

August  
2024



## News From Our Churches:

**Greencastle Baptist Church** hosted VBS June 10<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Rob Sheldon shared “we kicked off summer with Breaker Rock Beach VBS! We had about 40 kids in attendance, but it took us 50 volunteers to keep them all on task... Really, God has blessed us with such a high number of volunteers in this program. Each evening, we had a staff meal, to help transition families from work straight into VBS. This seems to be appreciated by all the staff, and it gives some people who can’t volunteer directly a chance to contribute by bringing delicious food. Overall, VBS is a wonderful opportunity for our church to work together like a family while spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our surrounding area.”



**Fellowship Baptist Church (Fairfield)** On Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. Bill Burcher and his wife Candace returned to serve at Fellowship after an eighteen-year absence. Pastor Bill has previously served in youth ministry for fourteen years and in the pastoral ministry for over thirty-four years. Together they love spending time with friends, three children and four grandchildren. They consider it an honor to serve the Lord at Fellowship Baptist once again.



On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the church hosted their first-ever “Family Fun Day.” The mission of the day was to present the gospel as they connected to the community. Demetria Hensley shared: “Thanks to the KBA Block Party Ministry Trailer, we had game stations. We also had a prayer wall, free food and gave away school backpacks. To the little ones we gave



goodie bags including homemade playdough and homemade crayons. The entire church came out to help. Our church also set up games and giveaways at the Carroll Valley National Night Out event as another community outreach on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Great things are happening here at Fellowship Baptist Church with the addition of our new pastor, Dr. Bill Burcher and wife, Candice.”



## News From Our Churches (cont.):

**Stewartstown Baptist Church** took a team of nine people on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic from August 3rd – 9th. The team spent their days in the Batey's (small villages of sugar cane



workers) around La Romana, holding a VBS for kids and a gospel presentation for adults in the mornings, also distributing food while sharing the gospel, and praying with people in the evenings. The team praises God for being able to be a part of two people coming to Christ while they were there and is thankful that they were able to distribute food to over 500 people in need, adults and children.



The church has two upcoming events to share with KBA churches.



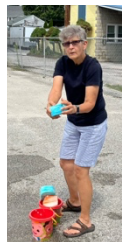
On Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at the church they will once again host their “FREE SALE” event. Clothing, household items, and toys will be available to the community for free.

On Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 3:00pm the church will host a free mental health workshop at the church and will be led by Pam Ammons, MBAC, BCCC. For additional information or to register, email: [office@stewbaptist.org](mailto:office@stewbaptist.org).



## First Baptist Church Hanover

hosted a “Meet Your Neighbor” event at a local park on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen children and parents attended. The church served a hotdog luncheon and included a gospel message at the church.



**Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto)** used the KBA Tellgate grill prior to VBS. They set the grill up in three separate communities in the area and handed out hamburgers, hot dogs, and bottles of water.

Austin Burton, Associate Pastor shared “We gave everyone who we gave food to a flier about our VBS and our church. We had at least one child come to our VBS because she heard about it during the event.”



## News From Our Churches (cont.):

**Chambersburg Baptist Church** Held their first outdoor baptismal service in a creek on Saturday, July 20. Interim Pastor John Healy baptized 11 people. There was a great time of fellowship following with a meal and worship at the home of Adrian and Brenda Craig afterwards.



On July 28<sup>th</sup>, the church celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Celebration. There were 88 in attendance including charter members Don and Carol Lowery. And on Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Interim Pastor John Healy baptized Clinton and Jennifer Raudabaugh.

On Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, the church hosted their second "Family Worship Night."



Held on the first Wednesday of each month, this service is designed for families to come together for a time of worship and is followed by a time of prayer and fellowship in the fellowship hall. This time provides the children of the church an opportunity to worship and fellowship with us as a family experience for the entire evening.



## Pray for:

- KBA churches and their pastors. Please pray for wisdom, discernment and God's will for the Pastor Search Committees at Chambersburg Baptist Church and Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Children and teachers as they return to the classroom.
- Continue to pray for Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker's (Stewartstown Baptist Church) grandson. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.
- Karen Gerstmyer who is in remission from cancer. Please continue to pray for her.
- Pastors and their families physical and spiritual needs.

## KBA Financial Update

**2024 July Income: \$ 10,081.38**

**2024 July Expenses: \$11,586.14**



## News from KBA:

**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.

**The TellGate Grill** is available for your church to use for an evangelistic outreach event. Contact the KBA office for additional information. 717-502-0280/office@keystonebaptist.net.

**Pastor's Forum** Pastors, if you were not available to Zoom into the Guidestone Financial Forum held on August 1<sup>st</sup> you can watch a video of the meeting. Here is the link:  
<https://youtu.be/BOA6T4TgWe0>.

**Pastors' Wives** met at John's Diner on July 27<sup>th</sup>. The fellowship was sweet, and the food was good! Our next meeting will be at the KBA annual meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>.



**The KBA Administrative Team** met on August 12<sup>th</sup> to plan for the 2024/2025 year. The Executive Board will meet Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at Stewartstown Baptist Church. All pastors are invited to come and bring a staff person or church member with them. The meeting will also be available through Zoom. Below is the Zoom link for the meeting:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5361991748?omn=87547316889>

**The KBA Evangelism Tent** is 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. 717-502-0280/office@keystonebaptist.net.

**The "Ultimate Question" Evangelism Tent** has been used at several locations over the summer thus far. Members of First Baptist Church of Hanover spoke to over 700 who visited the tent. Family of God has also used the tent and they spoke with about 300 people. Recently, Mt Moriah Missionary Baptist Church and this weekend it will be at an event with Mt Wolf Community. If your church has an upcoming event that could use the tent, just let the office know.





## A Word from Brad: Pushing Through the Valley

Having been in ministry for 38 years and having been alive for 59, I've had my fair share of what we as Baptists call our trials and tribulations - meaning difficult times in our lives.

In 2002, I was kicked out of Russia and denied a visa because I was a missionary. We were living in southern Russia and were starting 3 churches when this happened.

We all know what Psalm 23 says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." That's the key. We must keep walking, knowing that a mountain top is coming. We have to walk through the valley, and we can't stop in the middle of the valley.

I can't say that when we were kicked out of Russia that the idea of giving up and going home didn't cross my mind, but we decided to keep walking. We trusted that a mountain top would come some day in the future once we walked through a few valleys.

One great thing that happens in the valley is that we look up and keep our eyes on God. Sometimes, we don't even realize that we are in a valley because God is with us, comforting us. The great hymn tells us that also, "And the things of this world will grow strangely dim." The Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians that God is the "God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction..."

When I received the call that I was categorically denied re-entry into Russia, I had a peace in my heart that God was in control and that somehow, He would work everything out. God definitely comforted us through that transition and even brought joys that we never expected, living and serving in Ukraine for five years.

One of my favorite lifetime verses that I've memorized is James 1: 2-4. "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." I know it's hard, but when we are thankful for the difficulty in our life, our attitude changes.

You will go through some sort of trail, difficulty, pain or suffering. The verse above in James says, "When" you have difficulties, not "If". Paul wrote that "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (2 Timothy 3:12). But he also acknowledged that our trials would be temporary, "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, (2 Corinthians 4:17).

The apostle Paul listed out his trials in 2 Corinthians 11: shipwrecked 3 times, countless beatings, imprisonments, etc.

## A Word from Brad: (Cont.)

Paul learned contentment in trials. "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (Philippians 4:11). He endured because of his profound hope and trust in Jesus Christ.

So how can we persevere like Paul? While our trials may not include a shipwreck, beatings, and imprisonment, we can emulate Paul's perseverance by looking to Christ.

James 1:12 says, "Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial". We have to keep walking through the valley with our eyes on the Lord! The mountaintop awaits us!

Blessings!

Brad

**New Life -Penn State: Eric Reiber** New Life at Penn State will begin to see students arriving this week with classes starting next week. Over the summer we have met with our student leaders looking at the book "Master Plan of Evangelism" which looks at Jesus' discipleship of the apostles. I am excited to see our student leaders take what they learned and apply it to our triad discipleship groups this fall!

Our ministry has also added an intern for this coming year. Maggie just graduated from Penn State in May and will work 20 hours a week while in grad school. Her role will be outreach to freshmen and creating a sense of community with gatherings throughout the semester. She is well loved in our group. Pleased pray for her as she transitions into this role!



## WMU: SAVE the DATE:

The WMU Annual Meeting will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024, 10:00am to 3:00pm at Red Land Baptist Church. The annual meeting will be for girls in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and for all adults.



September 21<sup>st</sup> is Children's Mission Day. This is a day set aside for children to minister to the needs in their community. The theme this year is Neighbors. Additional information is available at: <https://wmu.com/missions-discipleship/children/childrens-missions-day>.

## Keystone Baptist Association:

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