



Penn-Del Tips

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

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A Message From The President

Greeting My Brothers in Christ,

We are nearing our annual retreat, so here is an update on what is happening:

Our keynote speaker is Rev. A. Roy Medley, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA. I encourage you to come and support him and to meet and hear his message.

Our attendance last year was lower than expected but with the new redesign CUB, I think the experience will be better than ever, so come join your Brothers In Christ for a few days of fellowship. A registration form is included with this mailing and is also available on the website. Come and don't miss out on a Blessing.

In His Service,
Lawrence 'Larry' Battle Sr.
ABMOPAD President

From the Retreat Registrar

As the time for our annual retreat approaches, the Board of Managers has weighed the costs incurred to run the Retreat, and fees unfortunately need to increase this year.

Our goal for the annual retreat is to assemble a program that is both spiritually fulfilling and fosters an environment rich with opportunities for fellowship with our brothers in Christ. We don't take this responsibility lightly and this is evidenced in the fact that our fees have remained level for the past 3 years. To avoid losing money on the retreat, and to address the rising costs from Shippensburg, we have changed the cost structure of the retreat.

We will now offer three tiers of pricing. There will be an early registration period that will run through June 30 for \$150. Full fee registration is during the month of July for \$160. Registrations received in August will be considered on-site at a fee of \$170. These fees are all based on

normal occupancy of the Seaver's suites. Youth (under 18 as of the Retreat) will receive special pricing of \$100.

Details on other fees such as single rooms can be found on the registration form.

Included with this mailing is an advanced registration form for the 58th annual retreat. It is important to note that the fees above are based on when your registration form and \$100 deposit is postmarked. Forms received will be considered incomplete unless accompanied by the deposit. Forms are also available in PDF format from the abmopad.org website.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone at the 58th annual retreat in Shippensburg this August 3rd through 5th.

An Introduction

My name is John Kofroth. Although I am not a new member of the Board, I have changed positions. During the Board Meeting on April 27 and 28, I agreed to take over as the acting Executive Vice President upon the resignation of our presiding Executive Vice President due to personal reasons. He and his family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our current President, Larry Battle and past presidents, Robert R. McQue, and Robert Swan, have agreed to work with me to plan our August 3rd through 5th retreat at Shippensburg University.

I'm confident that with God's help, and Larry, Bob and Bob's wealth of experience, we will bring you a spiritually excellent and rewarding retreat once again this year.

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 the annual retreat. If you have a favorite game, bring it along! Family friendly games only, please.

Success With Booster Call 55!

Our Haiti Rubble House project has been a great success. We raised through your generous gifts \$5,165.00 towards this meaningful project. In addition, seven American Baptist Men of PA & DE traveled as part of a team of twelve to build Rubble Houses. This team included 5 women from our American Baptist Women's Ministries region.



Bob Swan and Bob Singley presented a check (see photo left to right Bob Swan, Tega, Bob Singley) in the amount of \$5,165.00 to a representative from Conscience International and the Haiti Housing Network which are the groups cooperating in building the Rubble Houses in Haiti.

The 55th Booster Call is now closed and we are now looking for call 56, which will be to support a local (regional, PA & DE) ministry need. Look for the announcement when the new call is identified. Any recommendations should be e-mailed to Bob Swan, Booster Chairman at Swantown@aol.com or call (215) 674-1935.

58th Annual Retreat Keynote Speaker—Rev. Roy Medley

Previously, Rev. Medley was executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, one of 34 regions within the denomination. American Baptist Churches USA includes approximately 5,800 churches and 1.5 million members.

From 1979-1985 Rev. Medley was national director of the Neighborhood Action Program of American Baptist National Ministries, where he directed denominational Christian center programs, focusing on programmatic vision, recruitment, support for National Ministries home missionaries at the centers and mission interpretation with local churches. He represented American Baptist Churches USA at the National Council of Churches of Christ in the Domestic Hunger and Poverty Working Group and at the World Council of Churches through the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Fund.



Rev. Medley has been a member of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Freedom and Justice and the Church Renewal Committee and served on the faculty for the American Baptist Churches USA Church Planters Institute. He has been a Bible study leader and speaker at numerous gatherings in the U.S. as well as in Haiti, the Philippines, India, Myanmar, Cuba and Rwanda.

A native of Ringgold, Ga., Medley holds an A.B. degree (psychology) from the University of Chattanooga and a M.Div. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has received honorary D.Div. degrees from Alderson-Broadus College, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Central Philippine University and Franklin College.

He is a member of First Baptist Church, Freehold; N.J., and is married to the Rev. Dr. Patricia Stauffer Medley, an ordained Lutheran pastor currently serving Hope Lutheran Church, Freehold, N.J. They have two sons, Ethan and Jordan.

Scholarships Awarded

Each January, scholarships are awarded to ABMOPAD students. Applications are available on the abmopad.org website and should be submitted by December.

This year, eight individuals from various churches throughout the region each received \$250:

Vincent McClendon, Kevin McClendon, Zach Mundell, Karsch Miller, Ashley Amaher, Jesse Nolan Kulp, Michael D. Cook and Frank T. Brown. Congratulations to all!

Did You Know?

Do you remember Ronald Dingee? Ron was the ABMOPAD Layman of the Year in 1986 and was very active in ABMOPAD until the early 1990's when he left the US to do mission work internationally.

Ron has returned to the United States and has recently published a novel based on his mission experience. You can find it on amazon.com by searching for his name.

The Pastor Counselor's Corner

The 2012 ABMOPAD conference should prove to be exciting. We are blessed to have Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley come to share what's on his heart and what's happening in our denomination nationally and world-wide. Dr. Medley's travels take him around the world to represent American Baptists and thus he has a unique perspective of the religious landscape, ecumenical ministry and Baptist cooperative efforts.

There are many workshops being planned - several to be led by our excellent regional ministers. The praise band is again led by CG Coats - who was just recently ordained at his father's church (Rev. Robert Coats - Parksburg Baptist Church).

So we hope that you will make your plans to attend and bring a friend. The speaker and workshops should be top-notch and provide a wonderful opportunity to grow in our understanding and passion to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Plus - it's just a lot of fun to be with our brothers from across the region. See you there!

From The Editor

I was flipping channels recently and came across one of those "Biblical Documentaries" which was asking the question, "Who was Jesus?". They went on to investigate archeological evidence, historical records, anecdotal evidence and other pieces of information in an attempt to establish who this person, Jesus, **was**.

While I find all of that very fascinating, I'm more concerned with who Jesus **is**. Sure, Jesus was a man. He was born, lived and died. He also rose again. Jesus **was** dead. Jesus **is** alive! He **is** with us every minute, every hour, every day of our lives.

If you don't see Him, you're not looking hard enough. Jesus told us in Mathew 25 that anything you do (or fail to do) for the least of us, you do it (or fail to do it) for Him. To paraphrase, Jesus **is** the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the prisoner. Feed Him. Minister to His needs. Jesus **is** the student who has been bullied because he is different from the other students. Be His friend. Jesus is not always easy to identify, though. Jesus **is** the neighbor who plays his loud music and doesn't mow his lawn frequently enough for you. Love Him. Jesus **is** the driver who is texting and driving erratically. Pray for His needs. Jesus **is** you! Be His hands, His heart and His love to all of His children, no matter who or where they are. Our first reaction to any situation must be love and compassion, because that is what Jesus **is**.

We encounter Jesus on a daily basis. He **is** there in everything we do. We only have to look for Him. Remember who Jesus was, but, more importantly, act on who Jesus **is**.

Let's Have A Tool Shower!



This is just what the American Baptist Women from Central Union Association did at their Spring Gathering held at Kennett Square Baptist Church. The ladies donated approximately 50 pounds of tools at their meeting.

The tools were displayed in the Sanctuary and were then dedicated by Rev. Jim Olson. Bob Swan presented a spotlight on the

Disaster Trailers. If any of your Men's Fellowships or Ladies groups would like to have a tool shower just contact Bob Singley at Singley09@comcast.net or Bob Swan at Swantown@aol.com.

If your church would like to donate funds for a larger item such as a portable generator, pump, wet vac etc. Send your gift to ABMOPAD c/o Robert H. Swan, 21201 Ann's Choice Way, Warminster, PA 18974. You can also call me at (215) 674-1935.

Youth Program News

Bob Sterling and Kyle West are busy planning great retreat activities for our youth. Saturday's topics will include "Everything You Need" and "What Do You Like?". There will also be many games to play and we will prepare a skit to present to the men on Saturday evening. We will finish our Saturday with an evening pizza party. We hope to see many youth at the retreat this year!

IMPORTANT: 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. 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.

DETAILS

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP—Delete Pittsburgh Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 4 RELATIONSHIPS—Change Philadelphia Baptist Association to Philadelphia Baptist Churches, and delete Pittsburgh Baptist Association.

ARTICLE 5 OFFICERS—Delete Area Vice Presidents, and add 3 Corridor Directors.

ARTICLE 6 ELECTIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE—Delete Area Vice Presidents, and add 3 Corridor Directors.

ARTICLE 9 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Delete and one additional person designated by the President, and add First Vice President.

ADD ARTICLE 10A BOARD OF MANAGERS ASSISTANTS—The following members of the Board of Managers shall have non-voting assistants appointed by the President for one year. They may be re-appointed each year for an unlimited number of appointments:

Secretary, Treasurer, Youth Director, Registrar, Disaster Relief Coordinator, and Booster Chairman.
