

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:

Although the word "profession" has become synonymous, in everyday use, with "job", it is not so much the way one gets one's living as the thing to which one devotes one's life which defines the three traditional professions. Medicine, the law, and the church are three cornerstones of social life which address their respective areas--the well being of one's mind and body, the fairness of one's interactions with others, and the well being of one's soul--with a body of knowledge and practice offered by trained and tested devotees.

The three fields require not only learning from those who will represent them by their work, but dedication both to the ideal each pursues and to the means each has developed to approach that ideal. For this reason, medical doctors, lawyers and clergy all are initiated into their identities with ceremonies which include something like taking oaths. What those vows mean is that appropriately trained and examined mortals are binding themselves to honor and serve bodies of knowledge, tradition, and social importance which are larger than the sum of their human parts. Medicine, the Law, and the Church, as their first-letter capitalization implies in this sense, have a quasi-divine character.

That seems odd to say, because our world has become so secularized. Even though the professions once all had God or gods associated with their concerns, and still employ symbols like Apollo's twined snakes or Justice and her scales, and persist in the use of Classical languages and honorific titles, we don't think of them the way they once were conceived. It is probable that many working in each field no longer understand themselves as upholding and sharing the dignity, gravity, and good of something greater than themselves.

The large intermediary thing between the individual practitioner, whether it is a lawyer, doctor, or clergyman, and the ultimate end--health, justice, God--is the tradition, insight, techniques, values, safeguards, relationships and rituals which comprise the profession. The person who goes to a doctor doesn't directly approach health, but finds a human being who believes in a particular method of aiming at health, and employs his or her familiarity with the resources of that approach to benefit the patient.

The odd thing is that the work of the

professions relies, not on something high or hidden from the mass of men and women, but on something within each person. Doctors do their best to recruit the body's own healing in order to help their patients. Surgeons remove or redirect troublesome tissues and then optimize the chances for the body's mending itself and benefitting from the excision of damage or the repair of vessels or muscles. Lawyers appeal to the sense of fairness expressed in the law and intuitive in most individuals. Their preparation of contracts counts on human nature, as does their defense or prosecution of alleged wrongdoers. The courts engage ordinary human instincts about what is true, what is pertinent, and what is right in order to serve society's need for order.

The same thing is true in the life of the church. All the specialized knowledge and specifically "religious" practice of clergy is meaningless unless it intersects with the real spiritual yearnings and spiritual tendencies of persons. What is the merit of encouraging and midwifing forgiveness unless souls truly require cleansing? Why teach and offer prayer if there is no hunger to be in touch with God? Why seek insight from one's religious heritage if questions about divine purpose and personal destiny don't matter? Why listen to the thoughts and life stories of individuals if they aren't precious to their Maker?

How does a society honor the importance of health and justice and holy things in our day? Do the professions live up to their purpose? Are they successfully understanding themselves, and can they expect the people dependent on them to trust their insight and their integrity in a changing world?

Peace, Mac

Board of Deacons' Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons was held at 7:30 p.m. on May 20, 2009, at First Baptist Church, with Moderator Joel Turrell presiding. Also present were Pastor Mac Scott, Treasurer - Mike Wilson; Financial Secretary - Judy Mickanis; Recording Secretary - Lucie Rivoire, and committee representatives as follows: Finance - Jack Pyper; Worship - Kathy Morris; Property - Bob Murcek; Watchcare - Anne Murcek; Christian Education - Mark Bettner.

The meeting opened with singing the hymn, "That Cause Can Neither Be Lost Nor Stayed,"

and scriptural readings from the book of Acts and the 42nd Psalm.

Minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved as published. The Moderator noted that a draft of the 2009-2010 calendar will be distributed electronically to the Board, to allow for input and review before its adoption at an upcoming meeting.

The Pastor reported that at least two new members will join the church by letter on Sunday, June 7. He also reflected on the need for prayer to support various families in the congregation facing serious illnesses. The church was saddened by the death of long-time member Doris Wilson on Saturday. A memorial service is planned for the afternoon of June 7.

REPORTS:

CHILDREN & YOUTH- Lori sent a report of recent and upcoming activities. Video night on the 8th was attended by 8 kids. It is hoped that the older youth will meet over Memorial Day weekend. Children's Day is set for the May 31, followed by an activity for younger youth. Vacation Bible School will be hosted by Beaver Memorial Methodist, June 22-25 and the 28th. FBC is providing crafts, teachers, and recreation.

FELLOWSHIP - Joyce sent word that the Mother's Day coffee hour was a success, with thanks to Gayle Pepper. The next special event will fall on Father's Day in June.

MISSIONS - Todd sent a message that help is still needed on the Habitat for Humanity project; volunteers should contact him for information. The committee is also planning a fund-raising yard sale in June, with Jan Rolecki in charge.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Joel noted that the committee is considering adding a second adult class in the fall, to address the broad range of interests and concerns within the membership.

WORSHIP - Kathy reported that the committee is working to implement their goals. She mentioned that establishing a "core group" of readers has been helpful, with several members of the congregation agreeing to be contacted if a worship service remains unclaimed by any other volunteers.

DISCIPLESHIP - Curt's report listed ongoing projects aimed at attracting additional visitors: a welcoming postcard to be mailed to new residents, as well as redesign of the church's website. Joel reported that six members from First Baptist recently attended a conference offered by the Rochester School of Divinity in conjunction with the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. The program explored three axes of contemporary culture: liberal vs. conservative; conventional vs. intentional; and modern vs. post-modern. It was determined that the formula for a vital congregation

consists of congregations who intentionally engage in Christian practices. Mac encouraged the congregation to pray for understanding of its identity and calling in Christ. The Board thanked Curt for his research and preparation of the report.

In related matters, Joel reported that a second printing of the church directory is planned for the near future; now is the time to submit corrections, additions, etc. to the church office. Work is also underway for an updated booklet for new members, including information on opportunities for service.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES - Joel reported that he is continuing to search for a second person to serve on the Lewisburg Council of Churches with existing representative Gayle Pepper. The Board affirmed that the Moderator is authorized to make the appointment.

TREASURER & FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Mike commented that, historically, subscription income falls somewhat during the summer months, meaning that he will draw on dividend and interest income to support operational expenses. Judy reported that subscriptions to date total \$41,722.76, and loose offerings for the year stand at \$2,785.70.

FINANCE - The committee will meet tomorrow with Jeff Ranck, to review the church's gradual re-entry into the stock market.

PROPERTY - Bob reported that the Founders' Room will be equipped with additional chairs and a table. Efforts are being made to improve the lighting of the stained glass on the Third Street facade at night. The committee is developing formal procedures for opening and closing the building, to apply to all groups using the facility. Upcoming projects include remodeling the front steps and Third Street entrance; improvements to the Friendship Room kitchenette; resolving problems with the back door to the church. The committee also hopes to add a few members to their numbers.

EMERGENCY FUNDS - A general conversation centered around ways to address sudden financial emergencies, both within the membership and in the community at large. The group agreed that many modest requests are best handled by the current practice, whereby the Pastor taps a small Deacons' Fund according to his own judgment. As to more substantial disbursements, various concerns require further discussion at a future meeting: the sense that no one person alone should be charged with this responsibility; and the merits of maintaining a reserve fund vs. issuing a general appeal when needed.

Closing with a prayer, the Deacons adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire, Secretary



Summer Worship Time

Sunday, June 7th Worship will begin summer hours, 10:00 a.m.

Lemonade fellowship after worship at 11:00 a.m. These hours will continue until after Labor Day.



One Great Hour of Sharing sharing resources ----- changing lives

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"

Matthew 6:21 (RSV)

June is the month in which we take part in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Sharing Resources Changing Lives. Many American Baptists understand the OGHS offering to be the "disaster relief offering". That's true! But OGHS provides for much more. Funding for development projects and refugee ministries to national, international, and ecumenical partners totaling over \$1,000,000 is made possible each year because of your generosity. Commitments to our partners for the funding of these projects and ministries are made in faith that your undesignated gifts to the offering will provide the resources necessary to support them.

This offering now has a logo. The logo is round to reflect the circular flow of blessing that comes from helping and being helped. The two people represent the partnership nature of our ministries--it's not us helping someone--it's us working together in partnership to accomplish God's work in the world. We recognize that those who share and those who receive benefit equally. The figures are arranged in a circle, or globe, to reflect the global nature of our work. They are organic and free-flowing to represent the flexibility to respond to whatever is needed. As the figures connect, a heart shape is formed in the center to remind us that true giving comes from the heart.

We are called to join our brothers and sisters throughout the world to relieve suffering and demonstrate God's love. It is our hope that this logo will remind us of that.

OGHS offering provides: Emergency relief available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for urgent or acute needs brought about by disasters of natural or human origin; development projects

focused on meeting chronic human need by enabling individuals or groups to establish or maintain a more adequate quality of life; and Refugee ministries focused on holistic ministry to immigrants, refugees, and migrants in detention facilities and refugee camps in the United States and in local communities.

WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee."

Prayerfully consider what part of *Your Treasure* you will contribute to this offering. There is an envelope enclosed for your offering.



Board of Deacons' Meeting

The Board of Deacons will meet Wed. **June 17th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.



Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a Blood Drive Wednesday, **June 17th** from Noon to 6 pm at First Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg. Wednesday, **June 24th** from Noon to 5 pm they will hold a drive at RiverWoods. For an appointment visit www.givelife.org or call 524-0400. Please bring photo I.D.



Special Music and Summer Choir Announcement

Special music for the summer begins Sunday, **June 14th**. Please call Mrs. "B" at 523-9202 if you would like to share your voice or instrument in our worship. The choir will meet each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the Introits and Choral responses for the 10:00 a.m. worship. Anyone who likes to sing is welcome to join us.



Fathers' Day

There will be a Special Fathers' Day Reception Sunday, **June 21st**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Friendship room.



Our Thoughts and prayers are with the family of Doris R. Wilson who passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at her home. Friends will be received from 12:30 to 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, at the FBC, where a memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. officiated by the Rev. MacKenzie Scott.

Dr. Joseph Weightman passed away peacefully Friday, May 1, 2009, at his home in New London, N.H., surrounded by his family. He retired from Bucknell as Medical Director in 1981, after 35 years of service to the university. "Dr. Joe" was a member of FBC. The family planned two memorial services the first was June 1 in New London and the second will be July 24, following a brief graveside family interment ceremony, there will be a memorial celebration at the Bucknell University Rooke Chapel at 1 p.m. The family invites all to an informal reception following each service.



Worship Committee Request

The Worship Committee is seeking volunteers to join our group. If you are interested in helping to keep the Sunday worship services running smoothly, please contact Kathy Morris at 524-9031; kmorris1@dejazzd.com.



Copies of the new Church Directory are available. If you have not received yours and are interested in one please pick up one at a Church service or at the office. If you are unable to do this and are interested in a copy please contact Kathy Morris at kmorris1@dejazzd.com, or call the church office at 524-7438.



Local Project

Anyone interested in helping work on the New Columbia Habitat for Humanity home for the Lopez family should contact Todd Stanford at 743-4142 or at t2b5@verizon.net. Local college chapters of Habitat have been doing much of the work so far but opportunities for others to pitch in will arise as school ends.



Mission Committee & Bake Sale

The Mission Committee is planning a fundraiser yard and bake sale to be held Saturday, June 13th, and we are looking for donations from the congregation. If you have items to donate please contact Jan Rolecki, Todd Stanford, or Carol Vargas, or you can drop them off at 623 Matlack Ave., Lewisburg (please call Jan first at 523-6074).

Evangelical Hospice Flea Market

Evangelical Hospice Flea Market will be Wednesday, June 10 from 7 am to 4 pm and Thursday, June 11 from 7 am till noon at Faith Lutheran Church on Route 45, just west of Lewisburg. \$5 per bag. Hot dogs and soda available for lunch. All proceeds benefit direct patient care.



"Ecclesiastical Architecture and Decorative Arts of the Susquehanna River Valley"

A publication of the Slifer House Museum, edited by Gary W. Parks is available free from the church office. Included in the booklet is a page on First Baptist Church. There are other churches from Lycoming, Northumberland, Snyder and Union Counties featured in the booklet.



BBBS Golf Marathon

Monday, July 27th Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Susquehanna Valley will hosts its 12th Annual Golf Marathon at Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Selinsgrove. The BBBS Golf Marathon is the agency's largest fundraiser. For more information or to obtain a player packet, contact the BBBS office at 286-3127.



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

KIDS' NIGHT VIDEO

The *Tale of Despereaux* was the video the kids enjoyed Friday, May 8th. PJs and sleeping bags were present and snacks were enjoyed by the following: Matheu Davenport; Elena & Sammy

Barrick; Hobie & Andy Beauseigneur; Kyle, Cody, Cherakee, Chandler & Kayley Palmer; Assunda Rotolo; Sam & James Scott; Emma, Jack & Charlie Tillman; Cole Vashel and Ryan Wilson.



Summer Camp Opportunities

American Baptist Churches are sharing in the resources of Camp Swatara, in Bethel, Pa. There are camping programs for children from kindergarten ages on up through high school, including several special interest camps. More information is available through the church office. Our intention is to make this available if possible. Speak with the pastor if financial need might be an obstacle.



June 22, 23, 24, 25 and 28

Vacation Bible School starts Monday June 22nd thru Thursday, June 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and ends on Sunday, June 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. VBS will be held at Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church, 40 South Third Street, just across the street from First Baptist.

CAMP E.D.G.E. takes children to an extreme adventure. A camp where they Experience and Discover God Everywhere! **CAMP E.D.G.E.** VBS is not your typical stroll through the woods. It's an action-packed, adrenaline-filled expedition that teaches kids their strength and might come from God. Through rockin' contemporary music, larger-than-life recreation games, mind-boggling science activities, extreme sports videos, and cool, challenging crafts, that will show kids how to live on the E.D.G.E. in their faith.

People News

Peggeen Harbert e-mailed and sent pictures of her daughters Renée and Dedra, and one of her grandchildren. Renée has Ian, who will be 4 in August, and Aylen, 1 in June. Dedra is on the tenure track in the physics department at Oregon State University.

Peggeeb and Ken have moved to North Carolina. Ken expects to retire in a couple of years; Peggeen is already there. She sent her email from the eponymous Peggeen@gmail.com

Lydia Hall recently returned from a semester in Spain. Sarah Murcek was in the choir since coming back from Pittsburgh, but will be spending much of the summer in State College.



Daily **CAMP E.D.G.E.** VBS Pledges:

- * God is with me. I will stay close to God.
- * God guides me. I will follow.
- * God teaches me. I will learn.
- * God loves me. I will love God and others.
- * God sends me. I will go.

There will be daily treks going to the Promised Land; Bethlehem; the Pharisee's House' the Upper Room and to Galilee. We don't want to forget Scripture Checkpoint, Mission and Snacks -- like s'mores -- yum! Sounds like a great time to experience and discover God everywhere!

All children ages 4 years thru finishing 6th grade this school year are encourage to attend.

We encourage you to pray for the children who will attend and also the teachers and helpers. It take many people working together.

We also encourage your to attend combined worship at Beaver Memorial United Methodist Church on the 28th for a short program by the children you participated in VBS,



Flag Day

June 14th

On August 3, 1949 President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.



July - August Newsletter

Please have information for the July - August Newsletter to the office by **June 23rd**. If you have any news you would like to share with the congregation, contact the office by phone or e-mail and we will be glad to include the information in the newsletter as space allows.



Summer arrives June 21st. A time to enjoy the outdoors with gardening, picnicking; swimming, mowing grass, vacations or just sitting in a chair and enjoying the world God created for us.

Please remember to check the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the back hallway, to see if help is needed on Sunday mornings in coming weeks. Vacation time is coming and people that normally fill the jobs may be away. **This would be a good time for you to see what jobs you could fill.** Thanks.

Have a good summer. *Mary Ellen*

