



# Penn-Del Tips

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

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## Mark Your Calendars for the 57th Annual Retreat!

The 57th Annual Retreat is fast approaching! It will be held at Shippensburg University on the 5th, 6th and 7th of August, 2011. A registration form is included with this mailing. We have done everything we could to keep our costs low and you'll find that the price of the retreat is very reasonable.

### Registration for the retreat is currently open, "Early Bird" discount through May 31.

The early bird discount for the 57th annual retreat is \$15 off all registrations received before May 31. Please note that you must include your registration deposit with your form to be eligible to receive the discount. The \$15 will be deducted from the final amount you owe, so please include the full deposit amount with your registration form. Please make all checks payable to ABMOPAD.

Registration this year will be near the Tuscarora room (the main meeting room for the conference this year). This is inside the Reisner Dining Hall building using the side entrance. Look for the signs when you arrive.

The fees for Youth at the conference is a flat \$75. We will also honor the \$15 early bird discount...so Youth that sign up and put down a deposit by May 31 will only be charged \$60, which is LOWER than the rate last year.

When you arrive for the conference this year, it would help speed up the process for everyone if you start filling out your check with at least the payee, date, and sign it before you get in line. Then if you do not know the balance due, it's a quick check of the registration system, fill in the amount, and you are on your way.

Thank you for your continued support of this conference, and faithful attendance. There is a lot of time spent planning and setting up the conference and it is very rewarding for many that work on it to just see you there!

## A Message From The President

An old man planted and dug and tended,  
Toiling in joy from dew to dew;  
The sun was kind, and the rain befriended;  
Fine grew his orchard and fair to view.  
Then he said: "I will quiet my thrifty fears,  
For here is fruit for my failing years."  
But even then the storm-clouds gathered,  
Swallowing up the azure sky;  
The sweeping winds into white foam lathered  
The placid breast of the bay, hard by;  
Then the spirits that raged in the darkened air  
Swept o'er his orchard and left it bare.  
The old man stood in the rain, uncaring,  
Viewing the place the storm had swept;  
And then with a cry from his soul despairing,  
He bowed him down to the earth and wept.  
But a voice cried aloud from the driving rain;  
"Arise, old man, and plant again!"

By Paul Laurance Dunbar

This wonderful and soulful composition was entitled "Disappointed" by the poet. It further makes allusion to us as it relates to the noble undertaking in which we are engaged as American Baptist Men Of Pennsylvania and Delaware—our 57th annual retreat. Arise And Plant again! If the ABMOPAD had not been so noble and our calling honorable we would not have existed for so many years. "God has shed his grace on thee", and "By the living word of God we shall prevail". When it appears in this present day that most if not all is lost, and that these are the times that try the very souls of men, these are the times we may feel that we should bow down to earth and weep. But we stand to prove to all we may be down but not out. There is still that voice crying Out "Arise and Plant Again".

It is fitting and proper that I again pause to render the proper and appropriate salutation, as well as to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all for your support. May the God of love continue to bless The ABMOPAD!

Serving The Lord With Gladness  
Howard E. Dade Sr. President

## Message From Executive Vice-President ABMOPAD

Greeting My Brothers,

Praise God for bringing us through another year. This was a challenging year for me due to the responsibility of co-coordinating the annual men's retreat. God has blessed in so many ways from the start of planning to the final day of the retreat. I want to thank the men who assisted me and all the attendees, for co-operating and participating in the workshops and services. Special thanks to our musical groups, CG and his Band and Harmonious Praise. A big thank you to Rob Sterling for his effort with the youth presentation, fantastic.

This year we promise to be better with the addition of video sport games, and health and technology workshops.

Again, I Praise God for and pray for a Blessed year with good health and Spiritual guidance.

Your Brother In Christ,  
Lawrence E. Battle, Sr.

## What do I get for my registration fee?

For about the same price as a single night in a hotel, you get **TWO** nights lodging, **SIX** meals, **TWO** workshops, **THREE** great worship meetings with incredible music and speakers, recreational facilities (including an indoor pool, softball fields, a walking track, basketball courts and tennis) and fellowship with your brothers in Christ.

Make it a mission to bring youth under 18 years old. Their cost is a bargain at only \$75.

## “Serve the Lord with gladness”

— Psalms 100:2

## Thinking of Attending? What to Bring?

We want everyone's retreat experience to be and enjoyable and worshipful. Nothing can ruin a trip faster than arriving and not having a particular item you need. Below is a list of suggested items you may find helpful to bring with you. Hope to see you there!

- A Bible
- Notepad and Pen/Pencil
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, drinking cup, etc.)
- Towel and Washcloth
- A bathing suit and towel to use for the pool
- Extra pillow, if desired (one is provided with your room)
- Blanket, if desired (sheets are provided with your room)
- Travel Alarm clock
- Spending money (Free-will offerings are taken at every evening meeting and there is a bookstore available in the registration area)
- Comfortable clothes and clothes for Sunday worship (no dress-code is imposed, but many men like to dress for church)
- If you play a musical instrument and wish to participate in the Orchestra—**please bring your instrument.**
- Sporting equipment and clothing appropriate to your chosen recreation activity for Saturday (glove for softball, swim suit for the pool, racket for tennis, etc.)
- Camera (still or video)
- Radio or Tape/CD player to play music quietly in your room
- Night-light for your room (if desired)
- Small reading lamp for your room
- Hangers to hang your clothes in the room
- A Friend

## Show Your Stitches!

Rev. Kevin Walden, ABCOPAD Regional Pastor, has been traveling around the region talking to ABMen about “showing their stitches”. In sharing with the men about their faith, Kevin’s talk begins with a story about Ted Williams, famous baseball great of the Boston Red Sox. Ted was asked one time about how he was able to hit the baseballs so easily. His response was, he could see the stitches of the baseball as it was coming and could adjust his hitting style because he saw it coming! Amazing! Kevin uses Ted’s story as a launching point to stress three things that men can and should do in sharing their faith: 1) Share when they first accepted Jesus – when, where and why! 2) Share what God has continued to do in their life up until now – the highlights of the blessings of God! 3) Share the reason for their hope – eternally. The point of this is encouraging men to show their stitches. When people see them coming – when others talk about them – they see Jesus. It’s not about us, but about reflecting Christ in who we are and in all we do.



At the April 30th meeting of the ABMOPAD Board of Managers, the 54th Booster Call was closed. We raised just over \$3,800.

Watch your mail for information about Booster Call 55!

The Disaster Relief and Kingdom Builders ministries have been hard at work throughout our region. The ministries have acquired three trailers that will be spread throughout the region to enable us to respond more quickly to a disaster or other need.



The Kingdom Builders continues work on various projects, including the ongoing rebuilding effort at First Baptist Church of Conshohocken.