

Dialogue

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg
51 South Third Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Volume XLVII, Number 7
July/August 2011

free to think, bound to serve
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From the Pastor:

'Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities" (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection). So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.'" Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.' Acts 17: 18b-21

The Athenians' yen for the different and the diverting wasn't all bad. It prompted them to give Paul a hearing, and so some believed. On the other hand, the habit of expecting novelty made the masses poor candidates for conversion. Only some are reported to have scoffed at the claim about resurrection; others were willing to hear more. The big problem was that long custom of listening to rival philosophies and familiarity with ingenious speakers made Paul seem just one more orator with an unheard-of message, and the apostle's words had little chance to change anyone. Antioch was next, and there the message was taken to heart.

A culture addicted to the new always is threatened with boredom. Our society has long counted on developing catchy new buying opportunities, and advertising has allowed us both to find superior products and to get caught up in fads. Telling us that it wasn't our father's Oldsmobile didn't make it sound new enough, and it died. Nobody wants to get associated with yesterday's news, and nobody you meet on the street greets you with "What's familiar?"

Kids are clued in to the current and the coming, not just because they are marks for hucksters, but because they understand that fitting into this culture is about being conversant with whatever is the latest. If possible, succeeding is a matter of possessing the latest. The message is the medium: being anchored to a big, old component stereo system is laughably antique; hearing the same music inside one's own ears, courtesy of the most microscopic and most

memory-possessing gadget, is fine --as long as the gadget also shows films, takes movies, and texts.

Christianity is no longer competing with Epicureanism and Stoicism, though, in today's smorgasbord of stances, both have their contemporary equivalents. Jesus' way to relate to God and to achieve one's personhood is one of dozens of options offering themselves to people all the time, and though religion is sometimes correctly criticized for too much interest in people's money, it may be the least profit-motivated of pitches being given. We are so sophisticated about the psychology of persuasion, and so shrewd about propaganda, and so bombarded with information, that attaining a fresh response to anything requires a decision on the part of the hearer/viewer as well as the person who wants to communicate.

There are some new things on the horizon at church. Curtis Smith is looking into developing either men's events or a men's group. We have the potential for the largest Pastor's Class in years, and that offers us the possibility of developing new approaches to mentoring young people and to relating to the families of those preparing for baptism. In addition to our own proposing, there's God's disposing to expect, and there will be as yet-unsuspected things to do for God coming our way.

There will, however, be nothing gee-whizzy, unless one is willing to hear the gospel with fresh ears. After over twenty centuries, it still startles, and intrigues, and challenges. Where has forgiveness become old hat, or generosity and compassion the same old rut? What society has become bored by everyone's fearing doing harm more than suffering harm?

Summer finds us all over the place. In the fall the faithful will find their way back to worship and to the work of the church. When we do, pray that God permit us to encounter the gospel both in its goodness and in its difference from what we expect, and by changing our hearts, leading us to
Peace. Mac

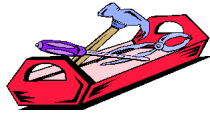


Quarterly Congregational Meeting

The Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held **Sunday, July 17**, following Worship. The main matter of business will be financial.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will meet **Thursday, August 11** at 6:45 in the Library.



Property Committee

The Property Committee will meet **Monday, July 11 and Monday, August 8** both at 7:00 p.m.



Board of Deacons' Meeting

The Board of Deacons will meet **Wednesday, July 20 and Wednesday, August 10**, both at 6:30 p.m.

News from the



CHILDREN and YOUTH

After a busy week of Vacation Bible School the Children and Youth will be taking some time off during the summer. The Shake it Up Cafe chefs were: Will and Sammy Barrick; Lexi Barrick; Matheu Davenport; Angela Lopez; Cherakee, Chandler, and Kaley Palmer; James and Sam Scott; Quinn and Veronica Stanford; Madison and Mitchell VanBuskirk and friends Will and Izzy Devett and Gregory Zaccone.

Thank you to the following for all of their help: Agatha and Lydia Hall; Cathy Platusich; Karen Roessler; Lisa Scott; Lori, Evan and Ryan Wilson; and Dana Stockdale.

Blood Drive



Friday, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Evangelical Community Hospital. Call 534-0400 for an appointment .

Organ Recital

Matthew Glandorf, son of a former pastor at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, will present a Recital, Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 p.m. at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 100 South Third. The concert is free, but a free will offering will be taken. The Church is handicap accessible.

Memorial

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Betty J. Siler who passed away on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the family and friends of Evelyn P. Reed who passed away Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at RiverWoods.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friend of Jim Pangburn, who died Thursday, June 23. The service was at Rooke Chapel, June 26.

For Your Prayer

Cookie Goodall is at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Martha Zeller is at RiverWoods Rehab, room 303 following hip replacement surgery.

Ben Austin, Dick and Peg Budd, Tamara Gerasimova, Russ Mayberry, are at home.

Bill Bobb is at Riverview Manor. Chet & Margaret Jump are at RidgeCrest. Kitty Bowe and Beverly Fisher are at RiverWoods. Harriet Littell is at Elmcroft. Gloria Miller is at Rolling Hills Manor.



Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request or are interested in being notified when prayer requests are submitted, please contact Jan Rolecki at 523-6074 or Kathryn Morris at kmorris1@dejazzd.com.



Congratulations!

Ted Meixell Reyes was born Friday, June 10. Congratulations to parents Bekah Meixell and her husband Atanasio Reyes, and grandparents, including Ted and Diane Meixell.