeanine are planning their annual barbecue at their house on May 25th, 2024 from 3pm to 7pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert with you and join us for an afternoon of fellowship. Please let Brad or the KBA office know if you are planning to attend by May 20th.

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 Horne, Dr. Tim Parker and his son Caleb are in London for a mission trip until May 18th. Please be praying for them as they travel with IMB missionaries and share their faith.

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.

Rev. John Buhr is the new zone leader for the Southwest Zone. Pastor John will replace the former zone leader Pastor Kenny Craig.

Congratulations:

Associate Pastor Jake Shetron and his wife Kristelle (Country and Town Baptist Church) welcomed their second daughter on March 2, 2024. Her name is Lillian Ruth Shetron. She weighed 7lbs 5oz. at birth and her older sister Annabelle was so excited to meet “baby.” Jake shares, “We thank God for his blessings.”

AND Congratulations to:

Pastor Josh Bertsch and his wife Kimberly (Oakwood Baptist Church) announced that they will become first-time parents this fall.



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. Ken Cademartori and family as they grieve the loss of his grandson Noah.
- Dr. Tim Parker, his son Caleb, and Brad as they are on mission in London.
- 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.
- 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.

News from BRN: On June 4th, beginning at 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at Carlisle Baptist Church, the Baptist Resource Network has invited Karl Vaters to come and speak with pastors from small churches. Karl has served in small church ministry for over 40 years, so he speaks and writes from decades of hands-on experience. The cost is \$20.00. For additional information go to:

<https://www.brnunited.org/event/karl-vaters>

A promotional graphic for Karl Vaters. It features a photo of Karl Vaters, a man with grey hair, smiling. To his right, text reads: "Pastors are invited to hear from Small-Church Ministry Expert Karl Vaters". Below this, it says: "Vaters is a small church pastor and author who produces resources for Helping Small Churches Thrive at KarlVaters.com." At the bottom, it says: "Tuesday, June 4 at Carlisle Baptist Church 701 Walnut Bottom Rd, Carlisle". On the left side of the graphic, there are three book covers: "DE-SIZING THE CHURCH", "THE CHURCH RECOVERY GUIDE", and "SMALL CHURCH ESSENTIALS".

KBA Financial Update
2024 April Income: \$15,482.47
2024 April Expenses: \$11,395.61

Job Opening:

Stewartstown Baptist Church (SBC) is posting for one hourly part time Administrative Assistant position. SBC is located at 18631 Five Forks Road, in Stewartstown Pennsylvania and has been engaged in reaching the community and serving believers for over 40 years.

The Administrative Assistant will work Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 2:00 pm with a half-hour lunch. The position affords 30 hours of paid time off accrued per year after completing a 6-month probationary period. Salary will be commensurate to knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience. The salary range set for this position is \$17 to \$20 per hour. Applicants should submit their resume to office@stewbaptist.org for consideration.

New Life Ministry – Eric Reiber Our final week of the semester has ended, and students have left for the summer. So, what does a campus missionary do during this time? First, I get some projects done around the house. Secondly, I work on our summer training for our student leaders for next year. Third, I work on fundraising for the ministry, both personal and ministry related support. Finally, I connect with churches across the state to find out what their high school graduates plan to do following college.



It was a great end to our semester, specifically regarding what God has been doing in the lives of my future leadership team. God has blessed us with four amazing students, two of which will be RA's this coming year. This gives them a wonderful ministry of presence to over 80 students living on the floor of their dorm. I was telling my wife, Kate how I think these four have each caught the vision of walking with God daily. He is a part of their decision making, their friendships, and how they view their future careers. Their faith matters to them. Pray for Alexys, Micah, Adam, and Vincent to have great times abiding with the Lord this summer. Please pray the same for me and our intern Maggie who will join the staff next year!

Eric

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.

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