Greetings in the LORD!

This past weekend our nation marked a milestone at the ‘Brickyard’ in Indianapolis. The 2021 Indianapolis 500 saw 135,000 fans gather in the grandstands for the race, purportedly the largest crowd since the start of the pandemic. The pictures coming out of the event seem almost surreal after nearly 15 months of masks and physical distancing, but the scene wasn’t concocted by some special effects crew at a movie studio—it actually happened—and all of us are hoping that it is merely the first glimmers of the light at the end of the tunnel named Covid.

Everywhere I go, people are cautiously optimistic that like the cars zooming around the track at Indy, we too have ‘turned the corner’ on this pandemic, and many churches are gearing up for a return to summer fellowship picnics, Vacation Bible Schools and worship like it “used to be”. That is good and hopeful news for each of us, because after months of being forced to confront the things that have changed with this pandemic, we all long for a little ‘normal’ in our life again.

Like you, I’m anxious to return to life as it used to be, but in doing so I’m not willing to lose some of the rich lessons that have come out of these painful days. God used the crucible of the pandemic to teach me many things, but the one that is most profound for me is this: I’m not valued by what I do but rather by who (whose) I am. As I am getting older, rather than becoming more complex, life is taking on a greater level of simplicity, and this is just another example of that: My value isn’t in what I do, but rather in who I am. A quote that has become precious to me is one you may have heard before, but it demands repeating. John Ortberg shared it in his book, Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You taken from a conversation with his friend and mentor in the faith, Dallas Willard:

You are an unceasing spiritual being with an eternal destiny in God’s great universe. That’s the most important thing for you to know about you. You should write that down. You should repeat it regularly...you think you have to be someplace else or accomplish something more to find peace. But it’s right here. God has yet to bless anyone except where they actually are. Your soul is not just something that lives on after your body dies. It’s the most important thing about you. It is your life...The most important thing in your life is not what you do; it’s who you become. That’s what you will take into eternity.

All of us want to move beyond the pandemic—I get that. What I don’t want to do, however, is lose the learnings that these painful days have provided me. So, the question begs to be asked: What has God taught you in and through these painful months both personally and corporately as congregations?

So grateful to walk this road with you,

Frank
Coming out of Covid and going into summer, allows many new opportunities for sharing our faith with people. Though virtual’s been good, nothing replaces face to face!

This spring, I, both inside and outside our region, conducted several trainings, online and onsite, using my book as the basis to share with people how to share their faith. I believe people are more open to spiritual things than we realize if we would just make ourselves available.

Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman in John 4 can be understood as literal or as allusion. This passage has long been the subject of opposing interpretations. As I do a lengthy rewrite of my book, I am trying to provide both perspectives. One thing that no one can question is this section of scripture’s sheer volume of verses that alerts the reader to its obvious importance. Even more striking is the length of the conversation between the Samaritan woman and Jesus, one of the longest found in all the four gospels, taking up half of this particular story.

Why is it when the scripture is not given an explicit bent, we default to the negative over the positive or even the neutrality of the passage? Like Nicodemus who comes in contrast at night to talk with Jesus in the previous chapter, nowhere in that passage does it say he comes at that time of day for fear of the Jews, like this woman comes to the well at noon for fear of the Samaritans. Yet that is what they both have been saddled with through time. Could he not have come at an available time for Jesus, or for himself, or for both. Could not this woman have come to the well when she was available as well? Could not the phrase ‘a woman of Samaria’ (v7) infer a person of significance instead of one of sin? Many get fixated on her being ‘with men’ which is not a certainty instead of being ‘with Jesus’ that is truly the crux of this passage.

Regarding her marital status or the lack thereof, Jesus is never recorded as pointing it out to her as sin, as we often do. Nor does Jesus specifically forgive any sin here, stated or unstated. While the Samaritan woman may indeed have been married five times, the text never tells why the marriages were dissolved. We do know that for her to marry again and again, each of the preceding marriages must have ended properly. Five marriages do suggest that she was obviously ‘unlucky in love’. By the way, to be living with a man not her spouse nor a male relative was a capital offense for the woman. If the situation were known, she wouldn’t even be alive to speak with Jesus.

If the relationships are to be understood as symbolic, Jesus could be referring to the husbands as Samaria’s collective infidelity following the return of the remnants of the northern tribes from Assyrian captivity intermarrying with relocated peoples. Though in large part, Samaria was solidly Jewish, three tribes settled there, they nevertheless accepted the worship of the false gods of five foreign tribes, the Babylonians worshipped Marduk; the Cuthites worshipped Nergal; the people of Avva worshipped Nibhaz and Tartak; the people of Sepharvaim worshipped their city gods; and King Hadad worshipped Anath (1 Kings 17:30-31). In a theological context, it is the country the woman represents who had the five wrong relationships (religions) and even now the one they have is not right. This view gains traction when we look at the heavy symbolism in the story. One hears the prophet (which she acknowledges Jesus to be) using the familiar adultery/idolatry metaphor of the OT prophetic tradition to call Samaria to embrace the worship of the one true God and do so in spirit and truth (v23).

Her testimony which led them to Christ could have been a good one not bad, one of influence not infidelity, that caused her fellow villagers to respond to her invitation to ‘come and meet’. That is true evangelism, of which disciples are producers, simply inviting people to come and meet Jesus. She did not have to convince nor coerce them. It appears she had a level of rapport that they simply went with her when asked (v30), no questions asked. We are not told she was told to go and tell, but how could she keep to herself this life-changing encounter? A disciple is an individual who takes their eyes off themselves and put them on another, specifically in regard to other than their own spiritual needs.

There is a progression as to the way this woman sees Jesus, starting as ‘a Jew’ v9, to ‘sir’ v11, to ‘a prophet’ v19, to ‘Messiah’ v25. There is also a spiritual progression in herself from being a seeker v20 – making spiritual inquiries “where do we worship?”, to being a believer v25 – ‘I know Christ’, to being a disciple v28 – now seeking others. We may not be able to move people along the whole spectrum in one seating, but we are to move people along spiritually when we encounter them.

So, seize this summer, get outside, make yourself available, meet people where they are at, see what happens when Jesus sets up divine appointment for you. He did it 2,000 years ago, He can do it again today!
Zach struggled with cerebral palsy all his life and went through numerous surgeries. Despite not only the pain he experienced as a result of his illness and the pain that came as a result of the surgeries, Zach had an unwavering faith in Jesus and a smile that radiated joy with all he encountered.

The outpouring of love and support from this Regional Family has been overwhelming. Cards, letters, text messages, phone calls and so much more has brought me to tears so many times. Words cannot express the gratitude Susan and I feel for our ABCOPAD family. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. Your prayers, encouragement and support have helped carry us through this challenging season of life.

Just prior to Zach being hospitalized, I read the book, The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer. Looking back, I am so thankful to have read the book before going through the final chapter of Zach’s life. As a result of the read, I was able to “slow down” my life and focus on spending time with my son and our family. I was able to be at peace, sitting in a hospital room with Zach, simply being present in the moment.

While the book had many great lessons to teach, one lesson that kept coming to mind was Comer pointing out that Jesus was NEVER in a hurry. While many around Jesus wanted him to be in a hurry, Jesus just COULD NOT be rushed. Remembering that truth allowed me to be present in each moment with Zach and my family during the last few weeks of Zach’s life.

Comer, in his book, looks at two specific moments when people wanted Jesus to hurry. In Luke 8:40-56, an official named Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter and prevent her death. A woman with a bleeding disorder touches Jesus’ garment while Jesus is going to Jairus’ home. Jesus stops while healing the woman and is completely present with her even though Jairus and the crowd want him to hurry and save Jairus’ daughter’s life. In John 11, Mary and Martha send word to Jesus regarding their brother, Lazarus’ illness. They want him to come to their home to heal him. Jesus continues his ministry and delays seeing Lazarus for two days. Jesus just COULD NOT be rushed.

As I spent time with Zach and members of my family, facing numerous difficult decisions and lots of people wanting my attention, I just kept thinking about Jesus and the fact that he could not be rushed. Despite the “crazy” around him, Jesus would remain calm, centered, focused on what needed to happen in the present. I was so grateful, knowing Jesus was with us and for Zach, for me and for my family...we just needed to be together and experience every drop of joy and laughter we could, knowing that once these moments were gone, they’d never return except in our memories. There was no need to hurry. There was no need to rush. God was in every moment and I could rest in that truth.

This summer, I hope you can slow down after the whirlwind of the past 14 plus months. I hope you can be present in the moments of peace and joy God brings into your life. I hope you can find joy in simple things and allow that joy to replenish your soul. Hurry and rush are a part of our culture, but NOT what God intended for his people.

Matthew 11:28-30 (The Message) Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.

Thank you for your partnership in Ministry,
Mark
Sue Wilson Radel  
Pastor, Forest, Winburne  
Regional Ministry Associate for Women in Ministry, ABCOPAD  
sradel@abcopad.com

Psalm 46:10a—He says, “Be still, and know that I am God”. Last evening as I drove through the town of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, I saw kids playing everywhere. Some were riding bikes, others were just taking walks and enjoying each other’s company. No matter their activity, they all had one thing in common... they wore huge smiles on their faces that spoke loud and clear “no more school!” Do you remember those days? Slow, hazy, humid days that moved at a restful pace and were filled with sunshine, sprinklers and ice cream? Ah, to be a kid again. Adulting in the summer months has become quite a different experience! My June calendar is filled already, and July is almost there. Every summer it happens, even though I pledge it won’t. I tell myself I will take time off, keep some weekends open to be lazy, or some other silly fantasy that has yet to be realized. Why must we be so busy? Don’t get me wrong, some of the things I have planned (or have said “yes” to) are fun, but, the fact is, summer has become entirely too busy. Busyness has it’s benefits, but we can become so busy that it affects us spiritually. I tend to call this being “spread too thin”. There is just simply not enough of me to go around to everyone who needs or wants me to do something. When it happens, I become impatient, and quite irritable!! But, God has a word for those of us who tend to be a little too generous of our precious time and gifts. In Psalm 46:10a, the Lord says, “Be still, and know that I am God”... the translators did not put an exclamation point after this, but I truly think it needs one!!

In light of this text, ask ourselves a few hard questions: Is it possible that we are too busy to receive His blessings? Are we too hurried to hear God’s voice? Do we try to fix everyone around us when in fact, they need to be turning to Jesus? Are we wearing ourselves out by “doing” when God wants us to just “be”?

My friends, if you feel worn out like I do sometimes, it’s probably because you are doing too much, and saying “yes” too often. What do you say we make rest and relaxation a priority this summer? Carve out some time to just “be still”, and let God be God. And don’t forget to go play! In fact, I believe I know of a perfect spot in my yard to put that sprinkler that’s hanging in my shed. Happy Summer!

Rev. Robert Rice  
Regional Ministry Associate  
LLC Coordinator  
rrice@abcopad.com

Save the Date!

On my fridge at home, I have a series of magnets that say “Save the Date” on them. Several years ago, people got into the habit of mailing these out in preparation for their wedding, so that you would hold the date months in advance, long before they sent a formal invitation out. I’m not sending you a magnet (if you really want one, contact me and I’ll see what I can do), but I am asking you to save a date, well in advance of a formal invitation.

That date, or really dates, is for an exciting opportunity we have this fall. Tod Bolsinger, who authored Canoeing the Mountains has written another impactful book, *Tempered Resilience*, which helps pastoral leaders understand and embrace the furnace of ministry, which God uses to form us into the men and women He is calling us to be. Over three successive Mondays in October, Tod will join us via Zoom to dive deeper into the concepts presented in his book. We’re still working out the exact details of these webinars, but there are two things you can do in preparation.

Save the dates! Mark your calendar for the first three Mondays in October (4, 11, 18) from 7-8:30 p.m. and plan on joining us on Zoom.

Read the book! Grab a copy of *Tempered Resilience*, use the summer to read through it on your own or in your LLC.
The ABCOPAD Foundation

ENGAGE LOCALLY
We engage locally with pastoral leaders and congregations to provide encouragement and resources to strengthen their ministry.

DISCIPLE GLOBALLY
We disciple globally with missionaries around the world to support their work and physically serve with them as the hands and feet of Jesus.

GIVE GENEROSALLY
We give generously when we join with other believers to do God's work.
We increase Christian unity and help the kingdom grow.

Leaving a Legacy as a Christian means living for Jesus in every part of my life, every moment of every day; so that, those around me see Jesus and remember Him and not me. It can also mean making a financial contribution for future generations that will help transform lives for eternity through planned gifts.

We might ask these questions:
- What resources am I using (time, talent, treasure) to make a difference in this world?
- What lives might be touched and brought into God's family because I leave resources for ministry?
- Will I leave resources that will allow my Church/Region/ABC family to reach future generations for Jesus? Will my gift help to transform lives and congregations?
- Have I made estate plans to support the ministries/mission that mean so much to me?

EVERYONE NEEDS A GOOD ESTATE PLAN - Regardless of age, income, or ethnicity, whatever unique qualities we celebrate, everyone has an estate. Everyone should plan. Each estate plan will match the unique qualities of each individual and family.

BENEFITS OF HAVING AN ESTATE PLAN INCLUDE:
- Providing for and protecting your family – what happens if you are no longer around?
- Minimizing Expenses – attorney's fees, probate costs, and other expenses.
- Efficiency and Effectiveness – help ensure the quick transfer of assets in times of need.
- Reducing Taxes – help with meeting certain goals while keeping as much money in the hands of your family as possible.
- Supporting your favorite cause – we encourage you to include your church/ABCOPAD/ABC partner.
- Leaving your desired legacy – without proper plans, others (including the courts) may choose for you.

***We are grateful for those partners who have already made estate plans which include ABCOPAD as a recipient of their generosity. Recently we received a $30,000 gift from the estate of a couple who were active in the ministry/mission of ABCOPAD.
We, also, received word that a donor has named ABCOPAD as one of the beneficiaries of her will. The donor plans to setup a Charitable Gift Annuity for ABCOPAD in 2022.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in learning more about PLANNED GIVING opportunities?
Would you like to know more about:
- making a will that works for you, your loved ones, as well as ministry & mission?
- how to reduce estate, capital gains and income taxes?
- how to increase income and at the same time, support your church, ABCOPAD or another ABC-USA partner?
- how to establish a planned giving program in your church?

For information on: Planned Giving/Creative Stewardship
contact us at: ABCOPAD Foundation / Sue MacDonald suemac1973@gmail.com or 717-682-8516
abcopad.org for link to ABCOPAD FOUNDATION; ‘LIKE’ us on FaceBook
The ABCOPAD Foundation is in Partnership with the American Baptist Foundation. please visit www.abcofgiving.com
‘She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.’

Proverbs 31:7

With the turnover of leadership this cycle, we are saying goodbye to a couple great ladies.

Lori Dries has served as ABWMOPAD Team Secretary for the past two years, in her busy life as a pastor’s wife, her employment outside the home and her family, and she did her duty as secretary for all our meetings. You never know all you will be asked to do until you are asked, and Lori did her level best to keep up with the work.

Lori, by her own admission, was not excited about ABWM or conference just a few years ago, but something switched on in her and she is now a very involved lady!

If you have not seen her testimony about women’s conference, go check it out!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGTmIU1JeAq

Thank you and may God bless you and keep you Lori!

We also are saying farewell to our Spiritual Enrichment Coordinator, Valerie Black, now Pastor Valerie Black after completing her ACTS Training. When I think of Valerie, I have several thoughts. Joy! Awe! God’s Word! Prayers that avail much! And more... The first time I saw Val was several years ago. She stood tall above the crowd of women during praise and worship and her outstretched arms and beautiful voice made me think...’this is someone I want to get to know’. God heard the desire of my heart and we all got to know Valerie over the past three years as she served the ABCOPAD Region. Can anyone forget ‘ROAR LIONESS ROAR!’ or Dr. Pimple Popper?

Valerie recommends some summer reading in case you are looking for something special.

“Walk It Out: The Radical Result of Living God’s Word One Step At A Time” By Tricia Goyer

“The Power of a Praying Church” by Stormie Omartian

“Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out and Lonely” By Lysa Terkeurst

“The Broken Way: A Daring Path to Abundant Life” By Ann Voskamp

“Knowing God By Name” By Sharon Jaynes, Gwen Smith, Mary Southerland

“Seeking Him: Experiencing the Joy of Personal Revival” By Nancy DeMoss, Tim Grissom

“Lioness Arising: Wake Up and Change Your World” By Lisa Bevere

“The Armor of God” By Priscilla Shirer

"20/20: Seen. Chosen. Sent. Bible Study Book" By Christine Caine

Valerie, may our God of all power and glory go before you as you serve Him in the Kingdom.
News From our Associations (www.abcopad.org)

Allegheny River
At FBC, Shinglehouse, the kids’ Sunday school class continued their lessons on the prophet Elisha. They learned about the woman from Shunem whose son died. God used Elisha to bring the boy back to life as told in 2 Kings 4. We learned how God will always be there to help us through our sorrows and disappointments and our joys. After the lesson, the kids had a project to spread some joy to women in their lives. Gift bags were made with candy and hand sanitizer. The kids were instructed to give these to women in their lives who are special to them.

Congrats to Rev. Russell Horning. A retirement celebration honored Pastor Rusty for his 35 years of service at the FBC, Shinglehouse. A great time of fellowship and outdoor bar-b-que was held following the morning worship service.

Bradford
Dick Sturdevant, one of our Certified Lay Ministers serving at Bentley Creek, has every good reason to smile. Word has crossed the region that Pastor Dick and congregational leader Joanne have recently married! Congratulations!

Central Union
It was such a beautiful day today, and just as the LORD has shined on their 40 years together, so the LORD blessed Dan and Terri McDowell [Grace Crossing, Phoenixville] with a glorious day to celebrate their anniversary. It was such a joy to be with them and a number of dear friends who gathered to support them in the celebration!

Centre
In recent weeks, FBC, Three Springs, welcomed a number of newborns into their fellowship and parents presented themselves and their children to the Lord in acts of Dedication. The words of scripture come to mind: “Remember this! The Lord -- and the Lord alone -- is our God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Never forget these commands. Teach them to your children.”

Delaware
Bud Russell [ABCOPAD Web Coordinator RMA] had the unique opportunity of officiating at the wedding of a young man whom he had previously dedicated in 1998. Way back then, Bud was serving as pastor to a PBA congregation in Philadelphia, and the groom’s family was an active part of the church. Thanks to Facebook connection, plans were made to reconnect in Delaware. And so the story goes...

Harrisburg
Christ’s American Baptist Church, Spring Grove, celebrated a number of baptisms during a recent worship service. It is awesome seeing these folk coming out of the pandemic making public professions of faith in Jesus.

Monongahela
Paula Sommerfeldt at Olive Branch, Rostraver Township shows the suitcase the church is preparing for the 2021 Mission Project—sending Thrift Shop items to Brazil. Many ladies throughout ABCOPAD are preparing their suitcase. All the info you need for this exciting and fun mission project including what to donate, contact info and suitcase drop off sites is posted on the ABCOPAD website. Here is the link. https://www.abcopad.org/Minis.../ABWM/2021-Regional-Project/

Northumberland
Moreland church has called their next pastor. Howard Langdon, Chair of the Search Committee announced the good news: “I am very pleased to inform you that on April 25, 2021, the Moreland Baptist Church extended a call to Rev. David Guenin to be our Pastor. He has accepted the call. He will begin his pastorate on May 30, 2021.” A hearty welcome to the Guenin family!

Watsonstown church is one of many ABCOPAD congregations that have adapted to the challenges of covid restrictions. John Fairchild expanded his knowledge of sound technology to help the Watsonstown Baptist Church with their online worship. (There were the early months of the pandemic when former Watsontown BC pastor, Rev Jim Ritter used a simple cell phone in the fellowship hall of the church to go online via Facebook Live.) Watsontown now has a very robust system established in the sanctuary for broadcast ministry. And check out the young man joining John at the tech station to work on the laptop. This is one place younger members of the church who have grown up as digit natives can shine and contribute their skills and talents as partners in ministry.

The American Baptist Women’s Group at Hepburn baked cookies and distributed them to 9 local First Responder agencies (Fire, Police and EMS) as a “thank you” for their service and sacrifice to the community.

Kudos to Deb Copeland, a recent ACTS Graduate who received her diploma. ACTS Dean, Rev. Eleanor Siegrist presented the diploma while Rev. Jim Ritter (former ACTS Council Chair and Theology Instructor) presided over the service.

Oil Creek
Buon appetito! Rev. Mark McCallion, Pastor at Wesleyville and ABCOPAD President, spent an afternoon piling on pasta, meatballs, and sauce (that looks so delicious). The church diaconate hosted a Free Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner. Wow! What a great opportunity to reach out to our community.

Pittsburgh
It was a great time of worship and fellowship as the congregation of the Union, Swissvale, gathered to ordain to the Gospel Ministry the Reverend Jacquelyn M. Lewis. God bless you as you do the work of a preacher of the good news and perform your whole duty as a servant of God.

Reading
Dr. Jeff Johnson did a great job facilitating the online Ordination Council for Bob Keiderling held at FBC, Bethlehem. While Dr. Jeff facilitated the online council group, Rev. David Hardin facilitated the in-person council members. It was great getting to know Bob and hearing his faith
journey as well as his current mission endeavors including ministry to truckers in need.

Ten Mile
Dodgeball! Mandi Restanio, Student Ministry Pastor at FBC, Waynesburg and Student Ministries RMA, reports how FBC, Waynesburg, FBC, Monongahela, and Jefferson came together for an afternoon of great fun!! About 40 kids were part of the event.

Sympathies are extended to the family of Pastor Frank Vucic (Sugar Grove). He was a life-long high school and middle school educator (Music Teacher/Band Director) as well as Chancel Choir Director for many years at FBC. That was followed by his own pastorate following his education in the first class of students in ABCOPAD’s former Church Leadership Institute. A service to celebrate the life of Pastor Frank was held at the First Baptist Church of Waynesburg, facilitated by our own Executive Pastor, Dr. Frank Frischkorn.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

FORGING DISCIPLES & SERVANTS FOR JESUS CHRIST!

AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN
Work Day at Medard’s House
1120 Drexel Hills Blvd.
New Cumberland, PA 17070

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021, 9 AM – 5 PM
Medard’s House is a faith-based youth program that inspires boys and girls to be the best they can be and reach for their dreams. They work primarily with youth 6th through 12th grades; offer community pre-apprenticeship programs, career exploration and academic advancement programs, and an after-school program that includes sports, tutoring, meals and mentoring. A large church building and property were donated to them to be used as a youth center. It has real potential for ministry. Proposed projects include:

- Install Permanent Basketball Hoop on Edge of Parking Lot
- Repair Exterior Doors
- Shed Trim and Gutter Repair
- Framing for Interior Doors Installation for Entrance to Gym
- Floor Stripping and Waxing
- Various Jobs that Many of our Men and Young Men Can Do: Landscaping; Painting; Cleaning, Etc.

No Cost, but Registration is Required. Please register no later than June 30, 2021 with your name, phone, and email, plus your special work skills based on the projects.

Register with one of the following:
- Dave Leh—leh845@comcast.net
- Rob McQue—rmcqwe@gmail.com
- Bob Coats—pastorbobcoats@gmail.com

ABMOPAD Virtual & Onsite Gathering (for Eastern PA) — Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021. This will include a book discussion, workshop, time of worship, etc. Mark your calendars! More information will be coming on this event.

ABMOPAD Retreat—July 29-31, 2022 Shippensburg University

ACTS Online classes begin Aug. 21, 2021. For More Info Contact Rev. Ruth Moore at 717-805-4901; rmoore.acts@abcopad.com; or visit www.acts4ministy.org

Pastoral Care: An introduction to the role of the pastor in caring and counseling covering: The effect of the role of pastor on the person under care; the influence of the personality of the pastor in care and counseling; the need to refer to others; introductions to listening skills, home visiting, hospital visitation, and visiting in special settings; helping parishioners deal with marriage, death and other major events in life. Resources, services, and problems in conducting marriages and funerals will be presented. Counseling techniques and resources will be discussed.

Theology: This course is an introduction to organized thought about God. This course will briefly examine the early church and how it developed doctrines. The course will present different ways to organize systems of thinking about God. A number of different approaches will be discussed, including early church fathers, Reformation leaders, and contemporary theologians. Issues covered will include revelation, God, creation, humanity, sin, salvation, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, and eschatology. Students will be encouraged to examine how they organize their thought about God, that is, their own system of theology. Each student will write a paper stating his/her personal theology in a clear and consistent way.
The cumulative comparison figures

United Mission Basics is ahead through May 2021 by $2,975. The increase in United Missions (includes UMB and Love Gift) amounts to $1,759 more in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received through May.

AFC is ahead by $4,782. This increase amounts to $1,422 more in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received through May.

Partners in Ministry is ahead by $2,449 through May.

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Sept, 2021 Deadline: Items to be included in the Sept. issue of Notes & News need to arrive by 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 2.

Please send all material to Denise Veselicky.

Mail: ABCOPAD
159 N. Bellefield Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-2609

Email: dveselicky@abcopad.com

Phone: 888-687-0883
Fax: 412-687-3941

Thank you!
Donna L. Schneff, designer
deeschneff@gmail.com
Covid 19 has created challenges for our churches, but particularly those who are experiencing the need to search for a new Pastor. As the Search Committee Regional Ministry Associate for the eastern sector of the state, I have been blessed to continue our work, in the midst of Covid, with several Search Committees as they successfully move through the search process. Using phone and email messaging has not curtailed our ability to help support these Committees.

In conjunction with the Ministrelife System, we have been able to develop our own database of Pastors who have responded to a survey indicating that, with the Lord’s leading, they would consider being candidates for open Pastor positions within ABCOPAD. This has allowed us to be more efficient in identifying potential Pastoral candidates for our churches in the Region.

Yes, the challenges are there, but we continue to see the Lord at work in our churches and are blessed by His leading. We continue to pray for these churches who not only have the challenging task of finding a new Pastoral Leader but also being able to assimilate them into their congregations, many of which remain fully or partially virtual.

Search Committees have expressed their appreciation for the guidance and assistance that we are able to provide. Your prayers and support for this ministry certainly will be greatly appreciated.

When you support Partners in Ministry, you make it possible for our Region to support Search Committees as they seek new leadership as well as pastoral candidates as they strive to answer God’s call.

Thank You for your giving to Partners In Ministry and for your partnership as we minister together in Pennsylvania and Delaware

You can give to Partners In Ministry...

1. Through your local congregation’s weekly offering by designating your gift to ABCOPAD - Partners In Ministry.

2. Through ABCOPAD’s Online Giving option, available on the regional website (www.abcopad.org). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.

3. By giving through your mobile device (www.abcopad.mobile).

4. By sending your check (made payable to ABCOPAD WMS) to:
   ABCOPAD; P.O. Box 421; Hatboro, PA 19040

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE
AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE

THRIVE CONFERENCE - Thriving Through Seeing - JUNE 18-19, 2021

‘Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.’ Philippians 2:4

Conference will be a great experience that you may attend in your home alone, with a friend or in a group. It is important that we continue to meet and encourage one another. We are thankful for the technology that makes a virtual gathering possible and we are especially thankful for the knowledgeable support persons whom God has raised up in our region to be a blessing and who enable us to press on.

Friday, June 18, 2021
7 – 9 pm  2021 THRIVE Conference opens with worship, a visit to Brazil to check on our Regional Project and Session ONE with Pastor Kelly Legg (and Breakout Groups)

Saturday, June 19, 2021
8:45 am  Morning Devotion
9 am  Annual Business Meeting, Introduction to our 21-22 Regional Project and slate of officers for the coming year.
9:45 am - 12:30 pm  Opening worship, Sessions TWO & THREE with Pastor Kelly Legg, and Breakout Groups closing conference with communion.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED so that materials and the Zoom link can be emailed to you. You will be able to join the conference via Computer, iPad, or iPhone. There are advantages to having both audio and visual capabilities, but you can always dial in via the old-fashioned telephone! It will be like chatting with a good friend.

REGISTRATION FEE  We are asking for a $20 donation (minimum) be made to help offset expenses - Girls, NO FEE. Donations can be made via the website www.abcopad.org or by mail. Please make checks payable to ‘ABWMOPAD’ and send it with your contact info to: THRIVE CONFERENCE, ABCOPAD, 159 N Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.