



Metrolines

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Celebrating 310 Years PBA Annual Meeting *Saturday, May 6, 2017*

The 310th Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia Baptist Association was held on **Saturday, May 6, 2017** at the St. Paul's Baptist Church, 1000 Wallace St., Philadelphia, PA 19123, where The Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan is Pastor.

At this year's meeting the PBA celebrated three hundred and ten years as an Association! There was a time of fellowship, brief business discussion, the greeting of new members, informative workshops, inspiring worship and a fellowship luncheon.



During the business session, Dr. James McJunkin, Executive Minister, presented the annual report of the work of the Association. Dr. McJunkin regularly shares the report with the Rev. Dr. Jeff Woods of the Office of the General Secretary.

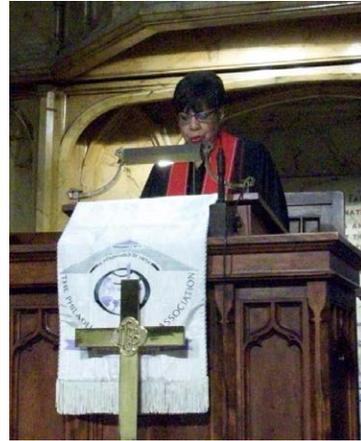
This year Dr. Woods commented, "This is an excellent annual report. This is one of the most thorough annual reports that I have seen from an Executive Minister. As usual, the report is detailed, yet offers an overall macro view of the ministry of the staff and the regional congregations. The report also offers insights, analysis, and presents an honest assessment of the ministry at

this moment in time. I hope that the region appreciates the level of work and insight that went into this report."

If you'd like to read the report, please download a copy [here](#).

Other highlights of the day included welcoming new pastors as well as two new congregations to the Region; they are Dare to Imagine Church and Second Pilgrim Baptist Church. During our worship time we were led in praise by the inspirational music of Mr. Perry Brisbon, a nationally and internationally acclaimed operatic tenor.

The Rev. Dr. Loida Martell-Otero, Professor of Constructive Theology at Palmer Theological Seminary was the keynote preacher of the day.



Using the text of the parable of the Good Samaritan, the question was raised, "What is the response of the church, how should the church respond to poverty in our midst? The Church began as a church of poor people. Who are the poor we must take the Good News to? In our society today we are confronted by "moneytheism" or the concern about money and by "meism", being concerned about me. Dr. Martell-Otero stated that "love grows cold when it's affected by "meism."

She asked, "Who are you being neighbor to?" We [the church] have to go to them and not wait for the poor to come to us. For...whatever you did for the least of these, you did it to me.



(l to r) Ms. Eva Gladstein; Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr.; State Senator Vincent Hughes

To serve on the panel we invited government officials with strong ties to the church community to help attendees understand the impact and the drivers of poverty in our Metropolitan area and in the State of Pennsylvania. As an Association we wanted to increase awareness of the escalating numbers of people living at or in deep level poverty in our region and to learn what congregations can do to help to address the major systems in our society that foster

(drive) poverty. We asked the question "How might congregations work with local, state, and national governments to counter the escalation of poverty in our metropolitan region?"

Serving on the panel were:

Ms. Eva Gladstein, Deputy Managing Director of Health and Human Services for the City of Philadelphia. She spoke on programs provided by the City to address poverty issues in the city.

The Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr., President and CEO of Amachi, Inc. and former mayor of Philadelphia addressed how government and congregations can help. He stated that government leaders need to know what is happening in their constituencies and that congregations need to inform them. He asked, "What can PBA church leaders and congregations do within their own

communities?" He suggested they can be a part of building and sponsoring low and moderate income housing.

State Senator Vincent Hughes asked the question, "How do we deal with poverty?" He answered the question by stating that the fundamental way out of poverty is education: That we (the church) need to engage our communities, by offering opportunities to learn democracy principles and practices. "Change," Senator Hughes reminded us, "happens on the streets, from the bottom up."

Rev. McJunkin closed out the panel session with the words Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV), "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land."

There were four workshop addressing the topic of "The Church's Response to Poverty in our Midst." They included the following:

Esperanza - A church based nonprofit organization addressing the education and employment needs of the Latino population in Philadelphia.

Society for Helping Church - Meeting the needs of deaf and hearing impaired persons and their families in North Philadelphia.

Calvary Baptist Church, Chester, PA - Building a pastoral care network for victims of violence and their families in Chester, PA.

Grace Baptist Church of Germantown - Developing church based micro-business ventures for Employment.



Workshop #1

Esperanza

Facilitator: Rev. Danny Cortes,
Executive Vice President & Chief of
Staff



Workshop #2

Society for Helping Church
Facilitator: Rev. Barbara
Montague, Pastor



Workshop #3



Workshop #4

Grace Baptist Church of
Germantown

Calvary Baptist Church, Chester
Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Bayard
Taylor, Pastor

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. James Buck,
Pastor

Members of the Board of Directors served communion.



Deacon Emanwel Pulley,
PBA Treasurer and Rev.
Dr. Marcia Bailey



Dr. James McJunkin,
Executive Minister



Mr. Eric Lindbloom

As assembled members of the Body of Christ, we affirmed the formation of the Philadelphia Baptist Association on July 27, 1707.

In acknowledgement of the 310th Anniversary of the founding of the Philadelphia Baptist Association representatives from churches attending signed the Principle of Association.



Signers pledged their church's support to be devoted in love and Christian service to each other, our community, and to our world, in communion with the Baptist Principle of Association.

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New Churches Welcomed to the Region

Dare to Imagine Church

Dare to Imagine Church (D2i) is a contemporary, Christ-centered, Bible-based

community dedicated to connecting people to Jesus Christ, empowering them to dare to imagine and live a better life.



Dr. Kevin Johnson

This diverse fellowship launched in Philadelphia, PA on March 1, 2015 offers inspiring worship services and spiritually relevant messages to help worshipers grow in God. The church has been very successful in witnessing to and evangelizing millennials and young families. In addition to spiritual growth D2i offers entrepreneurial classes and other life-coaching programs to help individuals reach their full capacity in Jesus Christ.

Committed to wholistic community development, Dr. Kevin Johnson is the founding Lead Pastor of D2i Church, Inc., which has grown from 20 to nearly 500 since its founding. This congregation worships at 3801 Market St., in Philadelphia.

Second Pilgrim Baptist Church

In the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Butts a weekly prayer meeting convened on Wednesday evenings in 1916. As attendance began to grow Rev. John Augustine became the spiritual advisor for the weekly group. A mission was organized with Rev. Augustine as presiding moderator, with the name Second Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church. By 1922, the attendance had grown and they had to seek a larger place to worship and a storefront building at the corner of Darien and Buttonwood Streets was rented. Rev. George Allen was called as the first pastor.

In 1927 the Rev. Leonard Carmichael was called as the second pastor of the church. Under his leadership the church membership increased and grew both spiritually and financially. In 1945 following the vision of Rev. R.L. Thomas the church moved into their present building 854-60 N. 15th Street.

In September 2015 Rev. Isaiah Banks began serving as the interim pastor and was called to serve as the ninth pastor of the church in September 2016. He was officially installed on May 28th of this year.



Rev. Isaiah Banks

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Pennepack Baptist Church Celebrates 329th Anniversary

On Sunday, June 4th the **Pennepack Baptist Church** celebrated its 329th anniversary. This year the anniversary became a community event with the

inaugural Krewstown Road Festival, where the road was closed and the community was invited to attend.



The festival, presented by the Pennepack Baptist Historical Foundation, Friends of Pennypack Park, Councilman Brian O'Neill, Greater Bustleton Civic League and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation featured tours of the church and its historic cemetery, as well as the "baptismal rock" in Pennypack Creek; blacksmithing and woodworking demonstrations; nature and history walks; mountain bike rides; and a Boy Scouts parade.

The day started with an inspirational Communion Service lead by Pastor Gerald Fortunato. During the Service, the youth choir from Forsyth, Georgia shared some powerful music. Later in the day, Rev. Tony Tilford, Pastor, Willow Grove Baptist Church and former pastor at Pennepack Baptist, dressed in



character, gave a presentation of the history, description and testimony of the original baptistery, at the Baptismal Rock in the Pennypack Creek. In the afternoon the choir performed a concert in the sanctuary which was enjoyed by many people. At the afternoon Anniversary Service the congregation was inspired as "Peter Pennypack" (Pastor Tony Tilford) brought the Sermon based on Matthew 7:24: "Always

Build on a Solid Rock."

This was the first of an annual community event. Cheryl Carlson, Pennepack Baptist Church Lay Leader, states, "The amount of people who visited was so overwhelming that we couldn't even count them. We never would have been able to reach out to so many people on our own. It was such a blessing for the Church and prayerfully for those in attendance. We planted many seeds. Praise God!"

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Cafe Conversation on Immigration and Refugees

On Thursday June 15, 2017, the Philadelphia Baptist Association invited PBA pastors and other interested persons to attend a "Café Conversation on Immigration & Refugees." This forum offered an opportunity to learn how PBA churches can be engaged in supporting communities that are "under siege," as immigration reform is contested in our governmental policy.



The Panelists included Rev. Doug Avilesbernal, Calvary Baptist Church of Norristown; Sondra Miller-Wein, Esq. Immigration Lawyer and Board Member of Esperanza Immigration Legal Services; and Rev. Rothang Chhange, PBA Consulting Minister for immigrants and those of refugee status. Rothang Chhange was Facilitator of the event; and Rev. Dr. Brenda Halliburton, Director of Intercultural Ministries & Immigration & Refugees, American Baptist Home Mission Societies was a special guest facilitator.

The focus of the day, which was adeptly communicated, heightened our awareness of the struggles of immigrants and refugees. They included the physical demands of just obtaining and maintain the necessities of life. The other and just as important were the emotional anxieties experienced of being in a foreign country and a sometimes hostile culture, with its language challenges.

The group was encouraged to become more sensitive and supportive of this community. It was requested they participate in practical ways to minister to immigrants and refugees in the form of donating those necessities of life mentioned earlier. This will be a ongoing concern and ministry of the PBA. We solicit your prayers and support.

"...these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7

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News and Notes

Around the Region

In Memorium



Rev. Dr. Ronald King Hill, The Reverend Dr. Ronald King Hill, Pastor of the **Corinthian Baptist Church of Germantown** passed away June 11, 2017.

Dr. Hill was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He began his ministerial career at Corinthian Baptist Church of Germantown under the pastorate of the late Reverend, Dr. M. W. Newsome, who licensed and ordained him.

Dr. Hill was an alumnus of Trenton State, earning a B.S. in Secondary Education and Counseling; Norfolk State University, earning an M.A. degree in Interpersonal Communications; Inter-American University and Seminary, Cagay, Puerto Rico, receiving M. Div. and Doctor of Ministry Degrees. Other post graduate studies included Philadelphia Biblical University, Westminster Theological Seminary, Dropsie University; Pennsylvania State University specializing in Modern Management of Religious Institutions; and Princeton Theological Seminary.

His ministerial experience was varied and exemplary. Pastoring three historic churches: Faith Baptist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey, First Baptist Church of Crestmont in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania and Mount Ephraim Baptist Church in Philadelphia. His last pastorate brought him full circle, home to Corinthian Baptist

Church. He served as President of the Missionary Baptist Pastor's Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity for two terms. Dr. Hill was counselor for the Youth Development Center, a facility of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was also employed in the Department of Pupil Personnel and Counseling for the School District of Philadelphia.

Dr. Hill was adjunct Professor of Pulpit Speech at the Center for Urban Theological Studies of the International Congress on Preaching. He was a member of the Governing Board of the Academy of Preachers and he served as Chairman of the Board of the Urban Theological Institute of the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia.

He has lectured at a number of Universities and Seminaries including Boston University School of Theology, Princeton University, The Atlantic Theological Seminaries of the Caribbean Islands, being heard in person, on radio and television. Dr. Hill has served as the Executive Director of the Baptist Global Mission Bureau, USA, Inc. of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; children, Rosalynn, Ron, Jr. and Gatefred and a host of relatives and friends.

Ordinations



The **Central Baptist Church of Wayne** hosted the ordination service for **Sarah Strosahl-Kagi** on June 11th.

Pastoral Transitions

Minister Andre L. Price began as the new pastor at the **Mount Olivet Tabernacle Baptist Church** this spring. Prior his becoming Senior Pastor Minister Price served in the transitional position of Preacher in Residence.



The **Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer** was elected to the position of General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA on May 8th. He began his duties on June 1st. Prior to this calling he served as the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey.



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Upcoming Events

June

30 - July 2 2017 ABCUSA [Biennial Mission Summit](#) @ Portland, OR

July

14-16 ABW of PA & DE Conference @ Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA

29-30 ABMen of PA & DE Conference @ Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA

September

13 PBA Ministers' Council @ PBA office building

October

7 ABWM-PBA Fall Regional Gathering

21 PBA Annual Mission Banquet @ The Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill

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Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Minister

Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard, Program Facilitator, Communications & Leader Development

Mrs. Rosalyn L. Martin, Executive Assisnant

Ms. Janet Reedy, Administrative Assistant

We encourage you to contact the PBA staff for more information on our programs and opportunities for service and ministry.

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