



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

Blessed Sunday Morning To You!

Saturday morning kicked off with Rev. Bruce Martin delivering devotions in the T Room. He spoke of “coming alongside” of people in their walk of faith. Bruce reminded us that God came alongside of us in the person of Jesus Christ. When it came time for Christ to ascend to His Father, he sent the Holy Spirit alongside of us to give us the help we need as well. As Christian brothers, we are to come alongside of each other and help each other in our walks of faith. Amen, Bruce!

The workshop sessions were well attended. With a large variety of subjects, there was something for everybody. From learning to give your testimony to singing in the choir, the bases were covered.

Many of the outdoor activities were rained out, but there was an Ultimate Frisbee game in which they played for a solid two hours. New this year was a pair of Nintendo Wii consoles which were set up in the T room. Several men and boys enjoyed an afternoon of bowling, driving and just plain having fun.

When the Layman of the Year Award was presented to Michael Minor, his acceptance speech challenged each one of us to serve the Lord with gladness. He told us that we have creation in our DNA—since we are created by the Lord. We must then use our gifts to create opportunities and stop waiting for others to take care of us. His example of service in his community and abroad is a strong challenge to all of us. Congratulations Michael!

The evening service was filled with music from all sources. Our praise band rocked the house again getting us excited to praise the Lord. Fred Robbins, Rodney Arment, the Men’s Choir and the Men’s Orchestra brought us even more praises in song. Small in number, but these groups are mighty in music. Finally, Rev. McCown used his powerful voice not only to speak to us, but to bring us the message in song.

Pastor McCown spoke on a song of praise, based on Psalm 103. This song deals with the goodness of God, his loving kindness and his tender mercies. We discover that the Psalmist blesses the Lord because the Lord has forgiven his sins. No matter what the circumstances in the life of the Psalmist, he sang a song of praise—either because of God’s gifts or His gracious mercy. God gives us good gifts and we all should sing a song of praise. Amen!

Following the traditional singing of The Lord’s Prayer and the Communion Service, the men enjoyed hand dipped ice cream and fellowship. It was a full day, for sure. We pray that everyone found some connection with the Lord and with each other.

Congratulations to Michael Minor—2011 Layman of the Year



On Saturday night, Michael Minor was honored as our Layman of the Year for 2011. In the ceremony, Michael was described as dependable, pleasant and friendly. Michael has served the Lord for many years. He is active in his church both in teaching and facility care. Michael has worked with the Kingdom Builders on numerous projects and has received an award from the Governor of his state for outstanding volunteer work. Michael is a past moderator of his association of ABCOPAD. This is an honor well deserved. Congratulations Michael!

Good Job Boosters!

Great news! Your support for this call has been outstanding. As of this weekend, your gifts have exceeded \$2,000, which means we are nearly halfway to our goal! If you are not a member of the Booster Club or if you have not sent your donation, stop by the Booster table in the T room after the service this morning and pick up an envelope of information.

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



Attendance Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) - Immanuel Baptist
- President's Award (most first year registrations) - Immanuel Baptist – 4 First Year Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) - Calvary, Newark – 16 attendees.

Let's Go to Haiti and Build Rubble Houses

The ABMOPAD will be having a mission trip to Haiti in late February or early March, 2012. Keep your eyes open for full details in a future Penn-Del Tips.

If you would like a presentation about the trip or the project, we will be happy to come to your church, men's fellowship or association meeting.

For more details about the trip, please contact Robert H. Swan at 215-674-1935 or swantown@aol.com.

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the laundry room on the first floor.
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key. These keys will cost you \$60 if you lose one.
- DO NOT RETURN YOUR KEY IN THE KEY DROP. Return the room keys to our registration area in the CUB. Any key placed in the key drop is considered lost **and will cost YOU \$60.**
- 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, pen and notebook you received at registration are all yours to keep.
- All of the retreat editions of the Penn-Del tips are currently available on our website — www.abmopad.org
- Have a safe trip home!

From the Editor—Be a Hero

I was flipping channels the other day and came across a marathon of "The Greatest American Hero". This was a show that aired from 1981 to 1983 that followed the misadventures of Ralph, a mild mannered school teacher who was visited by aliens and given a suit which endows him with special powers and told to "save the world". Ralph promptly loses the instruction book and has to figure out how to use the suit by trial and error. As a kid, I absolutely loved this show. I think what was most appealing was that Ralph really was a regular guy. He wasn't bitten by any radiated bugs, he wasn't from another planet, wasn't insanely wealthy and he didn't come by his powers through some sort of genetic mutation. As long as he wore the suit, Ralph could fly (although not with a great deal of control), had super strength, was bullet proof and had a number of other powers. When he removed the suit, he was as normal as any other man.

The Apostle Paul wrote about putting on the Armor of God in Ephesians chapter 6. God's Armor is a super suit that will guard our souls. It certainly doesn't make us bullet proof or give the ability to fly, but the Armor of God gives us super strength when preparing to do battle with Satan. We can fight the forces of evil with the Armor of God – that means we can go on the offensive, not just be defensive. Sure, the "Shield of Faith" can "extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one", but we are also equipped with the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God". The "Word of God" is our sword in the battle against Satan. Like Ralph of the 80's TV show, if we lose the instruction book, we won't know how to use our armor. Read your bible daily, study it, attend bible study and immerse yourself in The Word. When we do this, we not only don our "super suit", but we become true heroes in this world. We may still be "ordinary", but with God's Armor on us, we can be extraordinary.

When we fight and defeat Satan, his grip on this world becomes weaker and the Army of God becomes stronger. Put on your super suit and help a friend put on his, too. Jesus has already saved you. Now he wants you to be a hero in his Army and help him to save the world.

Wii! That Was Fun!

As you may have heard, the Board of Managers of ABMOPAD have purchased two Nintendo Wii systems for use at our events. We had them hooked up in the T room on Saturday. The men and boys in attendance bowled and played Mario Kart. Overall, a great time was had by all. The systems will be back next year, too, so tell your friends to practice at home and bring their "A" game!

Thank you for coming to the 57th Annual Men's Retreat. We are so glad you came and look forward to seeing you at the 58th Annual Men's Retreat to be held at Shippensburg University from August 3rd through 5th, 2012. Mark your calendars now and don't forget to get one or two additional friends to come as well. Have a safe ride home!

*Quote of the day:
If you do all of the talking, you
only learn what you already know*