

Dialogue

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg
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Lewisburg, PA 17837
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free to think, bound to serve
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From the Pastor:

A survey comes in the mail from the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. They are a wonderful asset to the denomination and to clergy, and what I am going to write is not intended as a criticism of them. It is, rather, a reflection on the times, and especially on the way I've already been influenced by technology to do things the hard way.

Upon opening the envelope I find a cover letter, a survey, and a postage-paid envelope with which to mail in the survey. The survey is two sides of a sheet of paper. Both the survey and the cover letter tell me that the survey also can be taken on-line.

Well, it is to the Board's advantage that the survey be taken on-line, because they're paying the postage. They, however, don't mention this favor to them, nor do they say anything which would lead one to expect that using the internet would be an advantage to the respondent. However, for some crazy reason, I pocket everything and bring it to the office, intending quickly to answer the survey on-line. I know it isn't a long survey, because I can see at a glance that its questions only occupy two sides of a sheet of paper.

I carefully spell out the url for the survey, and get the appropriate screen. It tells me that I have first to enter my email address and then the ID number printed on my address label. I congratulate myself on having brought the envelope over along with its contents. However, when I look at the envelope, it doesn't really have an address label. The address has been printed on, and there's nothing above it which seems like an identification number. However, there are a couple of letters and numbers next to the address. I enter those and hit "Continue." What I've entered vanishes from the screen. I repeat the experiment, but again my entry vanishes. It dawns on me that they think they've provided an identification number for me that they haven't provided, and they're insisting on the number I do not have in order to take the survey on-line.

I do the survey on paper, and it takes me a few minutes. I can't just hit a key to send it in, but carrying the envelope to a mail box is not that much trouble, and I'm already mailing things, anyway. Why did I think that taking it on-line would be better? It took me a lot more time, and I had the

puzzlement and frustration of encountering the technical glitch. I already have a ball point pen and know how to write--why didn't I just respond as soon as I'd opened the thing, and put the envelope aside to go out with tomorrow's mail?

Well, I suppose some day it will be easier to do this with technology. We just aren't there yet, but we're creating the demand for the improvements which will make this succeed. I'm reminded of reading a conversation in the late eighteenth century in which an early version of a bicycle was mentioned. Unimpressed by this wheeled contrivance, which at that point had no pedals or gears, a man responded that now the man could use the strength of his legs to move himself and to move the bicycle--in other words, to do more work than he would have done walking. The bicycle began as a novelty and became an efficient vehicle, and there are things which can now be done with technology which are novelties, but which some day will be improvements on the old-fashioned method.

The novelty must be the reason we'll use it even when it's easier not to do so. Then there must be something about our brains which gets them stuck on a particular approach. Once my computer couldn't download a document and I asked another person to get it at home for me. It was two lines of information. The person came the next day and explained that she hadn't been able to help because her printer was broken. Couldn't she have taken a pen and a scrap of paper and copied out two lines? That hadn't even occurred to her.

Knowing the right way to go about anything demands that we be both creative and clear about what needs to happen. When calculators first came out they made solving problems easy--but a person still needed to understand how to put problems.

In the book of Acts Paul arrives in Athens, where, we are told, people love to spend their time discussing whatever's new. It is a culture of novelty, and that may help him get a hearing when he goes to teach--but Acts is critical of the Athenians' penchant for novelty. It is as if the Athenians have abandoned the search for substance and understanding, and have resigned themselves to amusing themselves with diversions.

As churches begin to exploit technology,

are we mindful of its limits? In an era dominated by the opportunity constantly to be focused on screens, and awash with "content" of all kinds, where is the quietness and rest which opens the soul to God? When we ourselves feel compelled to consult our communication devices in idle moments, where is the enforced sense of solitude and suspense which provides an opening to reflection and realization? Will the monastery of tomorrow enforce spiritual discipline not only by limiting talk, but by limiting interaction with diverting gadgets?

Is it in striving always to see, and to say, that we will mature as children of God, or do we need some time simply to be, without expecting messages to offer themselves at any moment? Perhaps the seductive power of processors and memory and connectivity needs to be resisted, deliberately, not merely to avoid noise, but to discover something positive and Present in Peace. Mac



Summer Worship 10 am

Summer Worship starts Sunday, **June 6 at 10 a.m.**; choir at 9 a.m.; Lemonade at 11 a.m. Sunday School will resume Sept. 12th, Rally Day.

BOARD OF DEACONS

May 12, 2010

Present were Mark Bettner, Adult Christian Education; Jim Elmore, Finance; Gayle Pepper, representing Worship; Pastor Mac Scott; Curtis Smith, Discipleship; Todd Stanford, Missions; Joyce Wilson, Fellowship, and Mike Wilson, Treasurer.

Curtis Smith, designated pro tem chair for the meeting by Moderator Sally Nyquist, opened the meeting at seven p.m. with a reading from Romans eight and prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the monthly newsletter on a motion by Mike Wilson, seconded by Todd Stanford.

Judy Mickanis had submitted the Financial Secretary's report. Subscriptions to date totaled \$ 46,876.51, and plate offerings to date, \$ 2,055.32.

Pastor Scott had nothing to add to the report circulated by email prior to the meeting. That report began with mention of the funeral for Lillian Sones. It also said that Steve Rotolo had moved to Heritage House, and that the Pastor's Class pupils did a good job speaking at Children's Day. The communion offered on months between regular communion services will be held before worship, but there won't be one in July, as Pastor Scott will be away. The Scotts enjoyed attending the Open House for Frank and Violet Dietrich's seventy-fifth wedding anniversary, which was held May 8.

Pastor Scott thanked Jack Pyper for arranging for substitute preachers for summer vacation Sundays.

Curt Smith noted that the composition of boards and committees had been reported to the church by a bulletin insert. Jim Elmore suggested that the committees also should be identified in a newsletter.

Questions about the summer schedule were addressed. Sunday School will meet for the last time this spring on May 30. Worship will go to 10:00 a.m. beginning Sunday, June 6, and continue through Labor Day. The only exception will be the first Sunday in August, when we will have a communion service in common with Beaver, at their sanctuary and on their summer schedule of 10:30 a.m. The Pastor's vacation Sundays will be the first two Sundays in July and August 15.

The following committees had reports:

Worship, in its email report, had said it was pursuing the making of two larger baptismal gowns, to add to the existing gowns and accommodate larger candidates. November 7 will be observed as All Saints' Sunday by a special musical program, with the pastor serving as reader that day. The committee will be seeking additional individuals willing to lead most of the worship service for those Sundays when FBC is hosting a guest preacher. Guest preachers arranged for this summer are: July 4, Sue Jamieson, July 11, Joe Lingenfelter, and August 15, Patrick Walker.

Pastor Scott is going to have an oak table made to match the chancel furnishings, to serve to hold the Advent Wreath and for other uses at the front of the sanctuary. He expects to employ Ben Lapp, an Amish furniture maker, for the project.

Fellowship reported that the Mother's Day coffee hour was a success thanks to all who helped prepare for it. The next thing on the agenda is the Father's Day coffee hour. Joyce is hoping to have a progressive dinner either this summer or early in the fall, depending on coordinating with prospective hosts. Independence Day being a Sunday again this year, she is considering doing a small luncheon following church.

Mark Bettner reported at the meeting that he will be discussing with his committee the pastor's suggestion that the church offer a conflict management program. Pastor Scott had been impressed by such a program at a continuing education event and thought that persons would find application of it to all walks of life. Mark also reported that Steve Jacobsen, who has experience in conflict management, would be approached to see whether he'd be willing to offer a program. Curt Smith asked if the program would be offered to the wider community, and the answer was yes.

Pastor Scott reported for the church school that a video night for kids had been held April 23. He also commended the church's participation, including that of many of the children and younger people, in the fundraising event held at Bucknell on April 25 called "Assunda and Les's Run," which was held in memory of Assunda Rotolo and her friend Les Davis, Jr., who drowned last summer. About thirty-seven from First Baptist were among the one hundred and sixty participants, including fifteen kids from First Baptist.

The Sunday School's project to produce hygiene and baby kits for relief work in Haiti had created and sent over eighty kits through Church World Service. He added that the Youth Group was meeting the next Sunday.

Todd Stanford amplified the distributed Missions committee report, which said that the bake sale held during the Arts Festival had raised \$ 529.00 for Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition. He was grateful for everyone who had donated baked goods and who staffed the sale table, and especially thankful to the ten or so people who showed up at eight in the morning that day to set up the tent and table and publicity and sale items. He said the committee might sponsor another booth of some kind at the Woolly Worm Festival in the fall.

Joyce Wilson spoke to the Property Committee's project to improve the kitchenette on the main floor of the church next to the Friendship Room. She said that the new working space would have secure cupboards and a larger refrigerator, and room for a microwave/convection oven, but no longer have a conventional range and oven.

Curt Smith reported for Discipleship that visitor volume, as in past years, had dropped off as the weather had gotten warmer. He showed the Deacons the banner which had been created with the church's image, credo, and name on it, and mentioned how it had been used to help identify the church at the bake sale.

Mike Wilson reported on his work overlooking the proposed calendar for the late 2010-mid-2011 church year. Mike had discovered a couple of errors of date, but felt that the other information seemed accurate.

Pastor Scott reminded the board that it met earlier in summer months, to accommodate attendance at Music in the Park events. The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
MacKenzie Scott, secretary pro tem

Membership of FBC Committees, 2010

Please keep this so that you know whom to contact if you have a question/idea/concern.

Watchcare: Jennifer Wagner ([deacon, jennifer.wagner@bucknell.edu](mailto:jennifer.wagner@bucknell.edu)), Meredith Spangler, Sallie Pyper, Anne Murcek, Gayle Pepper, Judy Mickanis, Lisa Scott

Worship: Kathy Morris ([deacon, kmorris1@dejazzd.com](mailto:kmorris1@dejazzd.com)), Ruth Blankenship, Dennis Loreman, Barbara Loyd, Gayle Pepper, Martha Barrick, Kim Smith, Mac Scott and Sally Nyquist Ex Officio

Fellowship: Joyce Wilson ([deacon, jwilson@bucknell.edu](mailto:jwilson@bucknell.edu)) Virginia Lopez, Charlotte Liggett, Anne Murcek, Bethany Stanford

Christian Education: Mark Bettner ([deacon, mbettner@bucknell.edu](mailto:mbettner@bucknell.edu)), Joyce Pangburn, Jack Pyper, Robyn Tillman

Church School Committee: Lori Wilson ([deacon, lwilson@bucknell.edu](mailto:lwilson@bucknell.edu)), Karen Roessler, Lisa Scott, Bethany Rudloff, Anna Barrick

Missions: Todd Stanford ([deacon, t2b5@verizon.net](mailto:t2b5@verizon.net)), Carol Vargas, Jan Rolecki, Jack Pyper

Property: Bob Murcek ([deacon, rjmurcek@yahoo.com](mailto:rjmurcek@yahoo.com)), Alan Barrick, Cathy Platusich, Alex Ororbia, Bill Pepper, Mike Lucas

Finance: James Elmore ([deacon, jelmore@geisinger.edu](mailto:jelmore@geisinger.edu)), Mark Bettner, Judy Mickanis, Jack Pyper, Mike Wilson, Lori Wilson, Martha Zeller, Martha Barrick

Discipleship: Curt Smith ([deacon, curtpa@ptd.net](mailto:curtpa@ptd.net)), Dick Ellis, Judy Mickanis, Carol Vargas, Lori Wilson, Judy Ellis, Sally Nyquist Ex Officio

Pastoral Relations: Mark Bettner (mbetter@bucknell.edu), Lori Wilson, Curt Smith.

Summer Special Music

June 13 thru September 15 the Choir will sing every Sunday for the service music. Special music will be presented in the anthem place. If you wish to sing or play an instrument during the summer, see Ruth Blankenship or Lloyd Wolf.

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons will meet Wednesday, **June 9** at 6:30 p.m. in the library.



Sunday, **June 20** there will be a special Father's Day Social.



Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School, cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. VBS will be at FBC, **Monday, June 21 thru Thursday, June 24** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and **Sunday, June 27** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Children ages 4 thru finishing 6th grade this school year are welcome.

Beaver Memorial will be joining us for VBS and a joint service **Sunday, June 27.** at 10 a.m.



Sermonettes

Sermonettes presented May 2nd. Our hope is that you enjoy reading these sermonettes prepared by the future leaders of the Church.

Presented by Lindsey Barrick: **Commitment**

Today I'm going to talk about commitment. The definition of commitment is to pledge or assign to a certain course or use. In Pastor's class I learned that commitment was an important aspect of religion. For example Jesus was hung on the cross for us. That's the ultimate example of commitment. I think that fits the definition very well. I have recently started school soccer and have found out that you need a lot of commitment. It definitely does not compare to Jesus' commitment to Christianity, but still it is commitment. Many famous figures have displayed commitment too, such as Mother Teresa and Ghandi and Jesus. There are also people such as Lance Armstrong who is a very committed cyclist, or Martian Luther King who was committed to civil rights, and also, Mia Hamm a very well know women's soccer player. So I learned that commitment is an important aspect of not only everyday life or even the most extraordinary lives but in religion too.

Presented by Christine Craddock **GOLDEN RULE**

Christians try to follow the GOLDEN RULE, which is to treat other people the way you want to be treated. I follow this rule when I help senior citizens cross the street. Ways I don't follow the GOLDEN RULE is by making fun of my sister. I also try to teach my cat the GOLDEN RULE is by being nice to her so she is nice to other people, although I still have lots of scratches on my face and arms. Sometimes in school my friends and I see kids that don't have anyone to sit with at lunch. They look lonely so I think of the GOLDEN RULE and we ask if they want to sit with us and they are always willing to join the group. Even though it is sometimes hard to follow the GOLDEN RULE, we should still try to, because it makes the world a better place.

Presented by Christopher Loreman **CHURCH**

Idea: Compare church things, to the hard work of mixed chorus practice like rehearsals, the loves and the words to learning more about music.

The Speech Itself: Have you ever thought about the things here done in church are the same as...rehearsing for performances, plays, exhibits, and art show in school that you may be in, or a friend is in? Well believe it or not it is, to be in a performance, you have to work hard to pull it off correctly or to **constantly rehearse** it for countless hours, but hey, anything to get it right. It's to show other's what kind of miracle's can happen when a whole group of people practice on the same thing, to help each other out individually and to pull everything together, and to have fun doing it.

When performing and practicing you need to show **enthusiasm** to show your teacher or helper that you wanna do this, and inspire the group to be happy and not be nervous while performing, which will also show the observers that you wanna do this, and your happy about it. In church enthusiasm is very much needed and supported to be a good roll model for younger or inexperienced people or just for good feedback from viewers that are older or very experienced to show that people respect what your doing. It is also very good to show others that you will be a **volunteer** for game's to show other's how the game is really played so no one messes up or mixes anything up, or in a chorus example to show everyone how to do a move or tell them what note to hit with your voice or an instrument, or to tell and/or show what dance move to do in what order

All of the **teamwork and practice all takes time which every one takes time to do out of there schedule**, for church I know for a fact that the people in choir rehearse for a least 1 hour or so to be ready for church a couple days later, in which they help each other so they know exactly what to do and when to do it, in chorus people leave sport practices early to practice what there doing in a show of some sort so they will be better when doing the show, which shows off all you have learned in order to do a good job.

There is one more big thing that is needed which is, **confidence in yourself**, if you do not have confidence then what's the point. If you did have confidence you would feel much better about yourself when doing anything like a game, a speech for a class, or a homework assignment, chances are you will have better grades and better feedback from others. Confidence is big in chorus because if you didn't, no one would be able to do what there supposed to or a lot of people will chicken out. In church it is important because if Mac did not have confidence he would be stuttering when speaking, or not know what to tell his class, or not even show up to church. If the Choir didn't have confidence some of them wouldn't even sing or if so not clearly or loud enough to here them., If I didn't have confidence I would've constantly

messed up at the performance in school, and would not have been able to write what I am saying.

Those are some things that most people should be showing in and out of church, for respect, for better feedback from others, even from strangers, and...for more and/or better friends.

Presented by Matthew Smith
The Little Things in Life

There are many small things in life to look forward to such as relationships, nature, community, and church. I'll start off with relationships. Friends and family are some of the best people to go to when you have problems to deal with or if you just want to visit. They are always there to care for you and help you if you need it.

Nature is God's biggest and most beautiful gift to us. When you're walking or driving through town, be sure to notice how beautiful the trees are and the flowers are in this time of the year. When you see a bunny or squirrel, be sure to stop and appreciate how beautiful God made this world.

Also giving to the community, even in small ways, can be fun. Taking part in community festivals such as the Arts Festival or just going to stores like Zeldas or Maya's to support local businesses is an important part of life. The most recent thing that I did for the community was going to the walk that was for Assunda and Les. A large number of people came to the walk, not only to support people to get pool passes for the summer, but to keep Assunda and Les's caring personality in our memories.

Finally, church is only once a week for two hours but it is the one place you will find happiness, love, joy and support. So just because something may be small or is something you see every day, like your friends, family, rabbits, trees and flowers. They are the things that make everyone feel loved and are the places where you find God.

Evan Hospice Flea Market

Faith Lutheran Church, Route 45 West.
Wed, June 9; 7 am - 4 pm and Thur, June 10; 7 am - noon. Donations taken June 8, 7 am- 4 pm.

Blood Drives

Tuesday, June 15, 12 pm - 5 pm at River Woods. Wednesday, June 16, 12 pm - 6 pm at First Presbyterian. 524-0400 for an appointment.

MISSION MEDICINE

Bring your outdated and unused prescription drugs and over the counter drugs/supplies and dispose of them safely. Help keep your loved ones from taking unnecessary prescriptions and help prevent

drugs from being disposed of in the water supply. Saturday, **June 5** 8 am to 2 pm; CVS Pharmacy lot, Route 15 & Buffalo Road, More information at Home Instead Senior Care, Jo Mueller 522-6533.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Jesus said, "Do You Love Me?"

Feed My Sheep" John 21:15-17;19b

In the midst of challenging times, it is important to acknowledge all that God has and continues to provide, and how we use those resources. So just how do we feed God's sheep in these days? When you give of your resources you demonstrate God's love to a world that is also facing huge challenges. This year as you consider your contribution to ***One Great Hour of Sharing offering***, do so knowing that our love of God is manifest in our feeding of his "sheep". June is the month we receive the offering.

Memorial

Our thought and prayers are with the family and friends of Lillian Sones who passed away Monday, May 3, 2010. Visitation was held Friday, May 7, in the Friendship Room at FBC, followed by a Memorial Service at 2 p.m. with The Rev. MacKenzie Scott officiating.

Our thought and prayers are also with the family and friends of Helen Ranck who passed away Sunday, May 16, 2010.

New Address

Steve Rotolo's new address is 50 N. Third Street, Apt #217, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

For Your Prayer

Ken Bollinger had surgery May 20, Mike Lucas is scheduled for surgery June 7.

Violet Dietrich, Herman Howard Jr., Irene Howard, Russ Mayberry, Laurie Morris, Betty Siler and Ben Willeford are at home.

Bill Bobb and Janet VanBuskirk are at Riverview Manor. Chet and Margaret Jump are at RidgeCrest. Beverly Fisher and Evelyn Reed 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.



Thank You

The Missions Committee raised \$529 through the recent bake sale. All of the proceeds will go to Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition (now called Transitions). Thank you to everyone who donated their time and effort to make the bake sale a success.

To read newsletters from past years, hit the "View All" link beneath the "This Week's Bulletin" button, and then hit the "Archives" link in the sentence at the top of the page presenting recent newsletters.