



Philadelphia  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## Metrolines

An e-publication of the Philadelphia Baptist Association

**Metrolines** is published 4 times yearly - December/January, March/April, June and September/October. Send articles and/or pictures to Janet Reedy ([jhreeedy@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:jhreeedy@philadelphiabaptist.org)): Inclusion of materials is at the discretion of PBA staff.

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## New Year Devotional



**Season of Epiphany, Tuesday January 7, 2020: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21**

In keeping with the liturgical calendar, after the twelve days of Christmas, we arrive at the season of Epiphany. One definition for Epiphany given in the Merriam Dictionary is “An appearance or manifestation especially of a divine being.” This definition is given to this season, which commemorates the visitation of the three Wise Men or Magi from foreign lands to see the Christ Child, God made flesh. Their visit is fulfillment of prophesy that the God of Israel was also the God of Gentiles.

Other definitions offered are “a sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something...an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking...a revealing scene or moment...an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure. Putting it in the vernacular, it is an “Ah Ha” moment; or it evokes the eyebrow raising comment, “I never considered that!”

Can we consider as we begin this New Year and new decade that the season of Epiphany, with all its potential for inventiveness and freshness and originality, can occur at any moment of the day? All it requires is a willingness to be open to the inspirational touch of the Holy Spirit of Eternal Epiphany. Oh God, let it be so!

*“...that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the*

breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:18-19

## 33rd Annual Mission Banquet

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual PBA Mission Banquet was held on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at The Drexelbrook Catering & Special Events Center in Drexel Hill, PA. The banquet theme was "Welcome the Stranger: The Church's Response at the Southern Border"

This year we recognized and said thank you to persons who provide outstanding support for the work of church administration; Trustees, church administration staff persons, associate ministers, assistants to the pastor, assistant ministers (full time staff positions), treasurers, facilities management staff or project managers, etc.

Special recognition was given to Ms. Janet Reedy for 30 years of dedicated administrative support to the PBA and the PBA mission banquet.

We enjoyed music from the Central Baptist Church of Wayne worship band. The Reverend Ray Schellinger, Global Consultant for Immigrants and Refugees, ABCUSA International Ministries was the speaker for the event. He spoke on the situation at the southern border with timely examples of the realities refugees face in trying to come to this country and the church's response. He related the struggles of one particular refugee family he became acquainted with and told of their journey through Central America and Mexico in an attempt to flee violence and their desire to come to the US to better their lives.

[Click here for Picture Summary](#)

### Welcome the Stranger

#### The Church's Response at the Southern Border

"When did we see you a stranger and invite you in?...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:31-40

## SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH: A Mortgage-Burning Celebration!

**Article written and submitted by:**

Rev. Warren D. Mays, Sr., Pastor  
Sis. Sheilah F. Green, Church Secretary

**Photography by:**

Min. Carol West Shannon (C W Shannon Art)  
Trustee Warren D. Mays, Jr.



Thank you, Lord! was the exclamation that went up on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at **Second Baptist Church of**



Media, PA where the Rev. Warren D Mays, Sr. is pastor. The congregation, along with family, friends, and the community celebrated the burning of a replica of the Renovation Church Mortgage and the reading of the Mortgage-Burning Litany during their 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship experience! Deacon Charles Taylor (Chairman) and Trustee Evelyn Randolph (Chairlady)

assisted in the lighting of a replica of the Renovation Church Mortgage and it was burned to ashes! There was excitement in the sanctuary! The congregation praised and thanked God for keeping them through sacrifice and faithfulness!

The work on the Building Extension Renovation and Interior Remolding began on Wednesday, August 2010 and progressed. In November 2010, it became necessary to schedule a meeting at another site beginning in January 2011. The architect, Robert Linn, negotiated with Media Borough officials to allow the congregation to hold the 11:00 a.m. service at the Media Borough Hall Community Room until March 2011.

Pastor Mays reflected on the goodness of the Lord throughout the journey that brought the church to this joyous day. He delivered a spirit-filled message of hope and deliverance! Combined choirs rendered celebratory songs of praise!

*"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Romans 13:7-8 (KJV)*



## Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church Christmas Worship Service

The Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church held a worship service on Christmas Day. The congregation worships at the St. John's Baptist Church on Tasker Street in South Philadelphia. PBA Executive Regional Pastor, Dr. James McJunkin delivered the sermon for the day.



Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church  
Congregation



Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church  
Christmas Worship Service



Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, jr.  
Regional Executive Pastor, PBA

Above: (Seated) Rev. Dr. Lyndell D.  
Backues, Pastor, St. John's Baptist Church  
(Standing) Rev. Hendy Matahellamuel,  
Pastor, Mennonite Congregatio



Above: Sunday school children praise  
dancing with tambourines.



Youth Praise Orchestra



Christmas dinner

## PBA Ministers Council Annual Prayer Breakfast



Breakfast was held on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at the PBA offices.

Following the breakfast a time of guided meditation and prayer was led by Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard, Program Facilitator for Communication and Leader Development at PBA. This year's theme was "The Call of Christ is to Ever Deepening Relationship with God." Luke 5:4.



## News and Notes Around the Region

### Pastoral Transitions



On November 17<sup>th</sup> the congregation of the **First African Baptist Church** in Sharon Hill, PA celebrated the 34<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary and Retirement of their pastor, The **Rev. Dr. Richard A. Dent and First Lady, Mrs. Beatrice C. Dent.**

The **Willow Grove Baptist Church** said good bye to their pastor, **Rev. Tony Tilford** who retired November 3<sup>rd</sup> after serving 11 years. The church welcomed their new pastor **Rev. Jorge Suitor** who began his ministry on December 1, 2019.

### Pastoral Anniversary

On Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> The **Tenth Memorial Baptist Church** hosted a Quadruplet Celebration for their Pastor **William B. Moore and Mrs. Pauline M. Moore.** This year marks Rev. Moore's 45<sup>th</sup>

year as pastor of the Tenth Memorial Baptist Church, 54 years of pastoring and 58 years of preaching. Congratulations also to Rev. and Mrs. Moore who also celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 2019.



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Congratulations to the **Reverend Robert Collier, Sr.**, pastor of the **Galilee Baptist Church**, on being installed as the new president of The Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity. The investiture service takes place on Sunday, January 19th at the Mt. Airy Church of God in Christ.

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### Church Anniversaries

The **First Baptist Church of Philadelphia**, one of the oldest churches in the PBA celebrated their 321st anniversary on December 8th with a special worship service and speaker, Rev. Dr. J. Wendell Mapson, pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church.

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## PBA Domestic Violence Learning Community Sponsors Mini-Conference

*The Domestic Violence Learning Community  
is Sponsoring a Mini-Conference*

### Repair, Build and Maintain Healthy Relationships

March 14, 2020; 8AM—2PM  
Held at the Mount Carmel Baptist Church  
5732 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
*Rev. Dr. Donald D. Moore, Pastor*

Continental Breakfast will be served, followed by presentations from panelists from social agencies and the judicial system and a keynote speaker.

Additional details and registration information is forthcoming.

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## Caring for your Sacred Space An Introduction to Building Stewardship Workshop

Buildings are assets for ministry. Congregations with older facilities are invited to this half day workshop sponsored by Partners for Sacred Places, to learn practical tools to maintain their buildings and prepare for future capital building projects. Breakfast included.

The workshop is on Saturday, February 1, 2020 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at Christ

Church Neighborhood House, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

\$10 for one person, \$5 for each additional person from the same congregation if tickets are purchased together. Groups are encouraged! Price includes breakfast.

Space is limited. RSVP by 1/17/2020 at [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Wed., March 11, 2020** - PBA Ministers Council Meeting @ PBA offices
  - ◆ **Sat., March 14, 2020** - PBA Domestic Violence Learning Community Mini conference @ Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.
  - ◆ **Sat., March 21, 2020** - PBA Annual Mission Cafe @ Salem Baptist Church, Roslyn, PA
  - ◆ **July 14-18, 2020** - International Ministries World Mission Conference @ Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
  - ◆ **Sat. November 14, 2020** - 34th Annual PBA Mission Banquet @ The Drexelbrook Events Center, Drexel Hill, PA
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### Contact Information

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Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Regional Pastor

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