



Metrolines

The Philadelphia Baptist Association
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Message from the Moderator

Rev. Robert V. Hanrahan

In 1987 I became the pastor of the New Britain Baptist Church of New Britain, PA. It was not long after 1987 that I became part of the PBA (Philadelphia Baptist Association). Six years were spent as recorder of the minutes for the PBA Board meetings. Two years were spent as the 2nd vice moderator followed by another two years as 1st vice moderator which is followed by two years as moderator.



The PBA is family in some ways, and there are times the family struggles to know God's will. There are times when the PBA board celebrates its activities and we give thanks to God for those celebrations.

Let this year be a time when all members of the Philadelphia Baptist Association keep the PBA in prayer. Let this be a time when churches present some of their own church members to share in the work of the PBA Association. One of the greatest ways churches can be blessed is by involvement in the PBA Association.

Stewardship

Fall begins a new church year for many of us. We have taken time during the summer for respite, vacation, and catching up on things we had put off during the course of the year. We return to our duties and responsibilities with a renewed sense of hope, excitement. We expect that God is going to do something new in our lives and use us in a mighty way in ministry and mission. And, we are ready.

This fall *The Philadelphia Baptist Association* is introducing its new **Stewardship Seminars** intensive. The seminars will be facilitated by Dr. Hillary Gaston, Sr., Associate Executive Minister for Mission, Communication, Outreach and Stewardship. He will be joined by Dr. Fred. Daughtery a staff member of the American Baptist Foundation (ABF), and also Mrs. La Verne M. Jones, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Council for Community Advancement (PCCA).

The program is designed to have participants explore the full meaning and import of **Stewardship** and its relationship to deepening their connection and obedience to *Jesus the Christ*. *During the course of the seminars individuals will be introduced to resource materials that will assist them in gleaning a better understanding of and commitment to being an engaging steward. They will look at the multi-dimensional call upon their life as being faithful, obedient and called-out Disciples.* Together we will examine the Scriptural foundations of **Stewardship**, how it was lived out by biblical characters and what it means for us today. We seek to apply the principals to our **whole life** as we strive to grow in our relationships with Christ, family, sisters and brothers we fellowship with and the wider community and world.

We invite you to contact Dr. Hillary Gaston, Sr., at 215-563-7393, x 15, or Ms. Janet Reedy, Program Assistant, 215-563-7393, x 12, for information on how to register.

To Oklahoma!



Harry Cleveland, a member of New Britain Baptist Church, has never been quite the same since July 2002, when he and his teenage son participated with 33 other PBA members on a mission awareness trip to Muskogee Oklahoma.

“In part,” Harry jokingly comments, “I blame Rev. John Murrow, PBA staff, for having organized and led the trip! If I didn’t go I would not have know about Murrow Indian Children’s Home, Bacone College, and some of the needs of Native Americans.” The next summer he drove to Oklahoma with his family and took computers and other equipment and set them up there. His enthusiasm is contagious—others at the church and at Temple University, where he works, have donated supplies, equipment and items to go to Oklahoma. In August 2006 a local company assisted in use of a truck and shipped hundreds of items to Bacone College, and that school and many churches will be blessed with free equipment and school supplies! “Growing in discipleship for Jesus Christ is what we’re supposed to be about,” says Rev. Murrow. “Harry’s and others’ actions speak louder than words!”



Opportunities for Education, Fellowship and Celebration

PBA Minister’s Council Meetings

Sept. 13, 2nd Baptist Church of Germantown, 10:00 am

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Conversations

Sept. 16, @ various locations, 9:00 am

PBA Fall Sermon

Sept. 24, Zion Baptist Church, Ambler, 6:00 pm

Mission Outreach Banquet

Oct. 21, Springfield Country Club, 12:00 pm

ABCNJ Women-in-Ministry Retreat

Nov. 3-4, Fellowship Deaconry Conference Center, NJ

Clergy Social

Nov. 30, Radnor Hotel, 6:30 pm

Youth/Young Adult Ministry Conversations

Saturday, September 16 from 9 to 11 am, PBA will hold “conversations” for workers with youth and young adults and youth and young adults to assist in the direction of our ministries with these two age groups.

Over the years events such as retreats, rallies, training sessions, volleyball and tubing, mission trips and national and international youth gatherings have been sponsored and well attended by youth and workers with youth in our area.

Now is the opportunity to see how more of our youth might participate, what activities are needed and how local churches can be more involved in the planning and hosting of events.

These conversations will occur simultaneously in four locations. You can attend the meeting at the location of your choice: Forty Sixth Street Baptist Church, Drexel Hill Baptist Church, Second Baptist Church of Germantown, The Baptist Temple in Blue Bell. For additional information contact Rev. John C. Murrow or Brent Haddix at the PBA office.

PBA Partners with the American Red Cross



Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder, characterized primarily by chronic anemia and periodic episodes of pain. The underlying problem involves the hemoglobin (a component of the red cells in the blood). In sickle

cell disease the hemoglobin is defective.

Sickle cell disease affects approximately 80,000 people in the United States. People of African descent are affected in the greatest numbers. In addition people of Mediterranean, Hispanic, Asian, Sicilian, Greek, Italian, Indian and Turkish ancestry are also affected, but in smaller numbers.

There is no universal cure for sickle cell disease but, blood transfusions are the best form of treatment for the disease. The American Red Cross has partnered with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children to provide direct transfusion support to sickle cell patients. Through the Sickle Cell Cooperative Donor program, African Americans who donate blood are able to designate their donation to sickle cell patients.

The Philadelphia Baptist Association has agreed to lend support to the Cooperative Donor program. In months to come we will publish upcoming blood drives sponsored by area churches and ask for support from our members in this effort. For information on Sickle Cell Disease, please contact Deborah Butler, Outreach Coordinator Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, 215-471-8686. For information on hosting or supporting a blood drive, please contact Felicia Parker, Diversity Account Manager, American Red Cross, 215-451-4945.

Calling All Women

The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey invite all Women in Ministry to their annual retreat scheduled for November 3-4, 2006 at the Fellowship Deaconry Conference Center in Liberty Corner, NJ. The retreat is reasonably priced and the location is relatively central. Most importantly, it is a wonderful opportunity for women who have been called into ministry to come together in fellowship, prayer, and love. If you have any questions contact Bev Allegretti, ABCNJ Regional Secretary at (609)587-8700.

Think Discipleship!

It's time again for you and your church to participate in PBA's DECISION:DISCIPLESHIP Intensive training beginning October 21, 2006 with additional times in January, March and June 2007. This will be the second group of "disciples" who come from local PBA churches to learn of fresh ways we grow into mature Christian discipleship and serve as catalysts in local churches to help shape persons in becoming more deeply committed to Jesus Christ. The pastor or other representative from your church needs to talk with Rev. John Murrow about this exciting opportunity and how to register. Don't miss out!

Annual Christmas Cheer Project

Christmas Cheer is a ministry project of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, Good Shepherd Ministries providing Christmas gifts to people in institutions. The Second Spanish Baptist Church located at 4917 Frankford Avenue (Rev. Adlin Quiles, Pastor) will be the site for the 2006 Christmas Cheer Program. The PBA Christmas Cheer Center will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 24th to December 14th from 10:00 am to noon. We will need volunteers to work at the Center, donate gifts and pick up/deliver gifts.

You too can help...so mark your calendar early in the fall and help us meet our schedule. Call the PBA at 215-563-7393 ext. 12 for additional information or to schedule someone to come speak with your group.

300th Anniversary

The Philadelphia Baptist Association celebrates its 300th anniversary in 2007 (1707-2007). Plan now to join the celebration September 7-9, 2007 as we'll be "Celebrating God's Faithfulness from Generation to Generation" with events throughout the weekend. Among the many events planned, participants will have the chance to tour some of the historic churches in the Association. The Saturday evening banquet will feature Tony Campolo as the keynote speaker and our weekend will culminate with a 300 voice mass choir concert, an event you won't want to miss!



New to the PBA

PBA welcomes Dr. George M. Hawthorne as he begins his ministry at The Baptist Temple in Blue Bell. His first Sunday was August 20th.



Church and Pastoral Anniversaries

Congratulations to the Second Baptist Church of Media as they celebrate 105 years of ministry with monthly events culminating with a banquet and worship the weekend of November 11th and 12th.

The Galilee Baptist Church family celebrated their 110th anniversary on Sunday, August 27th. The morning preacher was the Reverend Louise Williams Bishop of Radio Station WDAS-AM.

The Shiloh Baptist Church, 21st and Christian Streets, will celebrate their 164th church anniversary on September 30th. Rev. Edward Sparkman is the pastor.

The Second Macedonia Baptist Church is in the midst of celebrating 75 years of service to the Lord and the community. The Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Ritter, pastor, has led the congregation for 48 of the 75 years.

The Rev. James A. Lovett, II and First Lady, Gayle G. Lovett, are celebrating 25 years of service at the Tasker Street Missionary Baptist Church.

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– *Mission, Stewardship and Communication*

Rev. John Craig Murrow – *Discipleship*

Dr. Hillary Gaston, Sr. – *Mission, Stewardship and Communication.*

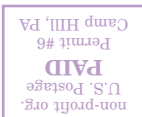
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Mr. Brent Haddix – *Administrative Assistant for Discipleship and Evangelism*

We encourage you to contact the PBA staff for more information on our programs and opportunities for service and ministry.



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