



May 5, 2005

# PENN-DEL TIPS

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

Visit us on the web at [www.abmopad.org](http://www.abmopad.org)

## From the President's Desk

Well it looks like our winter may finally come to an end, boy this has been a winter that just doesn't want to let go. Spring is just around the corner and I see signs of new birth peeking from under the remaining snow. Today we are having the March winds blowing and it reminds me that God is sending a new wind of change throughout his churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware. This "new winds of change" are also being felt in the American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware Board of Managers. As the board works at putting our 51st Annual ABMOPAD Retreat together, the winds of change are very apparent and I'd like to share some of the changes that are already in place for our ABMOPAD Retreat that will be held on 5-7 August, 2005 at Shippensburg University. The biggest change you will see at this years retreat is that we have put everything in the CUB or within a short walking distance.

The registration area will be off to your right as you enter the main doors of the CUB, the main retreat program will be in where the registration area was last year and all the workshops will be held in the CUB. By the way, I just got a sneak preview of some of the workshop descriptions and I believe you will like your choices this year. We will be living in the Mowery Hall (right across from the CUB) and Seavers (which is the air-conditioned rooms). We will dine in the Reisner Dining Hall where we will enjoy college food and great fellowship. Do you like to play sports? Saturday afternoon is a time set aside for you.

Sounds like the makings of a great Retreat, right? All we need to make it an outstanding Retreat is "YOU" and please invite a friend to come with you; we need more first-timers. Please mark your calendars for the weekend of 5-7 August, 2005 and come on down to Shippensburg University and share in the "NEW" ABMOPAD Annual Retreat. You won't be sorry you did but you will be surely missed if you don't.

Sincerely,  
John L. Anderson, ABMOPAD President

## IMPORTANT! Constitutional Changes Proposed

At the Spring ABMOPAD board meeting held in April, 2005 at Shippensburg University, the board of managers voted to add a new position, "First Vice President" to the board. This requires a change in the ABMOPAD constitution, specifically Article 5, "Officers" and Article 9, "Executive Committee". In accordance with our constitution, this change must be published in our official publication (the Penn-Del Tips) 90 days prior to coming up for a vote. At the annual meeting in August, this will be put for a vote, requiring a 2/3 majority in order to pass. The changes proposed are as follows:

The sections in question currently read:

### Article 5 Officers

The officers shall consist of a President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Youth Director, Area Vice-Presidents, Fellowship Chairman, Growth Chairman and Action Chairman.

### Article 9 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of eight (8) members as follows: President, Executive Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Youth Director, Secretary-Treasurer, Pastor-Counselor, Retreat Registrar and one additional person designated by the President. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, Executive Vice-President or upon written request, addressed to the President, of three (3) members of the Executive Committee.

The proposed changes would read:

### Article 5 Officers

The officers shall consist of a President, Executive Vice-President, First Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Youth Director, Area Vice-Presidents, Fellowship Chairman, Growth Chairman and Action Chairman.

### Article 9 Executive Committee

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President, Youth Director, Secretary-Treasurer, Pastor-Counselor, Retreat Registrar and one additional person designated by the President. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, Executive Vice-President or upon written request, addressed to the President, of three (3) members of the Executive Committee.

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The board of managers requests your support in voting for this change in the constitution.

### **A Message from Fred Robbins – Executive Director, ABM/USA**

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, I attended the board meeting of The American Baptist Men of Pennsylvania and Delaware under the leadership of President John Anderson, along with District 2 Representative David Cross. Executive Board members were hard at work reviewing the program year and planning the August 5-7, 2005 Men’s Retreat in Shippensburg, PA

The annual agenda is always a busy and productive one. Among their 2004-5 successes was the Membership Booster Call. An appeal went out to men across the Baptist families of Pennsylvania and Delaware to support the ministry efforts of American Baptist Men/USA. The response from August 2004 until January 2005 resulted in the donation of \$4,500.00 to ABMen’s ministries. What a blessing!

Christian men are to share their resources as a natural response to God’s mercy, justice, and love. Through the years, ABMOPAD members have supported many national and international programs and projects. They have worked to meet the needs of the least among us. They have responsibly invested what God has given them into His work. This year, ABMen is the beneficiary and we extend our profound thanks.

We offer our sincere gratitude for all gifts received. We pray for your continued generosity of time, talent and substance. “They are a sweet smelling sacrifice that pleases God well.” Philippians 4: 18b

### **In Memoriam – Bob Brydon**

On March 14, 2005, our dear brother in Christ, Bob Brydon went home to be with the Lord. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. Bob had been the choir director at our annual retreats for a number of years and was selected as the ABMOPAD Layman of the Year in 1997.

### **2005 Retreat Special Music**

The special music at this year’s retreat will be brought to us by the Kilikpo family, Yeka, Yah and Kou. The Kilikpo’s are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Allentown and moved to America from Liberia by way of the Ivory Coast a number of years ago. This talented family has been blessing the members of Calvary Baptist for some time now and we are all sure to be blessed this August.

### **Booster Club Update**

As Fred Robbins noted in his article, the ABMOPAD board closed Booster Call 49 with a total of \$4,500 collected in support of ABM/USA. A check was presented to Fred at the spring board meeting. We know he’ll put it to good use. In the 49 calls that have been issued, ABMOPAD Boosters have raised in excess of \$225,000.

At the same time, the board decided to go forward with booster call 50 in support of Camp Judson, an American Baptist camping facility. Keep your eyes open for a letter from our booster chairman in the coming weeks. You can see more about Camp Judson at their website, [www.campjudson.com](http://www.campjudson.com).

### **From the Editor**

My home church has been participating in the “40 Days of Purpose” campaign – a six week small group study based on Rick Warren’s book “The Purpose Driven Life”. While discussing the purpose of “Fellowship”, Peter’s words from his first epistle stuck out at me. “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.” – 1 Peter 3:8. Live in harmony. What exactly does that mean? Does it mean that we should all be thinking the same, acting the same way, worshiping the same way and living the same lifestyle? Of course not! That would be very boring. One of the greatest joys I have is visiting a new church and experiencing the diverse styles of worship. I’ve been a member of three churches in my life, each one was different from each other, but I felt quite at home in each one because of the harmony that comes from being followers of Jesus Christ. When a group sings in harmony, each part is singing different notes – the basses, baritones, tenors, altos and sopranos each have their own part. Each part is different from the other – but they all work together to form the song. Part of singing together in harmony is listening to the other parts and adjusting what you’re singing, if necessary. The same holds true for the body of Christ – each one of us has our own part to “sing”, but working together we sing the song of the Good News – and what a song it is! Keep singing!