



Tower Topics

The monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA

October 2011 - Vol. XXXVIII #9

Rev. Steven C Case

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com>

Monday, October 31st is the 494th anniversary of the posting by Martin Luther of his ninety-five theses on the chapel doors at the University of Wittenberg. Kenneth Scott Latourette in his book, "Christianity Through the Ages," wrote: "October 31, 1517 is usually regarded as marking the beginning of Protestantism." Even before this posting by Luther, the church was in a much needed state of reform.

Now, as then, the Christian church is in reform, changing and modifying to meet the needs of people. Do we at First Baptist Church need to reform (change)? Is there a need to change or alter the way we go about the mission of our Lord? Have we become so comfortable that we are stuck in the proverbial "rut" of doing things the same way year after year and by the same people? The answers to these questions may indeed be "YES." However, reform does not mean that one automatically changes everything at once; that would be very foolish. Change for the sake of change rarely accomplishes anything positive, rather it can bring chaos. It does mean that we admit to that which does need to be changed and do it. That change could be as simple as the way we do programming or as difficult as our changing how we respond to new ideas, versus hanging on to the old ways.

What may be needed here are some fresh ideas about the church. The mission remains the same—spreading the Gospel, the GOOD NEWS, of Jesus Christ throughout the land. Additionally, what are definitely needed are others within the congregation helping, instead of allowing others to do all the work. The church does not belong to just one person—save Jesus Christ—it belongs to all of us. Each member and friend of this church needs to be asking themselves, "What can I do for my Lord's church?"

I have never pretended (nor do I intend to start now) to have all answers. As we minister together, I believe we can find those answers with the power of the Holy Spirit. It will take ALL OF US joining together, volunteering to help in any way that we can, to further the mission and ministry of this church

Shalom,

Pastor Steve



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we think about our individual lives and even our church's life, we can easily forget we are part of a large community of faith, the Church of Jesus Christ around the world. On October 2, World Communion Sunday, we will be reminded of that fact. On that day Christians worldwide will be celebrating the Lord's Supper, even as we will.

That special Sunday will also be the day we appropriately begin receiving our 2011 World Mission Offering (WMO), which supports the global work of American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

Our gifts make possible the ministries of nearly 100 long-term IM missionaries and more than 1,500 short-term missionaries and volunteers. They work in more than 70 countries along with 220 partner organizations that include evangelistic associations, hospitals, schools, publishing companies and others responding to Christ's call.

Reflecting that call, the WMO theme is based on Luke 10:1-9, 17a. It tells how Jesus sent 70 missionaries to Live the Word and Proclaim the Word so that others might Be Transformed. In these coming weeks, we will have an opportunity to discover more fully what that means.

Your Board of Missions believes that as a result of that discovery, God will lead us to provide greater financial support to global mission this year than last. Even though our goal for the WMO is the same as last year \$750.00, please join us in embracing this challenge as together we Live the Word and Proclaim the Word so that others might Be Transformed.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Your Board of Mission.

Meet Tyler & Derek

This month we want you all to meet Tyler Wetherbee, our new Accompanist and Derek Gracey our Choir Director. Those of you who can attend worship are in for a real treat each Sunday as Tyler plays the piano and Derek leads the choir for services.

Tyler Wetherbee: Tyler was born in Lancaster County in 1988. He has 2 half-sisters age 31 & 33, as well as a step-brother age 30 and 2 step-sisters age 30 & 36. He went to Fairview Elementary school and East High School in Elizabethtown, PA until he moved to Wellsboro in 1994 where he finished his schooling. He is currently studying Music at Mansfield University where his major instrument is piano. He is looking forward to graduating in May 2012. Following graduation Tyler will return to Mansfield to obtain his Masters in Collaborative Piano.

Tyler believes in Jesus and he knows he's his Rock and source of strength. While he belongs to a Methodist church, he studies Doctrine online and he considers that his church.

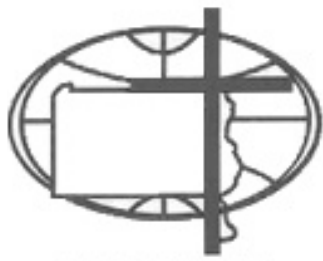
When Tyler is not at the piano making music he is usually fixing, cleaning, tuning and doing regular maintenance on a variety of items. He loves to repair things. He enjoys vacuuming, driving his classic Lincoln Town Car and hanging out with his friends. Tyler not only repairs things but he is crazy about vacuum cleaners. He collects vintage cleaners and has one dated at 1910. The newest is a 1970. He knows a lot of random facts and about them. Tyler was working on a motor and he needed an impellor to test the load and see what it could handle. Not thinking about it he put a 7 blade impellor on the motor and turned it on. When it came up to full power all 7 blades flew off, two of them hitting him in the face leaving big gashes. When he grows a beard he has a small bare patch where no hair grows due to the accident.

Derek Gracey: Derek was born in Hunting, PA in 1990 to Frank and Gwen Gracey of Robertsdale, PA. Derek's mom taught Derek to read music and play the piano at age 7 and from there he taught himself. He started playing trumpet in 5th grade and continued all through high school. At age 16 he began piano and voice lessons. Throughout high school Derek was involved in chorus, band, musicals, and hand bell choir. He graduated from Tussey Mountain High School as Valedictorian and class vice-president. Derek is currently a senior at Mansfield University with a dual-major in Music education and Vocal Performance. Although voice is his primary he has taken lessons with Dr. Boston, Beth Palmer and Dr. Peggy Dettweiler. Last year Derek conducted the ACDA Church Choir. Derek has been in Concert Choir, Mansfieldians, Chamber Singers, Musical and MU Opera Theater. He is also President of Phi My Alpha Sinfonia, the men's fraternity.

Derek was raised Roman Catholic but attended the Church of the Nazarene with his mother on occasion and has always had an open mind about religion. While in Mansfield, Derek has worshipped at Holy Child, St, James and First Baptist. He says "Needless to say, my denomination is not as important to me as my underlying faith and relationship with God. Every church I've attended believes in and worships the same God and Savior, though they do it differently. I have only been at FBC for a few weeks, but I already feel comfortable. The people of this church are very welcoming!"

Aside from music, Derek enjoys having fun with his friends, watching movies, camping and traveling. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his dad, spending time with his dog Oreo and his Mom's home cooked meals.

Derek will be student teaching next fall and will graduate in December. He hopes to attend graduate school for a Master's of Music in Vocal Performance. His ultimate goal is to be a professional classical/opera singer. He would like to study abroad and/or perform. Eventually he would like to get his Doctorate in Musical Arts and Performance and possible teach on a collegiate level. Wherever he ends up in like, he plans to stay involved with church music along the way!



ABCOPAD

Come and See, Go and Tell!

Matthew 28: 6-7

Mission Blitz 2011

Sponsored Jointly by the Bradford & Tioga Associations

October 14-16, 2011



ABC USA

Featuring:

- Phillip and Corene Smith (*Hope Unlimited, Brazil*)
- Mark Samuel (*Neighborhood Ministries, Ohio*)
- National, Regional & Local ABC Missionaries



**National
Ministries**

Activities:

Friday:

4:00 Smith's speaking at Mansfield University, Alumni Hall

Saturday:

1:00 – 4:00 Youth Outflow Activities in Mansfield and Troy

5:00 – 8:00 Youth Rally with Special Guests at Troy First Baptist Church

Sunday:

Morning worship services with Missions Speakers

MAIN EVENT: Mission Blitz Rally at Wellsboro First Baptist

with featured speakers, interactive booths, and Mission treasure hunt!

2:30 Registration, 3:00 Kick-off, 5:30 Dinner



**International
Ministries**

Prayer List

Marian Miller, Sally & George (Bud) Johnson (Carol Mortimer's brother and wife)
Richard Smith (Mary Webster's son-in-law),
Jasmine Williams (4 year old with Cancer),
Haines & Carol Scureman, oil, gas and windmill personnel,
college students, shut-ins, those in our Armed Forces,
and many unspoken requests.

Shut-Ins:

Iris Berguson, Evelyn Henninger, Omer & Betty Sumner

October 2011 - Tentative Preaching Schedule



October 2nd

“Journey into Forever”

* Philippians 3:4-14 , Exodus;20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 ,
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9th

“Finding Peace in a Troubled World”

* Philippians 4:1-9 , Exodus 32:1-14 , Matthew 22:1-11

October 16th

“A Godly Invitation”

* I Thessalonians 1:1-10, Exodus 33:12-23, Matthew 22:15-22

October 23rd

“An Undivided Heart”

* Matthew 22:34-46, Deuteronomy 34:1-12,
I Thessalonians 2:1-8

October 30th

“Accepting God's Challenge”

* Joshua 3:7-17, I Thessalonians 2: 9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

* **Sermon Text**

August Financial summary:

Gifts to First Baptist for operational expenses - \$4,867.94

August expenses excluding mission outreach - \$7,217.85

August deficit for local expenses - \$2,349.91

Mark your Calendar

- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 6th
- Church dinner and Business meeting November 13th
- American Baptist Women's meeting November 19th
- Mansfield University Christmas Concert December 3rd
- Ladies tea at the Case's home December 17th
- Church Cantata December 18th

Fellowship List for October 2011

Please check the list below for your name.

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled week, **please find a replacement.** Thank you for your help!

October 2

Main Street Greeter: Mary Ann Walker
Sherwood Street Greeter: Marilyn Wiles
Ushers: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Hosts: Ben & Sarah Nevin
Lay Reader: David Garrison

October 9

Main Street Greeter: Harry Hagar
Sherwood Street Greeter: Jim Cummings
Ushers: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Hosts: Judy Bott & Sue Wilber
Lay Reader: Richard Becker

October 16

Main Street Greeter: Ben E. Nevin
Sherwood Street Greeter: Miriam Cummings
Ushers: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Hosts: Richard & Nancy Becker
Lay Reader: Mary Ann Walker

October 23

Main Street Greeter: Anne Nevin
Sherwood Street Greeter: Judy Bott
Ushers: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Hosts: Lee & Mary Ellen Hoar
Lay Reader: Ben B. Nevin

October 30

Main Street Greeter: Benjamin E. Nevin
Sherwood Street Greeter: Mary Ellen Hoar
Ushers: Bob & Dorothy Smith
Hosts: Gary & Carol Mortimer
Lay Reader: Sarah Nevin

October Birthdays

2nd - Richard Becker
11th - John Baynes
19th - Lindsey Cummings
30th - Fran Garrison & Dorothy Smith

Please visit our website to see our calendar!

<http://www.firstbaptistchurchmansfield.com/calendar.htm>

First Baptist Church of Mansfield, PA
North Main & Sherwood Streets

Sunday Morning Worship is at 11:00
Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday of the month