



Saturday Edition

Penn-Del Tips

The official newsletter of the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware

Visit us on the web at www.abmopad.org

Rise, Rejoice and Face a New Day With Gladness!

Good morning! After a day of travel, storms and awesome kick off service, we hope that you got plenty of rest for another full day.

The evening service kicked off with a bang when the praise band rocked the house with four rousing numbers. Rev. Dr. Frank Frischorn made sure to give recognition to all of the regional pastors, including Rev. Eric Kraihanzel who had not yet arrived, due to finishing up a youth camp (Eric did finally arrive just before 10 PM—I hope you got a good night's sleep, Eric!) Following this, the men sounded great singing our retreat theme song, the old standard "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty". Great music and lyrics in that hymn.

Ralph Reynolds gave a moving testimony, speaking of his health challenges and also of the difficulties in finding people willing to do ministry work. He spoke of a dream vision where he realized that he needs to step up and "feed the sheep", seeing that we all need to take on responsibility of ministry, not just wait for someone else to step up. Amen!

Keynote speaker, Rev. Bob McKemey spoke a powerful message about praising God with our whole being. Bob referenced many powerful verses, including a "dangerous" verse in Deuteronomy (28:47-48). Bob closed with three points of emphasis for us:

1. The Lord must be FIRST in our affections. Refer to Mathew 13:44—is Jesus YOUR treasure?
2. We must accept His sovereignty. Nothing can happen to me unless God allows it. Everything God allows may hurt, but it will never harm and will ultimately be for good.
3. We must respond with Joyful Obedience (Deuteronomy 28:47-48)

Tonight's message will surely be just as powerful. Stay tuned...

"It's Time to Laugh" Workshop Moved

Please note that if you have signed up for Grace Shirk's workshop, "It's Time to Laugh . . . Again", it has been moved to Raider Lounge 7 on the second floor of the CUB. Please check the map in your program book.

Don't Forget!

Make sure you sign up for a workshop today. There are several offered. Please make sure you make use of the wonderful opportunities to share with your brothers in Christ and grow in the Lord!

Lost and Found

Find something? Please turn it in at the registration area.

Lose something? Check at the registration area to see if it's been turned in.

Hey Gamers!

In case you missed it, the Board of Managers purchased a pair of Nintendo Wii gaming systems and a variety of games. These systems will be set up for use during recreation time in MPR 100A in the CUB.

Newsletter Submissions

The Penn-Del Tips will be available as you enter the CUB for devotions on Saturday and Sunday mornings . If you have something you would like to add to the next morning's edition, please write it down and give it to a board member by 6:00 P.M. If you have email access, you can also email your information to webmaster@abmopad.org.

Please be sure to silence your cell phones and pagers during sessions.



Reminder: Proposed Constitutional Changes

The following changes to the ABMOPAD Constitution are being proposed to better align the ABMOPAD Board of Managers with the revised ABCOPAD leadership structure. Per our Constitution, the detail of these changes was published 90 days prior to the retreat. The summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

Delete Area Vice Presidents and add Corridor Directors for improved liaison with ABCOPAD

Delete reference to the Pittsburgh Baptist Association as a separate region.

Revise the Executive Committee to include the First Vice President.

Add Article 10A that authorizes non-voting assistants to certain members of the Board of Managers.

From the Editor

I recently started umpiring softball games. If you have ever been a sports official, then you can understand that when we are out on the field, everyone is watching what we do. All actions we take, calls we make, even the way we wear the uniform is scrutinized. They want us to mess up. Think about major league umpires you see on ESPN highlight reels. They are not there because they made a great call or did well on a routine play – they are on ESPN because they messed up. In the end, any loss is the fault of that “terrible ump who blew call after call”. There is no forgiveness whatsoever. Fair or unfair, it’s something that we simply need to deal with when officiating sports contests.

As Christians, we are subject to scrutiny as well. Sometimes people are watching just because they know you are a Christian and can’t wait to see you make a mistake just so they can rub it in. Other times, we are watched because they generally want to know how a Christian will react to a specific situation. Christ told us that we are the light of the world and that we cannot be hidden. We are to let our light shine for others to see so that they may see your goodness and give Glory to God.

When umpiring, the best way to prevent issues is by dedicating yourself to rule knowledge, mechanics and timing and by hustling on every play. It’s the same way

with being a Christian. We must dedicate ourselves to “rule knowledge” – the bible. Not just it’s “dos and don’ts” but everything in between. Jesus gives us a great example through which to pattern our lives, we only have to dedicate ourselves to that and follow his example. Our timing and mechanics are essential as well. If a friend that knows you to be a Christian starts to tell you about a problem or questions you about becoming a Christian, don’t just jump into a script of “I’ll pray for you”. Listen to them, hear them out. Sometimes you have to heal their bodies before you can heal their spirits. Jesus always took compassion on his followers and often took care of their worldly needs before ever launching into a sermon. He fed the hungry and healed the sick first, then he would tell them about the Kingdom. You also need to “hustle”. Basically, don’t be lazy. Take advantage of every opportunity to be Christ-like in your life. Just because you are with friends or because you are not at church doesn’t give an excuse to stop glorifying God.

In the end, we are all judged by the only judge that matters, and that is the Righteous Judge. We will mess up, it’s a given. But we are also forgiven, through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection has secured for us a place in the Kingdom. The most simple rule in the book is the most important one: Follow Him.

Retreat Evaluations

How did we do this year? Was there something you liked? Was there something you would like to change? Do you just have some suggestions for additions or improvements to our retreat? Let us know by filling out your evaluation form. We read ALL of them! Many of the changes we’ve made over the years, including adding bottled water for the rooms at night have been a direct result of your feedback, so please make sure you fill out your evaluation before you leave.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Today's weather is calling for high temperatures and a high heat index. If you are going to participate in any outdoor activities today, please be sure to be careful. Drink plenty of water (not soda), even if you don't feel thirsty. Above all, don't overdo it! Please also be sure to keep any eye on your fellow participants. Above all, enjoy your free time!

Don't miss the fellowship time following tonight's service. Ice Cream and beverages will be served in the Great Hall (lower level of the CUB). Come and enjoy!