

## Dialogue

First Baptist Church of Lewisburg  
51 South Third Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Volume XLVII, Number 8  
September 2011  
From the Pastor

The children's church school program is adding recreation to its Sunday mornings. The younger the pupils, the more they will benefit from spending some of their energy in play, and the readier their heads will be to learn. Smaller children, educators have established, tend to learn best in ways which involve activity and touching-- which, if one's ever had a little person along in a grocery store, is obviously the young's instinctive method of engaging something new. Looking back on my own life I realize that my early years' acquaintance with paste and construction paper was not just a matter of keeping me busy, but teaching me.

At the other end of instruction time the children will continue to work on the songs for their monthly contribution to worship. After activity and instruction there will be this additional art (some instruction will have involved drawing or crafts). Christianity, which sometimes seems to collapse either into doctrines, rituals, or deeds, isn't experienced as only one of those things. A conscious connection with God involves the whole person, and the children who come at the 9:30 hour weekly are being addressed as whole persons.

Worship intends to work the same way. The sanctuary is lovely not merely as a result of the pride or taste of the congregation which built it, but because its beauty and majesty are meant to evoke those qualities of the Divine. There is delight for the eye at worship, in symmetry and decoration. Music communicates its own meanings, which are more than those of any words which may be in its songs.

The spoken parts of the service aren't all aimed at the intellect. The regimentation and ritualization of collective readings and prayers have a different sense than the more ordinary kind of listening offered to preaching. Even the ritualization of taking up the offering, in its order and predictability, creates the possibility that one is giving of oneself as an act of worship as well as supporting a common enterprise to bring Christianity to one's community and world.

We don't always consciously approach Coffee Hour as ministry, as a means of practicing hospitality both with food and drink and with

*free to think, bound to serve*

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attentive welcomes. Sometimes, however, it extends the experience of the worship hour. Persons who have come to church feeling isolated may get a practical taste of the kindness encouraged by Christ. There is always the chance that if the music and art and earnest intent of seeking God didn't evoke joy, that something satisfying in one's mouth delights.

The church building hosts programs to feed and clothe needy neighbors, which means that we recognize Christianity as intended for practical requirements as well as spiritual. Much of our mission contribution is aimed the same way. Involvement in the church means that a human yearning to make a difference in others' lives also is being addressed, to the extent that we make it possible for people to volunteer, to pitch in, to donate used clothing, to save paper grocery bags to help the program.

The fuller schedule of the church gears up and begins September eleventh. Rally Day will kick off the church school year, and I hope you are able to stay for the luncheon being provided and yourself contribute part of the the sociability and goodwill which meals need really to nurture those who take part.

The Word Made Flesh is our revelation of God. Religion isn't only about another world, or a matter of cultivating prayer and those parts of us attuned to invisible realities. It is also about who we are each moment--the child with restless energy, the individual with artistic sensibilities, the person who needs to feel wanted, another person blessed with the gift of a listening ear. God is served by providing something good for everything about a human being, and our common purpose as a church is to watch for chances to make our ministry even more effective to the whole person, if we are to preserve a vision in which the Spirit of God brings the whole world more close to God's intended

Peace. Mac



**Beginning September 11, 2011 Sunday School for children and adults will be at 9:30, followed by worship at 10:30 a.m.**



**Let us serve you a delicious light lunch on Sunday, September 11th following worship. Everything will be provided. We hope you'll join us as we celebrate the beginning of the church school.**

#### **CONGRATATIONAL MEETING - July**

The quarterly business meeting of the congregation of First Baptist was held following worship on Sunday, July 17, 2011, with about 20 members in attendance and Moderator Sally Nyquist presiding. Minutes of the April congregational meeting were approved as published, following a motion by Mike Wilson, seconded by Alan Barrick.

**TREASURER:** Mike reported that the church's finances are in good shape at the halfway mark in the year, with subscriptions to date amounting to 53% of the budgeted amount. Plate offerings stand at 27% of the projection, but this does not represent a large proportion of the total budget. Of more concern is that this might reflect lower attendance than expected. Likewise, expenses come to about 52% of the overall yearly total. Cash flow is good, and all expenses and benevolence commitments have been met.

In comments from the floor, the Finance and Property Committees were commended for the replacement of the back doors. It was noted that they are currently being stained. Work has begun to restore the stained glass windows; the project should be covered by the \$15,000 budgeted. The glass panels are being removed for cleaning and resetting where needed. Storm windows and screens will be installed. Cracked panels will be replaced, with special glass on order to match the original.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire Knauer

#### **BOARD OF DEACONS - July**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons was held at 6:30 p.m. on July 20, 2011, at First Baptist Church, with Moderator Sally Nyquist presiding. Also present were Pastor Mac Scott; Treasurer - Mike Wilson; Recording Secretary - Lucie Rivoire Knauer; Property - Bob Murcek; Christian Education - Cathy Platusich; Missions - Jan Rolecki; Finance - Jim Elmore.

The Moderator opened with thoughts on a passage from Romans 8, concerning the Spirit of God, followed by a brief prayer.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as published. The Board of Deacons did not meet in June. The Financial Secretary reported that offerings to date total \$44,142.90 in subscriptions and \$1,503.38 from the plate.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Since the last meeting, Mac attended to the deaths and funerals of Betty Siler and James Pangburn. The Watchcare committee organized a light luncheon following the service and interment for Mrs.

Siler. The efforts of all who assisted are appreciated. Mac has delivered communions to those at home.

It was decided to forgo the "odd-month" communion the first Sunday of July, as a guest pastor officiated that morning.

**REVISED PEW CARD:** The Board studied a draft of the revised form and recommended a few changes in wording and format. Printed on both sides, the card will contain a message of welcome and reassurance, while also providing the church's phone number and internet and e-mail addresses. In this respect, it can serve as the church's business card, easily pocketed for future reference. Alternatively, the card may be used to submit prayer requests or to contact the Pastor. Since a separate card is used by the Discipleship Committee to gather information about visitors, the wording of the pew card has been changed to avoid duplication.

**CHURCH CALENDAR:** A first draft of the calendar for the coming year was distributed for review. In addition to scheduling traditional business and worship activities, the Moderator urged the Board to consider special educational and fellowship programs. Further discussion will take place at next month's meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND GROWTH:** Mac reported that he has been in conversation with ABCOPAD regional minister Mark Mahserjian-Smith, who has offered various resources which may be of assistance to the committee. Members include Sally Nyquist, Curt Smith, and Diane Meixell.

**PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** will meet in August.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE -** Jim submitted a report of the committee's June meeting, at which Jeff Ranck reviewed the church's investment portfolio. No significant changes in strategy are planned at this point, although a continuing market correction could warrant revisions in the future. The committee acknowledged that the church is dependent upon the investment account for general operations and would face significant financial difficulty without this resource. The Finance Committee met with members of the Property Committee, who reported that work on the stained glass window restoration and concrete work at the front entrance will likely use up the capital allotment set aside for Property projects.

**WATCHCARE -** Jen Wagner relayed words of thanks for those who helped with the luncheon following Betty Siler's funeral service.

**WORSHIP -** Kathy forwarded the report of the committee's May meeting. Gayle Pepper and Lisa Scott were commended for their part in including children as readers in the worship service. The committee thanked Jack Pyper, who arranged for guest pastors John Dromazos and Joe Lingenfelter. Discussion concerned general goals, as well as specific revisions to the pew card. It was agreed that the Worship Committee should coordinate with Discipleship to encourage attendance among existing members. The committee will meet again in

August.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** - Lori reported that Vacation Bible School was a great success again this year. Participating were fourteen children, three friends and nine helpers. Special thanks go to Lisa Scott, Karen Roessler, Cathy Platusich and Retta Lincicome for their planning.

A July outing to the Kidsburg playground was enjoyed by eight children and three adults.

**MISSIONS** - The committee will work with the Church School so that the children may help to assemble school and health kits for relief efforts.

**PROPERTY** - Bob reported that the new back doors are currently being stained to match the front doors. Work has begun on the restoration of the stained glass windows. As numerous panels from the large window in the choir loft have been temporarily replaced with plywood, changing the appearance of the sanctuary, Mac has offered a reduction in the fee for an upcoming wedding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire Knauer

### **BOARD OF DEACONS - August**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons was held at 6:30 p.m. on August 10, 2011, at First Baptist Church, with Moderator Sally Nyquist presiding. Also present were Pastor Mac Scott; Financial Secretary - Judy Mickanis; Recording Secretary - Lucie Rivoire Knauer; Property - Bob Murcek; Christian Education - Cathy Platusich; Missions - Jan Rolecki; Fellowship - Joyce Wilson; Discipleship - Jack Pyper; Worship - Kathy Morris; Church School - Lori Wilson.

The Moderator opened with thoughts on church growth and vitality. Sharing a passage from the Book of Acts, the Moderator reminded the Board of their charge to serve as shepherds of the church. A brief prayer followed.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as published. The Financial Secretary reported that offerings to date total \$48,826.91 in subscriptions and \$1,720.38 from the plate. Judy noted that loose offerings are down somewhat for this point in the year; subscriptions are in line with expectations.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Mac continues to bring communion to shut-ins and members in local nursing homes. He is also preparing for this fall's incoming Pastor's Class.

Mac provided background information on the American Baptist denomination's new approach to encourage churches to recognize the changing realities of our society and to discover ways of ministering in their midst. Programs are currently being developed which could eventually benefit our own church.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**DISCIPLESHIP** - At its upcoming meeting, the committee will make preparations for Rally Day and will discuss possible special programs.

**PROPERTY** - Bob reported that the next major project will be the modification of the Third Street exterior steps and entrance area. The committee continues to

study the feasibility of air conditioning; the most likely scenario would be to air condition the back section of the building, which houses the offices and church school rooms. Adding a second exhaust fan is also recommended.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** - Lori reported that a special activity is planned for August 16. When Sunday School resumes in September, the schedule will be rearranged slightly to allow for a 15-minute recreation period. Lori and Christian Education Deacon Cathy Platusich reported that the two children from First Baptist who attended church camp this summer felt it was a very positive experience. The cost was underwritten by the church.

**FELLOWSHIP** - Plans are underway for the luncheon following the Rally Day service on September 11.

**WORSHIP** - The committee will meet tomorrow. The revised pew card format will be studied, as well as the draft version of the calendar for the new year.

**CHURCH CALENDAR:** The Deacons reviewed the calendar for the upcoming year, verifying dates and editing formatting as needed. The Moderator pointed out that this calendar provides the framework for traditional observances and programs, but that the Deacons also need to consider the addition of special activities and events which will address needs and interests of the congregation and the community at large. Ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lucie Rivoire Knauer, Secretary



### **Additional Communion Opportunity**

Communion will be served in the room beneath the clock tower at 9:45 am, Sunday, September 4.

### **Choir Night**

Choir Night resumes Wednesday, September 7, at 7:15 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us for a special year of Worship music.

### **Discussion Group**

Discussion Group meets Sundays, September 11 and 25 at 7 p.m.

### **Property Committee**

Property Committee meets Monday, September 12, at 7 p.m.

### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study will resume Tuesday, September 13, at 10 a.m. in the library.

### **Board of Deacons' Meeting**

Board of Deacons meets Wednesday, September 14, at 7 p.m.



### What's Happening in Sunday School?

This fall we are making some changes to the children's Sunday School classes. Sunday School will begin at the usual time, 9:30 a.m., but will end at **10:25 a.m.** This will give us plenty of time to fit everything in before parents arrive to pick up their children. We will be adding recreation to our class time. The kids will spend fifteen minutes playing an active game or exercising as a part of their time in Sunday School. Of course, we'll continue to have our biblically based lessons and singing with Mrs. Blankenship. We look forward to seeing everyone on Rally Day, September 11, at 9:30 a.m. Please see Karen Roessler (grades 4-6), Lisa Scott (preschool-grade 3) or Lori Wilson (preschool-grade 3), if you have any questions.



### Christmas Reminiscences

For Advent this year we will be reprinting and expanding the pamphlet of Christmas memories and reflections which first was published about fifteen years ago. Keeping the existing pieces will remind longer-term members of old friends, and new contributions will help the existing congregation get better acquainted with each other as well as serve as the basis for church-related reflection in preparing for the Christmas holiday.

Persons are encouraged to submit Christmas memories special to them, with any thoughts they might wish to share about the meaning of the holiday. Nikki Loyd, who organized and assembled the original booklets, has offered to put the newer ones together for us. If possible, these may be sent in the form of email to [loyd@moravian.edu](mailto:loyd@moravian.edu), or written copies may be given to the church office.



### Crop Walk

Crop Walk will be Sunday, October 2, 2011.



### Initiation of a Men's Breakfast Club

During our most recent meeting (August 16) the Discipleship Committee decided to recommend the initiation of a Breakfast Club for the adult males of our congregation. We felt that this would help promote increased fellowship and morale within this group. Our discussion centered around a once-a-month breakfast at a local restaurant with an informational program of some 10 to 15 minutes. We welcome input from other committees and individuals -- please feel free to make suggestions. If you would be interested in attending such breakfasts, or would like to offer alternatives, please contact Richard Ellis, 524-4740 or [rellis@bucknell.edu](mailto:rellis@bucknell.edu), pastor Mac, Jack Pyper, or any other member of our committee: Curt Smith, Judy Mickanis, Carol Vargas or Sally Nyquist

### Hands On Mission Opportunity

On Saturday, October 8, Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity has a workday to which we are being invited by our sister church, The First Baptist Church of Williamsport. The building site is 45 Penn Street, Montgomery. The work day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. All levels of skill may contribute. Further information will be forthcoming.

### New Address

Judy Mickanis and Marion Rose, 11 Meadowview Court, Lewisburg, PA. 17837

### For Your Prayer

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

Bill Bobb is at Riverview Manor. Chet & Margaret Jump and Martha Zeller are at RidgeCrest. Kitty Bowe, Richard Budd and Beverly Fisher are at RiverWoods. Cookie Goodall and Harriet Littell are 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](mailto:kmorris1@dejazzd.com).