



Sunday 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

Good Morning—Here Is Your Saturday Recap!

Devotions started bright and early with the praise song “The Steadfast Love of The Lord”. Rev. Bruce Martin told us that God’s love is always there for us, and never changes. We are the ones that change. When we call, we expect God to be there for us and care for our needs, and for him to always be there for us. We should try to help others and be part of God’s faithfulness. He spoke of Mercy and that we should consider it to be Loving Kindness to everyone. Bruce shared an example of Loving Kindness - there was a homeless lady he knows who inherited some money, and wound up spending over a third of it to help another person she heard about fly from California to Delaware. She showed unbelievable Loving Kindness to that person. We should try to be conduits of Gods Mercy, Loving Kindness, and Faithfulness.

The workshops went well with several full sessions. Make sure you include which workshop you attended on your evaluation form!

During the evening worship program, we had a great time playing “The Match Game” and were presented with an awesome, moving skit by the youth. What a way to remember that Jesus really does pick up our burdens for us!

Rev. Johnson did not disappoint with his message. Following up on his golf analogy, he preached passionately about how we must make those connections with others before we can bring them to Jesus. The men in the Gospel narrative who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus must have known him before leading him to the Savior and we must make those links and relationships before we can introduce people to The Lord. But once we have formed that relationship, we bear a responsibility for bringing them to Jesus.

In the end, when we meet The Lord on the other side, He will not point out how many perfect attendance awards we earned in Sunday School, He’ll remember that we brought people to Him.

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the final message in Rev. Johnson’s message on Sunday.

Congratulations to the 2013 Layman of the Year

Mr. George Plitnik



On Saturday evening, the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware honored Mr. George Plitnik as the 2013 Layman of the Year. George has been a faithful servant of the Lord for many years including multiple terms as Sunday School Superintendent, as an English teacher and ultimately a school Athletic Director. George has been president of his local men’s group for 25 years and had been the ABMOPAD South East Area Vice President for several terms.

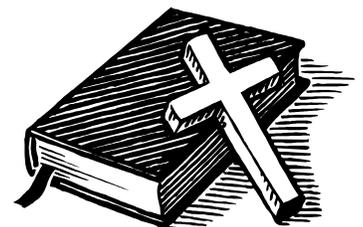
George was joined onstage by his wife of 53 years, Verna Plitnik. In his acceptance speech, he spoke of God’s saving grace in his life.

Join us in congratulating George!

Quote of the day:

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 34:1



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



Attendance Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) - Immanuel Baptist, Edwardsville
- President's Award (most first year registrations) - First Baptist Church, Bethlehem—4 First Time Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) - Calvary Baptist, Newark – 24 attendees.

Checkout Procedures

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the lobby area on the first floor (leave them by the desk)
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key to ABMOPAD registration personnel in the CUB. These keys will cost you \$100 if you lose one.
- Keep your conference meal swipe card so you are able to eat lunch before leaving.
- Please complete your evaluation forms and drop them off in the registration area when you turn in your key. If you need more time to complete the evaluation form, you can mail it to the address shown on the form.
- The blue lanyard, bag and wrist band you received at registration are all yours to keep.
- Have a safe trip home!

What is this Streaming Thing?

You may have heard that we are "streaming" our event this year. All that means is that our daily Worship sessions are being broadcast live over the internet.

The URLs are posted on our website as well as on our Facebook page. You can check out the archives once you return if you want to relive your retreat experience.

Need a Shirt, Hat or Magnet?

T-shirts, hats and car magnets are available for sale. Come by the registration room and check them out!

Hat's and T-shirts are \$10 each and magnets are \$3 each. Package deal: All three items bought at once for \$20.

Who is this "Vacant" Guy and why is he serving in so many positions on the board?

As Bob pointed out during our business meeting on Saturday, we have many vacant positions on the board. Please check the nominating committee report and if you feel led to serve, please prayerfully consider filling one of these vacancies.

From The Editor—When Even Seeing Is Not Believing

I am a big fan of movies, especially science fiction and fantasy movies. I am a huge Star Wars fan (original and prequel trilogies). There is a scene in The Empire Strikes Back where Yoda is training Luke Skywalker on the swamp planet of Dagobah. Luke had crash landed in the swamp upon arrival and later he noticed it sinking during his training. Upon commenting, "We'll never get it out now" Yoda tells him, "Always with you what cannot be done." When Luke tries and fails to pull the ship from the water with the force, Yoda extends his hand and does it himself. After witnessing this seemingly impossible feat performed effortlessly, Luke says, "I don't believe it." And Yoda throws it right back at him by saying, "That is why you fail."

Refer to Mathew 17:14-20 for the Gospel Narrative here:

The disciples had a problem. They were fired up and ready for ministry. They had seen Jesus do miracles and had the inside track. They had even been sent out "two by two" and given authority over evil spirits. They healed the sick and drove out demons with authority. Now, they tried to cast demons out of a child without success. When called

out on it, Jesus was clearly frustrated and told them that they have no faith. The disciples had just seen Jesus transfigured and still couldn't perform this service. According to Jesus, they failed, because they didn't even have the faith as small as a mustard seed (or the tiniest morsel of faith). They didn't believe it and that is why they failed.

In Hebrews 11, Faith is described as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." It's easy to profess that you have faith. It's entirely another story when it comes to living a life of faith. Like "The Force" in the world of Star Wars, we have The Holy Spirit to guide us. While it doesn't give us telekinetic powers or the ability to control people's minds, it gives us the ability to understand God's word. I don't have all of the answers, but the bible does.

If we put our faith in The Lord and trust that His promises are true and truly believe, then we cannot fail. No task ahead of us is greater than the power behind us if we truly believe in its power.

Thank you for coming to the 59th Annual Men's Retreat. We are so glad you came and look forward to seeing you at the 60th Retreat (August 1-3, 2014). Make your plans now and don't forget to get one or two additional friends to come as well. Have a safe ride home!
