

Dialogue

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg
51 South Third Street
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Volume XLVII, Number 5
May 2011

From the Pastor:

The post office has heavy double doors, and in good weather props one open. A woman had come up the steps using both arms to carry a box, which she held to one side. She wasn't going to get through the doorway unless she held it directly in front of her, but, her view obstructed by her package or reluctant to shift her load, she tried anyway. The box bumped against the closed door, and she stepped back and tried again, pushing it against the closed door a second time. Then she stopped and moved her burden around to the front, and came in.

I had watched with some interest because I noticed, when she pulled up, that she had a bumper sticker which read "MENSA". It was the only time I'd ever seen a car displaying the name of the International High IQ Society.

In Proverbs 25, verses 6 and 7, the person who would be wise is advised deliberately to take a low-status seat when attending a banquet. The insight is that the host may well invite the purposely-humble guest to sit up higher and everyone will see the promotion. On the other hand, should a guest choose a prominent seat from the start, the host might have to come and show him to an inferior seat to accommodate the arrival of another yet more important.

Jesus relates this proverb in Luke 14: 7-11. It serves his message that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. In the gospel context it is more than shrewd deportment, to avoid humiliation and "fish for compliments." It is the folk wisdom of pride going before a fall joined to the gospel promise that the lowly will come out on top.

Bumper stickers are a posture, and they expose whoever pastes one on the car to the reactions of others. Often that reaction is the desire to cut someone down to size. "My kid beat up your honor student" has gained prominence since schools, in an effort to blazon academic achievement as publicly as athletic prowess, began encouraging showing the "My child is an honor student" bumper stickers. Years ago, when an evangelical crusade distributed a bumper sticker proclaiming "I Found It" to the converted, it wasn't long before others brandished one which simply said "I Threw It Away."

Sometimes I'm behind a car which has a little metal ornament affixed depicting a fish with legs and "Darwin" printed inside. It's a retort, of sorts, to

free to think, bound to serve

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similar badges worn by Christian cars employing the ancient symbol of the fish.

Another sticker popular some years ago read "Christians Aren't Perfect, Just Forgiven." What I think that sticker meant to say was that Christians aren't claiming to be superior to others when they put a bumper sticker on their car, just announcing their gratitude for what God has done for them. Of course, it still raises the question whether others are forgiven or not.

A city set on a hill cannot be hid, nor is a lamp put under a bushel, but on a stand. Part of the project for Christians is a visible witness, but in the same Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us to pray in our closets. Our religious identity may not be the thing with which we lead, but instead the deeds incumbent on us--forbearance, mercy, justice, generosity, kindness, hope. Humility seems to be one of those virtues which gets enforced, if not by heaven, then by human beings. "Let another praise you, and not your own mouth" is wisdom applicable many ways. Failing to heed it exposes anyone to an inevitable "oh yeah?", and makes small not only those contented with themselves but, and this is the danger for discipleship, perhaps even the large things in which they believe. Peace, Mac

BOARD OF DEACONS' MEETING -

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons was held at 7:00 p.m. on April 13, 2011, at First Baptist Church, with Moderator Sally Nyquist presiding. Also present were Pastor Mac Scott; Treasurer - Mike Wilson; Financial Secretary - Judy Mickanis; Recording Secretary - Lucie Rivoire Knauer; Property - Bob Murcek; Discipleship - Jack Pyper; Christian Education - Cathy Platusich; Fellowship - Joyce Wilson; Missions - Jan Rolecki; Worship - Kathy Morris. The Moderator opened with thoughts on the Bible's numerous references to work in Christian life, followed by a brief prayer. Minutes of the March meeting were approved as published. The Financial Secretary reported that subscriptions received to date for the current year total \$23,115.26, and plate offerings amount to \$748.20.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Reviewing Lenten activities, Mac reminded the Board of the supper planned for April 14 at the church, with Anne Murcek providing soup and bread. The meal will be followed by fellowship and reflection and prayer. First Baptist will host the community Good Friday service on April 22. Earlier that day, Mac will join others from the congregation in providing a Good Friday service at ElmCroit

Assisted Living facility. Ruth Blankenship will lead the music; Barb Lloyd and Evan Wilson will assist with communion. An evening service will be held April 21 in observance of Maundy Thursday. Mac has also been delivering communion to shut-ins within the congregation.

On Sunday, April 17, the second annual "Assunda and Les" fundraising walk will take place at Bucknell. Proceeds will assist needy families in purchasing swimming pool passes. Members of the congregation are encouraged to support the event, which serves as a memorial to drowning victims Assunda Rotolo and her friend Les Davis Jr.

Sunday afternoon, May 22, First Baptist will participate in a musical program with the two other congregations of the Heartland Fellowship. First English Baptist Church of Bloomsburg will host the event.

Having suggested that church committees make an effort to undertake a new project or initiative, Mac shared an idea of his own. He has done preliminary research on producing a poster which would complement the existing "Doors of Lewisburg" posters. His concept would be to photograph the same doorways from the interior of each building. Sales of the posters could generate money to be donated to the Heiter Community Center. Concerning use of the church by outside groups, Mac reported that, in addition to the regular weekly meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous already on the schedule, a regional group from the same organization will begin meeting at First Baptist on a monthly basis.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Sally brought the group up to date on various matters: - Copies of the revised constitution are now available in the church office. Sally expressed thanks to Margaret Wilson for the cover art & to Bruce Jackson for final proofing & editing. - Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for organizing a special coffee hour recognizing the completion of the kitchenette renovations, and to the Borden & Rapp families & to Lewisburg Builders Supply for their contributions to the project. - The course on Islam held at First Baptist in March has concluded on a successful note. - Several members are on board for the ad hoc committee on Church Vitality & Growth; a few more members will be added. The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

TREASURER - Mike commented that many expenses were incurred in the first quarter of the year, as is typical. He is in the process of converting the church's bookkeeping records from paper to computerized spreadsheet.

FINANCE - The committee shared with the Board its written policy for use of the church for weddings. The objective is to present the necessary information clearly and consistently. The policy sheet covers rental issues step-by-step, including reserving the date; fees; personnel to be involved (clergy, organist, custodian); description of the church's available facilities as well as users' responsibilities and the insurance required. A separate rental agreement is to be completed for any use of the church. The Deacons voted to approve the policy and rental agreement.

WATCHCARE - Jen Wagner sent her family's appreciation for meals & assistance provided during her husband's hospitalization for knee & wrist surgery. Special thanks go to Sallie Pyper, Anne Murcek, and Gayle & Bill Pepper.

WORSHIP - Kathy reported that the committee is considering several ideas for a special project, including a possible evening service or fellowship opportunity. Following up on last month's discussion, the committee is also in the process of revising the pew cards to better serve their current purpose. They have obtained samples from several other churches for study. The committee also plans to work with the Discipleship Committee's efforts to remain in touch periodically with church members unable to attend weekly services.

FELLOWSHIP - Joyce reported that discussions are underway with the families of the two high school graduates-to-be, to set a date for a dinner or luncheon recognizing their achievement. This year's honorees are Claire Rapp and Evan Wilson. Details will be announced when available.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Cathy remarked that plans are in the works for the Women's Spring Luncheon. Discussion continues concerning ideas for an educational program for adults.

CHURCH SCHOOL - Lori sent a report about recent activities. The church school cooked a meal for the residents at Haven Ministry in Sunbury. The experience was so rewarding that the group hopes to do it again this year. Those involved were Emma, Abby & Robyn Tillman; Lindsey & Lexi Barrick; Hobie & Andy Beauseigneur, Anna Barrick; Liza & Christine Craddock; Kyle & Cherakee Palmer; Sam, James & Lisa Scott; Karen Roessler & Lori Wilson. - A video night for the younger children is set for April 15. Plans are underway for Children's Day on Sunday, May 15. - Speaking for the committee, Cathy Platusich requested that the Deacons approve funding for three "scholarships" to enable children to attend church camp this summer. Similar arrangements were made last year, and a general discussion ensued concerning the best way to fund it this year. Further information will be provided at next month's meeting so that the Board may vote on the question.

MISSIONS - Jan reported that the committee sent \$250 to One Great Hour of Sharing for use in Japan. This represents one quarter of the Emergency Relief Fund budgeted for the year. Jan reminded the group that supplies are being collected for school kits and emergency cleanup buckets. Details are posted on the Missions bulletin board in the hallway next to the Friendship Room.

PROPERTY - Work is almost complete on the new exterior rear doors; adjustments are being made to the locking mechanism. Bob also noted that committee is compiling a list of procedures for locking the church, turning out lights, etc. after use of the facilities by outside groups.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire Knauer, Secretary

CONGRATIONAL MEETING

April 10, 2011 The quarterly business meeting of the congregation of First Baptist was held following worship on Sunday, April 10, 2011, with about 15 members in attendance, Moderator Sally Nyquist presiding. Minutes of the January congregational meeting were approved as published, following a motion by Alan Barrick, seconded by Mark Bettner. With no other business requiring a vote, the meeting consisted of informational reports.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: Sally reported that copies of the newly revised and reprinted constitution are now available in the church office. Sally acknowledged Margaret Wilson, whose artwork graces the cover of the publication.

PROPERTY: Alan Barrick reminded the group that the kitchenette renovations are now complete, with thanks to Bob Rapp, the Borden family & Lewisburg Builders Supply. He noted that replacement of the rear exterior doors are almost finished. Future projects include repairs and changes to the Third Street entrance, and replacement of a tree removed in front of the parsonage.

COMING EVENTS:

- Thursday, April 21: A tenebrae service will be held in the evening in observation of Maundy Thursday. Members are urged to partake of this annual event. - Friday, April 22: First Baptist will host the community Good Friday service, from 12 - 1 p.m. - Sunday, May 22: The Heartland Fellowship will hold an afternoon musical gathering at First English Baptist in Bloomsburg.

TREASURER: Mike reported that the first quarter of the year always presents a challenge, partly due to fuel expenses, but that the church has met expenses without drawing on investment income. He is in the process of switching the bookkeeping system from paper to computer and hopes to include a report for the year to date in the May newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.
Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire Knauer

Additional Communion Opportunity

Communion will be served in the tower room at **10:15 a.m., Sunday, May 1**. The service will be brief and informal.

IMPORTANT BULLETIN MAILING INFO

Please make the church office aware of the manner in which you would like to receive the weekly bulletin (Calendar). It can be sent by U.S. Mail; or we can e-mail a copy to your computer. If you wish e-mail, you will need to make sure we have the preferred address and enable your computer to receive the bulk e-mailing. We will be

glad to do what you want; we just need to know. Contact the church office 524-7438 or e-mail at fbclbg@lewisburgbaptist.org

Choir Night

Choir Night will be Wed, **May 4** at 7:15 pm.

Mother's Day Tea, Sunday, May 8, 2011
during coffee hour.

Property Committee

Will meet **Monday, May 9**, at 7 pm

Board of Deacons

Will meet **Wednesday, May 11** at 7 p.m.

Women's Spring Luncheon

Tuesday, **May 17 at 12 noon**, the Women's Spring Luncheon will be held at RidgeCrest restaurant on RiverWoods campus. Sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board of call the church office to sign-up. Your Love Gift offering will be received at the Luncheon. May 10 will be last Bible Study until Fall.

SUNDAY MAY 29

Last Day of Sunday School till Sept. 12th



SUNDAY JUNE 5

Worship changed to 10:00 am for Summer

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN and YOUTH

Sunday, March 27, 2011 the youth group had lunch at the church before traveling to Haven Ministry. Once there, they prepared chili, corn bread, rice, ambrosia, and decorated sugar cookies for the residents. Everyone had a great time and is looking forward to doing this again. Our cooks were: Elena Barrick, Lexi Barrick; Hobie & Andy Beauseigneur; Liza & Christine Craddock; Cherakee & Cody Palmer; Sam & James Scott; Emma & Abbey Tillman. They were supervised by: Anna Barrick, Karen Roessler, Lisa Scott, Robyn Tillman and Lori Wilson. Thank you to everyone for a successful project.

Kids' Video Night

Friday, April 15th was Kids' video night. The following watched Mr. Magorium's Magic Emporium and enjoyed snacks: Andy & Hobie Beauseigneur; Angela Lopez & cousin Josh; Kaley, Chandler & Cody Palmer; Sam & James Scott & friend Greg Zaccone; Mitchell VanBuskirk; & Ryan Wilson.

Assunda & Les's 5 K Fun Walk/Run

Sunday, April 17, 2011 the second Assunda and Les's Walk/ Run was held. Proceeds benefit reduced pool passes for families for the Lewisburg pool. The following participated: Kim, Curt, Meghan & Matt Smith; Lisa, Mac, Sam & James Scott; Karen Roessler; Liza & Christine Craddock.

CHILDREN'S DAY IS MAY 15

Mission Opportunity

Church World Service (CWS) is requesting help --there is an urgent need for School Kits and Emergency Clean-up Buckets. If you would like to donate whole kits or individual items that go into the kits or buckets please check the Missions bulletin board in the hallway outside the Fellowship Room beginning in March and continuing through April and May. The Missions Committee will have lists posted and will be collecting donated kits and items (location to be announced and posted on the board).

CWS School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. If you would like to sew cloth bags for the school kits the instructions will be posted on the board, or online at www.churchworldservice.org.

If you would like to help with cash donations please specify for CWS Kits. Checks may be made to First Baptist Church and market for CWS Kits. Even the smallest donations will help and be greatly appreciated.

Graduates Dinner

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this year's Graduate Luncheon honoring Claire Rapp and Evan Wilson in the Founders' Room, **Sunday May 15th** following the Children's Day service. Everything is provided.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, May 12, 10-4 at Playworld.
Tuesday, May 24, 1-7 Christ's Lutheran. Call 534-0400 to schedule an appointment.

You're Invited!

The Masser/Vasey Families invite you to join us for an "Open House", Saturday, May 21, 2011, 1- 5 pm in celebration of: Arlene Masser's 80th Birthday (Joanne Vasey's mom); Joanne's 50th Birthday; Brian and Joanne Vasey's 25th Wedding Anniversary. At 390 McLaughlin Road, Milton PA. RSVP to jmasser@ptd.net or 570-828-2543 by May 7, 2011. No gifts, please; "Your Present is your Presence"!

For Your Prayer

Connie Sibley is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Hydie Bilger's mother is at Geisinger. Chuck Wagner is recovering from surgery which followed a fall.

Ben Austin, Ken Bollinger, Dick and Peg Budd, Tamara Gerasimova, Russ Mayberry, and Betty Siler are also at home.

Bill Bobb is at Riverview Manor. Chet & Margaret Jump are at RidgeCrest. Kitty Bowe, 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 Pangburn family would like to Thank You for your prayers for Jack Cooper. He passed away Saturday, April 2, 2011 in Arizona.

Music in May

Sunday, **May 1**, at 2:00 p.m. Lloyd Wolf and Ruth Blankenship's students will have their piano recital here at First Baptist. The student recitals are free and open to the public. Saturday, **May 7**, at 7 PM and Sunday, **May 8**, at 3 PM, Buffalo Valley Singers and West Branch Barbershop Chorus will present a benefit concerts, at St. John's UCC. Women in Transition will be the beneficiary. Admission \$5 donation.

Sunday, **May 15**, at 2:00 p.m. Marcus Smolensky's string students will have their recital here. Sunday **May 22**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. our Heartland Fellowship will hold a Music Festival at First English Baptist Church in Bloomsburg. The three churches will present 2 to 5 musical numbers, which will last approximately one hour, followed by refreshments and fellowship together.

Easter Lilies 2011

Due to limited space, the list of people who purchased Easter Lilies to decorate the Church Easter Sunday will be included in June Dialog.

One Great Hour of Sharing

2011-2012-2013 theme:

Sharing Brings Joy To Us, To Others, To God.

The offering will be received during June. Look for more information in June Dialog.

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.