



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

Rise and Rejoice!

Welcome to the final day of the 55th Annual Men's Retreat. It has certainly been a mountain top experience. It's not realistic to hope to stay on the mountain, but as the song goes, "the God on the mountain is still God in the valley."

Our Saturday began with devotions in the CUB. Pastor Dough Stratton spoke on our theme scripture (Mathew 6:25-33) and listed "All these things" (food, drink, clothing, etc.). Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is here and that citizens of the Kingdom don't need to worry because God will take care of "all these things".

The workshops were very well attended and well received. This writer stopped by Rev. Grace Lawrence Shirk's workshop in the "O" theater and counted at least 40 attendees. Keep it up!

The time of recreation was well spent on a beautiful sunny day. Some played sports, some swam, others took a nice walk and still others slept. It's always great to get out and enjoy God's creation with your brothers, isn't it?

During our evening service, there were so many testimonies given by everyone. Between the prayers and words of the presenters and the

songs offered up, the mountain top certainly stayed high!

Dr. Berghuis shared the second part of God's PR Plan—God's Priorities for Transformed Living. He spoke of getting our own compass pointing in the right direction and went through the spiritual disciplines. Dr. Berghuis said that "Transformed Living is reflected in the way we live our lives."

Following Communion, the ice cream social was well attended. Hopefully each man in attendance was able to fellowship with old friends and meet some new friends as well.

Remember—Seek is an ACTION word, so let's get moving!

Congratulations to John L. Anderson 2009 Layman of the Year

On Saturday night, John L. Anderson was honored as our Layman of the Year for 2009. John has been extremely active in men's work for years with many accomplishments. He truly has a heart for service. Congratulations to John for an honor that is well deserved. **Seek** out John, and shake his hand!

We have heard that Ron Stoltzfus is doing better. He is under observation and they will re-evaluate him Sunday.

Attendance Awards

- Founder's Award (churches under 175 members) - Immanuel Baptist
- President's Award (most first year registrations) - Parkesburg – 7 First Year Attendees
- Past President's Award (most total registrations) - Parkesburg – 27 attendees.

- Linens should be placed in your pillow cases and brought to the designated area. In Mowrey Hall, that area is the main lobby desk. In Seavers apartments, there is a laundry room on the first floor.
- When you check out, make sure you turn in your key. These keys will cost you \$40 if you lose one.
- If you are in one of the Seavers rooms that required early checkout, please have the room vacated by 9 AM. These rooms are 206-213 and 306-309. **SEAVERS ONLY.**
- **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 \$40.**
- 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.
- All of the retreat editions of the Penn-Del tips are currently available on our website — www.abmopad.org
- Have a safe trip home!

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



Greeting From The President, Howard E. Dade, Sr.

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank God for the opportunity to serve the ABMOPAD as the 28th president. I also thank you, the men of ABMOPAD, for allowing me to serve you as president.

The past two years, our past president Bob McQue has been more than helpful getting me ready to lead this organization. I know this is no easy task for we live in a world which changes almost daily.

Our purpose from God is to impact the world spiritually, socially and economically – a world where this organization (ABMOPAD) cannot afford to be unresponsive, apathetic or complacent.

Our work must be redemptive in nature, our work must be spiritual, our work must be cultural and our work must be universal. We must be Christ centered and Holy Spirit led. We must be an organization connecting to Christ and connecting the world to Christ. Thank you again for this opportunity.

Our Theme for the next two years will be “Serving The Lord With Gladness” based on Psalm 100.

How well do you take directions?

I have a GPS unit. For those of you who don't know what that is, it's a little electronic device that receives a signal from satellites orbiting the Earth and calculates exactly where you are. Pretty cool huh? But there is more! With my GPS navigation unit, I can get directions to any address or map coordinates. When I was younger, we called it a map. The goofy thing about a GPS is that no matter how cool it is, no matter how precise the directions are, if you don't follow them, you can still get lost.

Take a look at James chapter 1, verses 19 – 27. Now I have a lot of trouble with that first part as noted in verse 19-20. My tongue is very quick to lash out at someone whom I may at the time consider a fool. I send scathing emails at work and say snide things that hurt people. I freely admit that I struggle with that part. With God's help and through prayer, I hope to get that under control.

I'd like to concentrate on verses 22 through 25 for a few minutes. Like not following the GPS unit's directions, if we don't follow the instructions of the Word of God, we're not going to get to where we need to be. We'll meander all through life from one thing to the next. Perhaps we'll be happy at times, perhaps we'll be sad at times. Ultimately, our total joy at being part of the Glory that is set aside for God's followers will not come to pass if we don't follow the map.

What does the map say? It says to read and study the word of God. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

It says to avoid arguments with other believers. Philippians 2:14-16 says, “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.” Proverbs 15:1 also says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.”

It says that we should pray. Daily. Constantly. With thanksgiving. God is not a “Fast Food” God. Many of the calls

he gets are 911 or hit and run type of prayers. He wants us to be constantly thinking about him first. If we approach each and every situation prayerfully, we are more likely to make the correct decision than if we tried to do it on our own. He wants us to thank him for the things we've received. He doesn't have to give us good things. He wants to give us good things. EVERYTHING in life is a gift from God, prepared with care. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, “be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” Psalm 34 verse 1 reads, “I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be on my mouth.” Here is where it gets really difficult. We are to pray with thanksgiving even in the tough times. Whatever your circumstance or current situation, it will turn out for the good. Romans 8:28 reads, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” A broken bone. A car accident. An illness. Even the death of a loved one. God tells us that even these horrible things God can use for good for those who love him. We may not see it right away. We may not even see the good for years. The good may not come in our lifetime. But God promises that all things work for good.

Ultimately, it's our choice whether to follow the map or to go off route. My GPS will recalculate as you go if you make a wrong turn or if you simply don't make a turn. It will beep and then update the route to get you back on track. I tell you that God does the same thing for us. When we are off the route, he will send his messengers to give us a gentle (or not so gentle) nudge to put us back onto the route. It's not always going to be a voice that says “Turn here!” Often it's a small inner voice nudging you. Most often, it's a friend or even just someone you have never met who will help you to get back on track. It's up to us to not only read and hear the directions. We also have to follow them.

In the end, when we meet God in his glory, he won't just say “Arrived at destination”. He'll say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share in the Master's Joy.”