

Westgate Witness

Summer, 2023



2235 Harrisburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601
717-394-1071

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Board Meeting, Women's Bible Study, and ABW Meetings will resume in September. Sunday School will break at the end of July.

Monthly Outdoor Picnics- next July 23rd

AB Men's Breakfast 7/18, 8/22



**Greetings in the Name
of our LORD !**

Please note, due to the transition there was no June Newsletter.

See pg 9

AMERICAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
ROSEVILLE ROAD WEST OFF FRUITVILLE PIKE
JOSEPH R. FAITH, PASTOR
NOVEMBER 29, 1964

“The Day I Argued with God”

Let me share with you in this guest Pastor’s article, two experiences in my life when God said “Yes”... and I said “No.” And as I write, I know you would never do what I did, I know you wouldn’t say “No” to the God who said “Yes.”



The first experience took place in the decades of the 1970’s in my first church in Chambersburg, PA. There was a man in that church named Bob, who was frequently critical of me, a little bit of “a thorn in my side.”

One day he came to me and asked if I would begin to do the Children’s stories/sermons in our worship services.

I had never done such a story in my life, and I had no desire to ever do one. So, I said “No!” He continued to ask. So one day I said “Okay Bob, I’ll tell you what I’ll do... I’ll lead one next week, but don’t ever expect me to do it again.” So next Sunday, I did my children’s story. Afterward, I thought, “well that wasn’t so bad. I survived it... I even kind of liked it. Maybe I’ll do it again sometime.”

So, sure enough, a few weeks later I did it again with much the same results and feelings. Then I did every wee, every Sunday. That church got so turned on with Children’s stories/Sermons, that we had all kinds of volunteers, so many we had to have a coordinator to decide and determine who was going to tell a story and on what Sunday.

That’s how I fell in love with Children’s Sermons and continued to tell them the next 50 years or so. About 15 years ago I was invited to stay over-night at Bob’s home as a guest preacher back at the Chambersburg church, and while at his home, I told him this story, and profoundly thanked him for asking and urging!! It was a time in my life when God said “Yes” and I said “No.”

Fast forward to the decade of the 80’s. This time I’m sitting in my Pastor’s study at my 2nd church, this one in Edison, NJ. I’m thinking about the possibility of moving to a new church, and so I said to God, “Lord, can You take me anywhere as long as it’s on the East Coast... New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey.... I know people, places, and things there.... I want to go, take me there.... Don’t take me west!” Nothing. Nothing happened! Then one day sitting in that same chair, I said “Okay Lord, you win.... You can take me anywhere you want.... You can even take me west.”

Guess what happened? Very soon after that I found myself in phone conversations with a church in Michigan. Then it was a trip to Michigan to see the place, meet people, and preach my trial sermon. Then the whole family went with me to candidate for the Sr. Pastor position. Before I knew it, before we knew it, we were moving to Michigan. And in case you are wondering, stayed there for 15 years, the longest of my 4 Pastorates. There were struggles, stressors mixed in with lots of wonderful days and years.



So again, God had said, “Yes, go west.... Go to Michigan,” and at first I said, “No.” What was I thinking?? How dare I say no to the all-wise God and Heavenly Father. But I did. And I fear sometimes you might do the same. I learned when God says, “Yes!” the best thing to do is say “Yes!” as well. So I’m wondering what if God is asking you.... Calling you to in these days, maybe even in this moment while you read this article? Don’t be like me, don’t repeat my mistake. When God says, “Yes....Go Serve.” You say, “Yes Lord, here I am, send me, here I am, use me, Lord.” God will no doubt be pleased. And You will be pleased. I guarantee it! It’s a life changing decision.

Sincerely,

Pastor Richard Cook

PS In case you were wondering, I have a 3rd similar experience, but I don’t have room to write it

AB Men Event



August 4-5, 2023

Pastors and any men passionate about doing ministry together are invited. **WHERE:** Camp Ichthus; 2880 Stagecoach Rd. W; Palmerton, PA Relaxing 100 Acres

in the Heart of the Pocono Mountains. **COST:** \$20 Per Person - Deadline for Registration 7/31/2023.

ABW 2023 Thrive Conference August 18-20

Camp Hebron 957 Camp Hebron Rd; Halifax, PA 17032 (18 miles north of Harrisburg, PA) 3 days/2-night retreat fee is \$170 per person.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. - Romans 12:13

The Retreat Fee includes lodging in newly-updated motel style rooms (2-4 per room), 5 meals, meeting spaces, and full use of many activities provided for guests as Camp Hebron, including the swimming pool, frisbee golf, walking trails and much more of God's beautiful creation to explore. For some we know this will be a nostalgic stay, for some this will be a first-time get away to this very special piece of heaven on earth. See Pat or Cora for more information.



ABW Ministries

**Our next ABW meeting will be September 7th
at 1:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.**

We continue to participate in the Regional ABW project. The program, "Fresh Start in Costa Rica," is also affiliated with ABC International Ministries and missionary Sue Hegarty. See the posted flyers for more information. We are planning a very active Spring with a variety of events and hope that you may join us for one, or all of the projects.

President, Becky Crissman, appointed Jodie Vasbinder to be the ABWMOPAD Director 2023-2025. It was acknowledged that Jodie has been the glue for several years, keeping the Region Women's work THRIVING. Jodie has agreed to give this a 2-year trial period. We are grateful that Jodie has accepted the call to use her gifts with the women of ABCOPAD.

(ABW cont)

ABW Ministries of PA & DE Annual Thrive Retreat August 18-20

TENTATIVE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

2:00-5:00pm Registra/on/Mission CraX

5:00-6:00pm Evening Meal

6:30pm Group w/

worship/devo/on/Offering

7:45pm Free /me – enjoy the grounds/games

9:00pm Sing around the campfire/Smores

11:00pm Quiet & Lights out

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

8:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:30-10:45am Group w/worship & devo/on

11:00-Noon Free /me (pool open 11am-5pm)

Noon-1:00pm Noon Meal

1:00pm Ac/vi/es of your choice

2:45pm Tea/me Scriptures

4:00-5:00pm Discussion w/ABWMOPAD Leadership

5:00-6:00pm Evening Meal

6:30pm Group w/ worship & devo/on

7:30-8:30pm Discussion w/ ABWMOPAD Leadership

7:30-11:00pm Free /me (pool open 7-9pm)

9:00pm Cookie Social

11:00pm Quiet & Lights out

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

8:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00-9:45am Checkout of rooms

10:00am Group w/ message & communion

Eastern Section ABWM Regions: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania/Delaware, Philadelphia Baptist Association, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont/New Hampshire, West Virginia, and Region of the South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, & Virginia)



Tuesday, October 3, 2023

7:00 PM EDT Held virtually, register on the AB Women's website.

Supporting Our Local Food & Clothing Banks

Please remember to bring in any unwanted item for our food and clothing bank donations. Bag them and bring them to church on Sundays. Collection boxes are located in the foyers- both upstairs and downstairs. Needed items: Canned, jarred & dry grocery goods. New or used clothing in good condition, hygiene and baby necessities.



AB Men's Breakfast

Our summer Men's Fellowship Breakfasts will be on July 18 and August 22 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the Family Fare Restaurant, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg, PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.



PICNIC & POT LUCK

In July and August following worship, we will have a picnics outside in the pavilion (weather permitting.) Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Consider also bringing a favorite dish or dessert with you for the Pot-Luck portion of our meal. We look forward to great food and fellowship following our worship. Please spread the word and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us.



Love Gift is 85!

Love Gift, an initiative of women across American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) to help support the full range of American Baptist Mission, turns 85 this year. Love Gift is a gift to United Mission and supports American Baptist Mission and Ministry. American Baptist Women's Ministries receives United Mission dollars equivalent to 15 percent of Love Gift.

In 1932, American Baptist Churches faced a \$500,000 deficit, and it was feared the financial crisis would limit God's work in the denomination. American Baptist Churches asked individuals to give financial contributions in excess of their tithes and pledges. Women, specifically, were challenged to raise \$150,000 to help meet the crisis. Receiving the challenge, women began the over-and-above contribution called Love Gift. The Love Gift initiative begun in 1932 outlived the Great Depression and continues today to bless the breadth of American Baptist ministry and mission happening in regions, the U.S. and around the world."



Birthdays & Anniversaries- July & August

Birthdays



JULY

7/3 Deborah Joseph
 7/4 Eric Seevers
 7/6 Mary Thompson
 7/7 Kathy Liebel
 7/13 Ron Austin
 7/15 Lianda Lafontant
 Sandy Eby
 John Hessen
 7/23 Carol Proper
 7/27 Sandy Dour
 7/29 Emmanuella Tebie
 Robert Morrell

AUGUST

8/5 James Yost
 8/9 Duke Gabriel
 Ron Williams
 8/10 Rev. Roy Johnsen
 8/12 Victoria Guntz
 Rev. Len Lewis
 8/13 Bud Rust
 8/16 Brandon Young Ferris
 8/17 Shirley Lewis
 8/19 Will Thamavong
 8/20 Rachel Daugherty
 8/25 Jim Cameron
 8/27 Rev. Bob McGrath
 8/29 Anderson McMahan
 8/31 CJ Saylor



Anniversaries



JULY

7/12/1970 Rev. Len & Shirley Lewis
 7/23/1966 Richard & Barbara Adams
 7/23/2016 Htee Bwee & Saw Htoo

AUGUST

8/11/1973 Eric & Sue Seevers



Treasurer's Report

June 2023	
Budget Income	\$10,446.00
Non-budget income	\$2,855.00



Baptist Potpourri

From our Missionaries in the Dominican Republic | Haiti

Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. Many people are wondering if the Eye Clinic is still surviving the insecurity and shortage of fuel in Haiti. In spite everything we hear and what we know is happening in Haiti, the Eye Clinic is growing strong. Its staff is always present and ready to help patients in need of good quality care. This is a Miracle in itself. The week we visited Haiti last month, I spent three full days working there in person. I was there to correct, to counsel, to advise, to encourage and to pray with them all.



Here are some statistics for the first quarter of this year:

January: 527 Patients consulted and 26 Operations realized, February: 666 Patients seen and 23 Operations, March: 659 Patients consulted and 23 Operations done; April: 547 patients consulted and 19 Operations.

Tuesday is known as operations day. We buy the medication the doctor uses to operate from Port-au-Prince, the capital city that has become the most dangerous city to visit. The agency that sells to us imports these medications from India. You can imagine the time it takes.

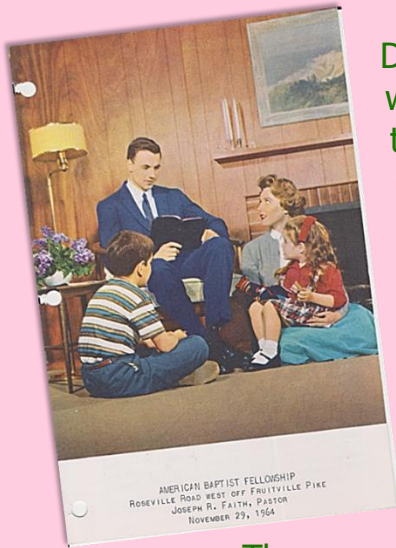
Today the eye clinic faces the insecurity that has and is affecting everybody and everything in the country, including a shortage of gas to run our aging generator. The other Monday our guy bought 17 gallons of diesel on the street for almost US \$ 250 for next day operations. The aging equipment: every day, our staff remind me to buy for them a PACHYETER equipment. The aging building requires regular maintenance. Termites are our number one enemy. They are eating wood and destroying walls.

During this special time of crisis in the country, the Eye Clinic continues to be of help to our poor people thanks to your daily prayers, your daily concerns for our people and your financial support. We are thankful to you for your support, without it we will not be walking side by side with our poor patients. Your letters, postcards, emails are always a source of joy and encouragement. We deeply appreciate them and say Thank you.

Yours,

Nzunga & Kihomi

From Elisa with love



Did you notice the image on the front page? Did you realize what it was? What did you think about that image? As I am tidying up, training and showing things to Anne, our new church secretary, I came across the oldest bulletins I have ever seen here. This is from October 1964! (I was 4 months old when this bulletin was made.) I immediately wondered why these old bulletins jumped out of my files, after me being here 15 years and 5 months! What is it telling me?

Of course, I am very conflicted about leaving all of you and the church, going blind and not having a job. I am sad, but additionally I literally have been worrying myself sick trying to make sure everything is ready for Anne and the coming year.

There are a million little details. I want to tell her about all the different chores needed throughout the year. I've started feeling like I'm not getting it done and the clock is ticking (more panic.) Then I see these old bulletins and think- Westgate has a long history, survived many challenges, changes, gotten past rocky roads— and is still here! So, I guess maybe G-d stuck those historical bulletins under my nose to say, "stop worrying, enjoy the roses before you go, they will manage just fine."

THE FIRST NOTE OF THE MUSIC IS AN INVITATION TO WORSHIP. THROUGH QUIETNESS AND MEDITATION MAY OUR HEARTS BE PREPARED FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

MORNING WORSHIP - 9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE "FAITH" MENDELSSOHN
 CALL TO WORSHIP:
 "PRAISE YE THE LORD. PRAISE YE THE NAME OF THE LORD; PRAISE HIM O YE SERVANTS OF THE LORD, YE THAT STAND IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, IN THE COURTS OF THE HOUSE OF OUR GOD. PRAISE YE THE LORD."
 PSALM 135
 -HYMN "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES" No. 135
 -INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER
 RESPONSIVE READING SELECTION No. 43, N.T.
 PASTORAL PRAYER
 SOLO "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD" LIDDLE
 MISS NONA BURKHOLDER
 MOMENTS WITH THE BOYS AND GIRLS
 WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS
 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING
 OFFERTORY "THEME IN B FLAT" MENDELSSOHN
 -HYMN "HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS" No. 264
 SERMON THE REV. ROBERT W. BOUDER
 -HYMN "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE" No. 355
 -BENEDICTION
 POSTLUDE "GLORIA" ANDRE
 -CONGREGATION STANDING

THE REV. ROBERT W. BOUDER

WE WELCOME TO THE PULPIT TODAY THE REV. ROBERT W. BOUDER AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF PASTOR IN "THE AMERICAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP" CHURCH EXTENSION PROJECT. HE COMES THROUGH THE RECOMMENDATION OF OUR STEERING COMMITTEE AND WILL MINISTER IN BOTH MORNING AND EVENING SERVICES. MR. BOUDER IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 1958 AND EASTERN BAPTIST SEMINARY, PHILADELPHIA 1961. HE IS PRESENTLY PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MILTON, PA. WE WELCOME MR. AND MRS. BOUDER AND PRAY GOD'S BLESSING UPON THEM AS THEY VISIT WITH US TODAY.

OUR NURSERY IS IN CHARGE OF MRS. SUSAN FERRIS THIS MORNING. CHILDREN UP TO AGE 4 ARE WELCOME THERE DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR OUR CHRISTIANE. A BOX HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN WHICH TO PLACE YOUR CONTRIBUTION.

TODAY: 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 7:00 P.M. EVENING VESPER SERVICE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SERVICE OF BELIEVERS' BAPTISM.

TUESDAY: ORDINATION OF REV. WILLIAM MARSHALL, 7:30 P.M. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GETTYSBURG. ANYONE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, CONTACT REV. FAITH.

WEDNESDAY: CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING, 7:30 P.M. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL. THE "AMERICAN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP" AND "FIRST CHURCH" WILL BE MEETING TOGETHER.

NEXT SUNDAY: MORNING WORSHIP COMMUNION, 9:00 A.M. THE DEACONS FUND FELLOWSHIP OFFERING WILL BE SENT FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF OF RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES.

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7:30 P.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY: CHERUB CHOIR, 6:30 P.M., EDUCATIONAL BLDG.

THURSDAY: CHOIR REHEARSALS: JUNIOR 7:00, SENIOR 7:45

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS: DECEMBER 3
 MR. JESSE POGUE, 107 PRINCESS AVE., LANCASTER 17601

ON OUR PRAYER LIST: IN GENERAL HOSPITAL, MR. CHESTER HARBRIDGE. HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL, MRS. ELSIE GRILL, MR. EUGENE RIEDEL, MISS EMILY SCHEUING, MR. EARL SWINEHART.

Now, about that 'Leave It to Beaver' era cover page. Wow, a time machine image! It made me smile ironically(?) - do you see the dramatic cultural changes that I see? Is the idyllic family with two perfect parents, two perfect children, sitting in a perfectly clean home at dad's **feet** in dresses and suits something all of you experienced? Do you believe it is desirable, possible still today? I smile and think maybe every Westgater's family looked like that back then, but they sure have changed with the times! Where's the single mom, the widower, the different races, the elderly, the handicapped, the Jewish church secretary?! Westgate you've grown, evolved, come a long way and I think you are FABULOUS! I see these mega churches with their glitzy shows, draining the souls of the smaller community churches. My hope is that people will eventually discover all the qualities and reason for a CHURCH that they are missing and return to the humble smaller churches where G-d and everyone knows your name, your family, your struggles and celebrations. Where we support and care for each other. Even Jesus only needed 12 in his group!



I hope you have many more happy, successful years Westgate! Please continue to welcome new people with your warm, lovely hearts and smiles. The world needs you.

With Love and respect,
Elisa Huffmaster

PS Please remember to give lists, reports, Sunday School, Bible study changes and ABW news to Anne in a timely manner. Also your minutes from meetings.

“And I also say to thee, that thou art a rock, and upon this rock I will build my Kehillah, and gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” **Matthew 16:18**

Kehillah (Aramaic) the organization of the population of a community that deals with charities and other communal affairs