

## Dialogue

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg  
51 South Third Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
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May 2009

### From the Pastor:

Mohegan Sun towers over the surrounding countryside in Uncasville, Connecticut. It is one of two Connecticut casinos which resulted from official recognition of tribal groups. Native Americans have a nuanced relationship to the United States government, which makes it possible for them to host high-stakes gambling. The relative poverty in which the dwindling tribe lived for years has been erased by the betting concession. Now everyone whose genealogy established a legally-defined heritage gets a check annually from the tribe's take.

Part of the tribe's endeavor is to spend their collective wealth constructively. One result is a modern museum on the grounds of the casino, with artifacts and reconstructions to illustrate the life of their ancestors. In the lower level a large room contains a representative village, with men, women and children fashioned from some durable material returning from hunting, preparing food, and playing. They are dispersed amid a half dozen or so bark-covered dwellings.

It's possible to walk through the village oneself, and peek into the huts, and look over the shoulders of the inhabitants frozen in perpetual routines of daily life. One gets some idea of what life was like.

It's hard to believe, however, that everybody was as fit and attractive as the statues are. One expects to see dark hair on everyone, but not necessary narrow waists and broad shoulders on every man, and beauty-contest physiques on every woman. The few full-blooded Mohegans I remember from my childhood were pleasant-looking people, but they tended to be more trim than Herculean, and the women more short and pleasingly plump than statuesque.

It's rather like the image of life which at least at one time dominated beer commercials. Beer, as everyone knows, tends to put bellies on people, but everyone in the ads was as fit as an Olympian. The women were beautiful and the men handsome, and the closest thing to an older person was a little salt-and-pepper in the tousled hair of one of the guys.

Nobody sells beer with the image of solitary, ordinary-looking drinkers, and I suppose the Mohegans didn't want to do anything but put the best spin on their hardworking ancestors. The museum itself is funded by an illusory glamor so

*free to think, bound to serve*

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destructive of the social fabric that making money by it is illegal except for a privileged few (only governments, charities-including churches-and Native Americans are allowed to make money on gambling). How surprising can it be that the casino's owners project their beautiful-people image back on their forebears?

There was an Indian museum in Uncasville when I was a boy. It was run by Harold Tantaquidgeon. His father and sister and he had founded it to dispel racism by building understanding. A decorated hero of the Second World War, Tantaquidgeon was a lean, alert man with a friendly voice and dark eyes who showed us around his grounds. Like the real huts and long houses of old, the ones in his museum stood in a clearing in the woods. You didn't just peer in, but went in. There were no figures, idealized or otherwise, to show what life was. You saw what life was by seeing the places to sleep, to cook, by seeing the baskets and pottery and tools.

Trends and the times influence how people see, and what people understand, but I'm not convinced that a museum a little more like that of the Tantaquidgeons wouldn't gain in authenticity what it might lose in accessibility. It would be daring to expect people to try to explore the life of the 1600's without air-conditioning, and to react positively to strangers of a different race who didn't compensate for that by being perfect physical specimens. Still, I think people truly interested in the tribe's past, and the life of their ancestors, would prefer simple truth to showy approximations. It's hard to believe that people not interested in traditional Mohegan life would find anything more in the new museum than in the old.

The apostle Paul had to negotiate appealing to his hearers where they were ("to the Jews a Jew and to the Greeks a Greek") and offering only that of which was truly important ("to preach nothing but Christ Jesus and him crucified.") We share his project, of engaging strangers on behalf of what God accomplished in Christ, and we share the problem. Can we expect to attract good reactions to our message without aping successful salesmanship of our day? How far can we go in the direction of accommodating fashions before we drift from conviction? Is there some way to assure the world of our seriousness in helping them see, without distorting what we have to show? How do we become as transparent as possible to the truth that is Jesus Christ, so that neither the dominant

culture nor our own familiar preferences and practices interfere with a person's finding

Peace? Mac

### **BOARD OF DEACONS' MEETING**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons was held at 7:30 p.m. on April 8, 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 - Gayle Pepper; Property - Bob Murcek; Fellowship - Joyce Wilson; Discipleship - Curt Smith; Watchcare - Anne Murcek; Missions - Todd Stanford.

The meeting opened with singing the hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross."

The Pastor reported on health concerns among members and friends of the congregation and on delivery of communion to shut-ins. Mac expressed gratitude to all who assisted with the Palm Sunday service of baptism.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board continued its discussion of church camp. Mac explained that Camp Swatara, operated by the Church of the Brethren, is the one endorsed by the American Baptist regional organization. It has been about 15 years since First Baptist was represented there, but that experience had been positive. The camp offers programs for children from kindergarten age through high school, at a cost of about \$250-300 per week per camper. The Deacons approved a motion to advertise the camp to the congregation at large, with the provision that funding could be provided for two children, should there be a need for assistance.

#### **REPORTS:**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH-** Lori reported that about 17 kids attended video night and around 12 participated in the younger youth group activity.

**FELLOWSHIP** - Joyce thanked those who helped with the Palm Sunday luncheon for the new baptizands. The dinner to honor high school graduates is set for April 15.

**MISSIONS** - Todd confirmed that a work day will be organized for the Habitat for Humanity home for the Lopez family. He noted that college students are currently available to help, so that congregational participation will probably will be most welcome in late May or June after the school year is over.

#### **TREASURER & FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Mike reported that income and expenses are well within the expected 25% point for the first quarter. Further details will be provided at the quarterly congregational meeting on April 19. Judy noted that offerings are slightly higher this year than at the

same point a year ago: plate offerings to date stand at \$1,762.25 (\$1,665.30 in 2008), and subscriptions total \$29,666 (\$24,926.12 in 2008).

**PROPERTY** - The committee is dedicating its efforts to keeping the premises well lighted until about 11 pm; the fixtures are already in place, but timers and light bulbs need to be maintained regularly. Bob also reported that the apparent shortage of folding chairs will be addressed, beginning with an inventory.

**COUNCIL OF CHURCHES** - In general business, Gayle Pepper requested that an additional representative to the Council of Churches be named. As directed by the constitution, the Moderator will make the appointment. Minutes of the March 18 meeting were approved as published.

**DISCIPLESHIP** - The remainder of the meeting was turned over to Curt for a slide presentation. Using visitor data from the past two years, the committee has studied monthly numbers, seasonal trends, and reasons given by visitors for choosing First Baptist. Given standard projections to determine the number of first-time guests who will eventually become regular attendees, our church needs to attract more new faces each week. While the congregation as a whole is encouraged to be open to opportunities to invite and welcome guests, the committee is currently focusing on promotion through general and targeted advertising and development of the church's website. The Board commended Curt and his committee for the well-prepared presentation.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucie Rivoire, Secretary

### **Quarterly Congregational Meeting**

The quarterly meeting of the congregation of First Baptist was held following worship on Sunday April 19, 2009, with about 12 members in attendance. Presiding over the meeting, Moderator Joel Turrell invited the Pastor to open the session with a brief prayer. Those in attendance were provided with copies of the Treasurer's quarterly financial report. Minutes of the January 2009, congregational meeting were approved as published, following a motion by Alan Barrick, seconded by Mark Bettner.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Moderator reviewed Treasurer Mike Wilson's printed summary of expenses and revenue for the first quarter of the year. As might be expected, expenditures to date total roughly 25% of the amounts budgeted. Predictably for this time of year, fuel expenses stand at 53% of budget. Due to renovations in the parsonage apartments, maintenance expenditures

likewise amount to 50% of the allotment. Income from subscriptions and plate offerings are slightly ahead, totaling 27% of the projected amounts. First Baptist's endowment fund shows a balance of \$1,113,550. Despite some losses due to stock market conditions, the impact on the church's investments has not been disastrous. With no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucie Rivoire



### Piano & Clarinet Recital

The piano students of Lloyd Wolfe and Ruth Blankenship and the clarinet students of Judy Christie will present a recital in the church Sunday, **May 3rd** at 2:00 p.m.

### Worship Committee Meeting

Monday, **May 4th** the Worship Committee will meet. Primary focus will be continuing discussion/planning for goals and objectives of the committee.

### CHOIR NIGHT

The choir will rehearse Wednesday, **May 6th** at 7:15 p.m.



### TEA

The special Mother's Day Tea will be held Sunday, **May 10th** during the 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Friendship Room.

### DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group will meet Sunday, **May 10th** and **May 24th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. The Discussion on **May 10th** will be led by Ben Willeford. The topic will be, "How much does a banana cost?" There is no preliminary reading assignment. A short video will be shown, followed by discussion. It is hoped that it will be possible for one of the actors/producers of the film to join us for the evening. Bananas will be served!

### Women's Spring Luncheon

The Women's Spring Luncheon will be Tuesday, **May 19th** at noon.

### Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons will meet Wednesday, **May 20th** at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

### PENTECOST

Sunday, **May 31st** is Pentecost Sunday, the Last Sunday of Easter.



### Children's Day

Sunday **May 31st** Children's Day will be observed.



GIVE TO THE  
America for Christ  
Offering **2009**

The America for Christ Offering totaled \$787.50.



### One Great Hour of Sharing

*Where is your Treasure? Matt 6:21*

Prayerfully consider what your part of this offering to be received in June will be.

### NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN & YOUTH



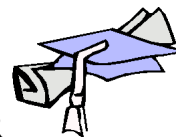
### Summer Camp Opportunities

American Baptist Churches are sharing in the resource of Camp Swatara, in Bethel, Pennsylvania. 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.



### Vacation Bible School

will soon be here. The dates are **June 22nd thru 25th** with the closing service at Beaver UMC on June 28th.



### OUR

### GRADUATES

Leah Bettner, Thomas Donato, Alex Ororbia, Laura Rapp and Heather Shoemaker will be graduating from Lewisburg Area High School this spring. The church recognized their achievement at this milestone with a dinner April 15th. We, their Church Family, congratulate them. May all their dream come true. God Bless each one. Following are some of their achievements:

### Leah F. Bettner

**Academic Honors & Awards** National Honor

Society, Spanish Honor Society, Distinguished Honor Roll. **Leadership Positions** Key Club, Student Council Representative, Concert Choir Section Leader, Field Hockey Captain.

**Community Service** Evangelical Hospital Volunteer, Operation Christmas Child, Nursing Home Music Recitals, Project Linus **Clubs & Committees** Spanish Club, Key Club, Class of 2009 Council Club, Ski Club, Junior Prom Food Committee. **Activities & Organizations** Venture Scouts, Young-Life, First Baptist Youth Group, Presbyterian Youth Group, Piano Accompanist for Church Youth Choir, LHS Chamber Choir, LHS Concert Choir, First Baptist Church Senior Choir, LHS Football Mascot.

**Athletics** Varsity Field Hockey, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Track & Field

#### **Thomas Donato**

Thomas will be going to Penn State, Altoona Campus; majoring in business and playing baseball.

#### **Alexander Ororbia II**

Alex possesses an interest in drawing and sketching (creating art), playing the guitar, reading, bowling, playing tennis, and working with computers.

Member of National Honor Society, Gifted program, National Spanish Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Pennsylvania Award for creative achievement in the arts at Pennsylvania State University College of Arts and Architecture, and attended 2008 "Issues for the 21st Century" Summit at Bucknell.

Alex will be attending Bucknell University next year and majoring in Computer Science and Engineering.

#### **Laura Rapp**

1. Member of the **National Honors Society**  
2. Member of the **Student Council** for 4 years - Elected/served as the Student Council **Treasurer** for 2 years (Junior and Senior year)  
3. Member of the **Varsity Track** team for 3 years  
4. Member of the **Soccer** team for 2 years  
5. Member of the **Marching Band** and **Concert Band** for 4 years - Flute  
6. Attending **Susquehanna University** in the Fall - Major: History  
7. After my college graduation:- Attend **Grad. School** where I intend to study Archaeology

#### **Heather Shoemaker**

High School Activities: Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Varsity Bowling, and National Honors Society. Plans for the next few years: I'm going to Kutztown University to study Biology. I am also going to be bowling at the collegiate level while I'm there. After college I plan on going to medical school and eventually I wish to become a radiologist.



#### **June Newsletter**

Please have information for the June Newsletter to the office by **May 25th**.



#### **Do we have your E-mail address?**

April 8th and 9th a mass mailing was made to the e-mail addresses in the new directory. If you did not receive this mailing about the graduate recognition dinner would you please contact the office by e-mail or phone so your address can be included in future mailings. Thanks, *Mary Ellen*



#### **Blood Drive**

Monday, May 18th from 10-4 there will be a blood drive at Playworld Systems. Call 524-0400 for an appointment.

#### **New Address**

Gloria Miller's new address is 17350 Old Turnpike Road, Millmont, PA 17845-9334.

#### **New Church Directories**

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. For more information contact Kathy Morris at kmorris1@dejazzd.com.



Our thought and prayers are with Mimi Dow and family, whose Mother, Anne F. "Rooney" McCloskey died Thursday, April 2, 2009. Her funeral was Monday, April 6th at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh.



The 58th Annual Observance of the **National Day of Prayer** is Thursday, **May 7th**. *Prayer...America's Hope.*

#### **SUN Home Hospice Memorial Service**

SUN Home Hospice invites all to attend an Ecumenical Memorial Service, Sunday, **May 3rd** at 2 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Market and South 5th Streets, Sunbury, Pa.

#### **Country Gospel Music**

The Youth Group from Zion Lutheran Church in Turbotville invites you to Country Gospel Music presented by The Joe Murray Band, Sunday, **May 17th**, at 6:30 pm. The church is at 39 Paradise Street, Turbotville.

At 5 pm members of Zion's Youth Group will be serving a Soup & Sandwich Meal. More information contact Church Office at (570)649-5195

