



News From Our Churches:

Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto) recently took their youth and CHAMPS groups out to Mc Donalds for a time of fellowship and Bible study. All that attended enjoyed both!



Chambersburg Baptist Church hosted 120 people for their annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday evening, November 24th. Then on Friday, December 6th they provided an opportunity through "Parents Night Out" for moms and dads to spend an evening together without their children. They suggested that they shop, go to dinner, or just have a date night. Eight children attended for an evening of food, crafts, and games. On Wednesday, December 11th, the deacons arranged for their annual Deacon's Children Christmas Party. They had thirty-five children attend along with family members. Santa was also in attendance as he shared with the children the true meaning of Christmas. They had cookies and each child received a bag full of goodies to take home.



Family of God (Red Lion) hosted their family ministry Christmas night on December 13th. There were special gifts for the children along with games and food.



News from our Churches (cont.)

Greencastle Baptist Church shared God's love over Thanksgiving by putting together food boxes. Pastor Rob Sheldon shares: "This year our annual Thanksgiving outreach, providing a meal for those in need, really expanded. We went from providing 8-10 meals to almost 50. It was a big jump, and God provided in a big way. He worked things out so that all the turkeys were donated and enabled the congregation to provide all the trimmings for every family that requested help. What a blessing to be able to be Jesus' hands and feet in our community. Every basket was delivered with a gospel message, both in a tract and through a conversation at pick up. We're praying that God will give us spiritual fruit from this endeavor."



Red Land Baptist Church (New Cumberland) collected blankets and socks and delivered them to the homeless community in Harrisburg. They were able to share with numerous men and women listening to their stories and spending time in prayer. Each person was offered a Bible that had been highlighted with favorite verses from church members. Working with the homeless will be an ongoing ministry for the church. The ministry supports their efforts in helping those in need through volunteering at New Hope Ministries once and hosting Bountiful Blessings at the church twice a month.



Bibles being highlighted by church members.



Thompstontown Baptist Church prepared for a busy November as they planned activities with Operation Christmas Child. Pastor's wife Debby Henrikson shares, "November was a busy Operation Christmas Child month for Thompstontown Baptist! It started with the annual Packing Party & Pie Social, packing over 300 shoebox gifts. Adding in individually-packed shoeboxes, the



church total was 363. Then TBC served as a Drop-Off Location during National Collection Week, receiving 988 shoebox gifts. Finally, a team of 14 church members and friends served a day at the Baltimore Processing Center, processing shoeboxes for South Africa. What a joy and a privilege to be a part of thousands of children hearing about the greatest gift of all, Jesus, in the year to come!"

Heaven Bound Church (Mifflintown) will be hosting a community dinner on Christmas Day at the Mifflintown Fire Hall. They expect anywhere between 90-100 to come. Before eating, Rev. Hostler will read the Christmas story.

News from our Churches (cont.)

Country and Town Baptist (Mechanicsburg)

shared that church member Fred Koppenheffer led their Operation Christmas Child missions project this year. He provided monthly lists, and the congregation began collecting items in March. The "Sewing Servants" group made simple dresses for younger girls along with crochet and knit hats. They also made sewing kits for older children and provided bathroom items wrapped in washcloths. Church members held their first annual Packing Party on November 16th with approximately 70 of their congregation attending including children and senior adults. Mr. Koppenheffer's goal was to pack 300 boxes, and they were able to pack 302. The church's Missions Development Council graciously provided the money for shipping cost.



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 continues to meet by Zoom for prayer on Mondays at 7:30pm.

Christmas Gatherings:

The Southwest Zone met December 2nd. John Buhr shared, "It was lots of fun and good fellowship."



The Southeast Zone met on Friday, December 6th. Zone leader John Worrall shared: "Another Christmas - we must have a party because - well we always do. Besides, I have got to take my wife out sometime! That is not what I want to do with my time! What I want, what I need is to be with people who know what happens to Pastors every week outside of the pulpit. I don't need to hear others complain about how hard ministry is; I need some understanding, some ideas, and to know I am not judged. I want a band of brothers who encourage and empathize with me in the calling of serving a wonderful King. So, every time I can get with these kinds of servants it is a win for me and the Kingdom. That is my idea of a Christmas Party."



The North Zone met on Monday, December 16th in Lewistown. It was a wonderful opportunity to get together for a time of food and fellowship.



Operation Christmas Child

KBA churches have been involved in packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child over numerous years. Here is a list of churches and their donations.

Central Baptist Church (Mont Alto): 79 boxes

Chambersburg Baptist: 33 boxes

Country and Town Baptist: 302 boxes

Family of God: 120+ boxes

First Baptist Church Hanover: 150 boxes

Living Faith Evangelical: 15 boxes

Mason Dixon Baptist (New Freedom): 194 boxes

Memorial Baptist (Gettysburg) 77 boxes

Thompstontown Baptist : 363 boxes



Pray for:

- KBA churches. Pray for their pastors and their church staff.
- Christmas Eve Services that KBA churches will host.
- The Lottie Moon Christmas offering for the International Mission Board.
- Our new KBA pastors: Dr. Bill Burcher (Fellowship, Fairfield), Rev. Larry Baker (Mt. Wolf Community) and Rev. John Healy (Chambersburg).
- Our two newly ordained ministers: Wayne Wilderson (Family of God, Red Lion) and David Burton (Friendship, Stewartstown).
- Wisdom, discernment and God's will for the Pastor Search Committee at Fredericksburg Baptist Church as they seek a pastor.
- Continue to pray for Voddie LaPore, Tim and Vernessa Parker's (Stewartstown Baptist Church) grandson. Clay and Chloe LaPore are his parents.
- Karen Gerstmyer as she continues to battle cancer.

Word from Brad: The Biblical Model of the Shepherds



Luke chapter 2 presents a model that continues to inspire us today—a four-part model that remains relevant. The shepherds heard the good news about Jesus, they believed it, they shared it, and then they rejoiced in all they had heard and seen.

First, the shepherds heard the good news. In Luke 2:10, the angels declared, “I bring you good news of great joy.” They weren’t actively seeking this news, but when the angels shared it, they listened. Romans 10:17 reminds us, “faith comes from hearing.” The shepherds didn’t question or argue with the angels. They didn’t simply hear the good news about Jesus being born; their hearing led to action in the next three parts of this four-part model.

Second, after hearing the good news, they believed it. Luke tells us the shepherds wanted to see “this thing that has happened.” They believed it had “happened.” After hearing, they set out to see it for themselves. I liken this to a time when I was told about a big fire around the corner from where I lived. I immediately ran to see it. I didn’t doubt the truth of what I’d heard; instead, I believed it and wanted to verify it with my own eyes. Similarly, the shepherds believed the angels and sought the joy of witnessing this incredible event. After hearing and believing, the shepherds naturally wanted to share the good news.

Third, the shepherds shared the good news of Jesus’ birth. Luke tells us, “They spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.” The angels had hinted at the importance of spreading this news when they proclaimed it would be “good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

Lastly, Luke tells us that after hearing, believing, and sharing, the shepherds rejoiced. “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

We can apply this model from Luke’s story of the shepherds to our own lives. The good news of Jesus is to be heard, believed, shared, and then celebrated with great joy as we reflect on the process God has led us through.

May we all be faithful in every part of the process modeled by the shepherds who lived just outside Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Someday, it will be a joy to meet these shepherds and hear their testimonies of that extraordinary night when they first heard the good news of Jesus.

Merry Christmas!

Brad and Jeanine Horne

New Life -Penn State: Eric Reiber

Seven students from Penn State left on November 21st and headed to Swannanoa, NC to help with BRN PA/SJ Disaster Relief. They spent the week helping in mud outs and removing wet insulation from homes. They also helped clear debris at Dewey and Kathie Aiken's home. Dewey and Kathie are faithful Baptists on Mission partners that live in North Carolina.



WMU: In 1873 Lottie Moon traveled to China to be a missionary. For the next 39 years as a single woman, she would serve in China. She taught in a girl's school and often made trips into China's interior to share the gospel. She was passionate about people knowing Christ. Her life was not easy, but her calling was great. She died on her way home from China.



At this time of the year Southern Baptists across the country will gather money for the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, named in honor of this woman who sacrificed everything she had for missions. 100% of this offering goes directly to the mission field.

For additional information about Lottie Moon: <https://www.imb.org/about/lottie-moon>

Christmas Greetings!

This time of year, we often hear the familiar melody and lyrics of the famous song by Andy Williams: *"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."* And indeed, it is! So much of what we do during this season is rooted in faith. Take caroling, for example—a wonderful tradition where we literally proclaim the good news in song to others. While many don't go caroling on Christmas Day itself, I had the privilege of experiencing it firsthand.

While serving in Ukraine, members of our newly planted church came to our home on Christmas Day. They stood at our front door and sang beautiful Christmas songs celebrating our Savior's birth. It was such a joyful and meaningful moment—a reminder of the simple yet profound ways we can share the good news with others.

Though you may not have carolers come to your door this Christmas, remember that in many parts of the world, faithful believers continue this tradition, bringing the message of Christ's birth to their communities, even on Christmas Day.

Truly, it *is* the most wonderful time of the year!
May you have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior!
Blessings, Brad