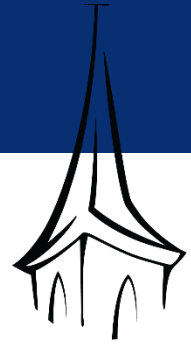


May
2022

WEST SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

UPDATE



From the Desk of Pastor Kelly

I love mission trips. I've been on many over the years. In Haiti we built rubble houses for families displaced *for years* from their home following an earthquake. While in Nicaragua we serviced water filtration systems in a remote village that allowed families to be healthy and safe. In Kenya we engaged in street evangelism and in Houston we laid (and then re-laid . . . oh, and re-laid *again*, but I'm not bitter about it) flooring in a home that had to be ripped down to studs following flood damage.

While all of those projects were incredible, tangible expressions of God's Kingdom coming and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven, the work itself is not actually what I love about mission trips. It's the relationships that make all the difference for me.

You see, in Haiti I discovered that my friend Amy has the biggest, grandest heart for folks who are hurting and she can cheer up *anyone* just by listening and letting them know she cares. I know, because she did that for me when I was feeling extremely out of my element. In Nicaragua I watched one of our teenagers overcome intense anxiety and, one fear at a time, walk in faith. We had more honest conversations about what it looks like to concretely trust the Father that week than we'd have in a lifetime, had we stayed in PA.

While in Kenya, even though we all openly harassed my buddy Gig for having his wife pack his suitcase and label each day's outfit in gallon-sized bags so that he was color-coordinated, I got to see this full-grown man intentionally love the kids we saw every day. He literally had an entire community on the lookout for "Mr. Gig" all week long. That's when I learned how his dad taught him that you treat kids like they're the most valuable people in the room. Oh, and in Houston, while redoing those floors for the umpteenth time, our knees begging for mercy, I finally had the uninterrupted time to just listen to my friend Leslie tell her story and find that I had even more reasons to be in awe of her love for the Lord.

When we leave our normal routine, our "I'm fine" church context, and spend all day together, we open up space for the Holy Spirit to do something amazing. He draws us closer, pulls us tighter, and binds us as brothers and sisters faster than we allow Him to in our insulated, isolated lives.

Would you pray for the Spirit of God to use the week that our team will be in Galveston to draw us closer to Him and to one another? To accomplish more in that one week of serving together than He has in years of us sitting separately in pews? And that, what He does there, will be used by Him to shape and grow our entire congregation?

Oh, and if you want to be part of these relationship deepening experiences, sign up to come with us next time!

Love ya,
Pastor Kelly

From Pastor Greg

We live in a secular age. Nobody denies it. Secularism is the reigning ideology of the day. What I mean by secularism is not that atheism is pervasive or that they're kicking God out of schools or taking Christ out of Christmas. I simply mean that now, unlike before, belief in the supernatural is not the default worldview. We live in a time period where we all swim surrounded by thousands of different world narratives.

A few decades ago, you would certainly have been well aware of other big-picture world beliefs than your own. But, most likely, you would have lived in a society that would have postured one way of viewing the world as overwhelmingly more plausible than all the others. And if you wanted to change your big-picture world belief, you'd have to leave your faith community and join a different one. The point is that there existed one default option. Today, this is not even close to the case. Today, everyone sees their faith as one option among many and the *default* option is not faith in a god, but lack of faith in a god. This is a titanic shift.

This has many implications for us as Christians. One of the implications is that where at one time our society saw church attendance as a *positive* thing for society (even if they found the theology itself off-putting or implausible), now, church attendance is viewed as negatively affecting society. In the world of secularism, church attendance is largely not viewed as a societal aid, but (at best) a personal choice of opinion and is viewed with increasing frequency as a moral evil. Gone are the days where our society politely disagreed with the church, but still saw the benefit of other people attending. And here (likely, to stay) are the days where people see the church and all it stands for as perpetuating a harmful, hateful, outdated moral code that ought to be done away with entirely.

So, what are we to do about this? For the first time in most of our lifetimes, people are avoiding church, not because they simply believe differently, but because they see church attendance as a moral evil. The topic is complex and so are the solutions. But one solution I've been thinking about often is this: We must create a more beautiful counter community.

The church in the New Testament actually existed in a time period much like our own. Christianity was not the default religion, and it was hated for hundreds of years by the common culture. Christianity, then too, was a minority belief. Christianity, then too, was viewed as a moral and social evil. And one of the things that caused the New Testament church to explode with growth was creating a community that loved one another and embodied the grace of God in Christ. This looks like loving one another to a ridiculous extreme. Caring for the poor and showing generosity in a way that looks extravagant and foolish. Forgiving and showing grace to even the most heinous of sins. Most likely, our western, secular culture will not listen to our theological arguments, even if they're sound. We must put our counter community of love on display for them first.

Therefore, my exhortation to you this month is simple: You will love the people in our culture the best when you love each other the deepest. Let your love for each other be an experiential apologetic for the great truths of Christianity. Put Jesus on display in your love for one another. Lay down your lives for one another. And view one another as deserving of better treatment than yourself. If we do this, I believe great things will happen.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Associate Pastor Greg Kabakjian

From the Deacon Board

Benevolence Fund

Thank you for your generous gifts to the Benevolence Fund.

These funds continue to be used to meet the practical needs of congregants and the community. This offering is collected the second Sunday of each month but can be donated anytime online or in person by designating “Deacon’s Benevolence Fund.”

From the Mission Board

Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet ministry will be held on Saturday, May 14 from 9 -12.

There are lots of items to be sorted!! If you would like to volunteer, please connect with Dawne Strock at: dawne1954@aol.com.



Galveston Mission Trip

Please pray for the team that will leave on Saturday, April 30 to fly from Philadelphia to Houston Texas.

Charlie Bihl, Eric Born, Steve Campbell, Gary Dambach, Elaine Deimler, Becky Gentzler, Maura Giannone, Doug Hill, Beth Ice, Greg Kabakjian, Tom Kennerly, David Klock, Kelly Legg, Bethany Malykh, Ida Rhone, Joe Skasko, Clark Stefanic, Frank Strock, Stephanie Strock and CJ Wright. Two others will meet them in Galveston: Linda Reilly and Alexander Wright.

The team will partner in mission with Galveston Urban Ministries Saturday, April 30 – Saturday, May 7, and will serve in home repair for low-income individuals and those interested will be able to serve at GUM’s after-school program.

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at WSBC on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, from 12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you wish to donate, click [here](#).



Healthy Steps Diaper Collection

During May the Mission Board is collecting donations for the Healthy Steps Diaper Bank, one of our Mission Possible partners. We will be accepting disposable diapers of all sizes, but the Diaper Bank is able to buy more with monetary donations. There will be a box to deposit those donations on the display table in Davidson Chapel. If you wish to pay by check, please make it payable to West Shore Baptist Church and note “Diaper Drive” in memo.



Blessing Bags

The Mission Board is also accepting ongoing Blessing Bag donations. The list and collection area are located in the Fellowship Hall on the left side of the bin beside the food bank donations.

[From the Mission Board – cont'd](#)

Little Free Pantry

Thanks to Micah Waring and Scout Troop 80, West Shore Baptist Church now has a Little Free Pantry on the side yard near the parking lot. Food insecurity is real in most neighborhoods including Camp Hill. This mini pantry addresses an immediate and local need. Whether a need for food or a need to give, Little Free Pantries help feed neighbors, nourishing neighborhoods. "Take what you need, give what you can."



Greenlight Operation Seminar

This Harrisburg based non-profit seeking to end sexual exploitation and human trafficking will be holding an informational event at the church Sunday, May 15, 4:30 to 5:30 with light refreshments following. Congregation and community is invited to attend.

[From the Christian Education Board](#)

Community Groups

Community groups continue to meet at a variety of times and locations. If you are interested in becoming involved in one, please contact Pastor Kelly to see what group may work for you. These groups will continue to meet through the end of this month.

Life Groups

Seven groups will meet throughout the summer with activities like biking, walking, crafting and more! You are invited to participate in as many groups as you desire. These gatherings are low-key, fun ways to get to know one another and an excellent place to bring friends!

Sunday School

The "What We Believe" class is continuing to study a new attribute of God the Father each week. You are invited to join the class, which meets 9 AM in Davidson Chapel each Sunday, if you haven't already! Connect with Pastor Greg (gkabakjian@gmail.com) for more information. This class will continue until the end of this month and then resume in the fall.

Around the World Camp

The Christian Education Board is hosting an "Around the World" Camp from 6-8 PM June 20-24 for students entering grades 1-5 in the '22-'23 academic year.

Parents may register their students by visiting [here](#). Cost is \$10/camper.

We're in need of volunteers to help in a wide variety of ways. If you are able to help out, even if it's just for one night, please [register here](#).

Questions may be directed to Pastor Greg Kabakjian (gkabakjian@gmail.com) or Maura Giannone (Maura.giannone@gmail.com).

[From the Christian Education Board – cont'd](#)

WSBC/Baldwin Scholarship

The Baldwin Student Scholarship Fund of the West Shore Baptist Church seeks to grant modest financial assistance to student members of the congregation who are engaged in undergraduate and graduate studies or involved in other specialized training in higher education. This scholarship is available, beginning May 8, to current high school seniors through age twenty-six.

Applications and Reference Letter Request Forms will be available at the Welcome Center or by email from Janet at j.spriggs@wsbc.org. The deadline to return forms to the Church Office is Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 21, at 8:00 a.m. at Summit Family Restaurant.

Ladies Breakfast

The Ladies Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 8:30 a.m. at West Shore Plaza Family Restaurant.

Tour de Belt

Join fellow WSBC cyclists as we tackle Tour de Belt, the annual Capital Area Greenbelt Association fundraiser that cycles the Greenbelt's 20 miles around the City (www.caga.org/tour-de-belt/). The ride is fun, scenic, and mostly flat (although with a couple hill challenges!), and we pick our own pace. The ride is Sunday, June 5 beginning at the Harrisburg Area Community College-Harrisburg Campus (One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110). They have staggered starts beginning at 9:00 am, and we'll target 9:30 to get underway. The course includes CAGA-sponsored rest stops and traffic control at the route's handful of road crossings, and will take us maybe 2.5 hours to complete. After the ride we'll provide beverages and snacks for our WSBC team (family and friends welcome too) at the open-air West Pavilion at Fort Hunter Park – you're also welcome to bring a lunch or pick something up from the food trucks at the Tour's finish line. Individual registration required through the Tour de Belt site, see Steve Campbell (sandgcamp@gmail.com) or Doug Hill (dehill717@gmail.com) for details.

Ladies

Thrive 2022 Conference

June 24 - 25, 2022

Transformed by Hope

Blair County Convention Center



To register: <https://www.abcopad.org/Ministries/ABWM/2022-Thrive-Conference-Registration-Form.aspx>

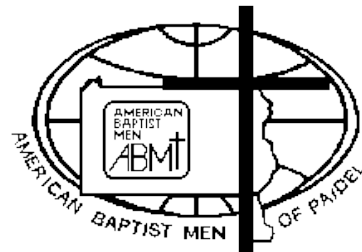
There is information at the Welcome Center.

Men

2022 AB Men's Retreat

Men, please mark your calendars!

The AB Men's Retreat will take place at Shippensburg University on the weekend of July 29, 30, 31, 2022.



Theme: Do Not Just Listen – Do Something!

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Dwayne Walton

On Friday, July 29, there will be a work project at Medard's House from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. before the retreat begins.

Details Coming!

May Meetings

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, May 9**, at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Deacons Meeting

The Deacon Board will meet on **Tuesday, May 10**, at 7:00 p.m.

Missions Board Meeting

The Missions Board will meet on **Tuesday, May 17**, at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Christian Education Meeting

The Board of Christian Education will meet on **Tuesday, May 17**, at 7:00 p.m.

Special Dates



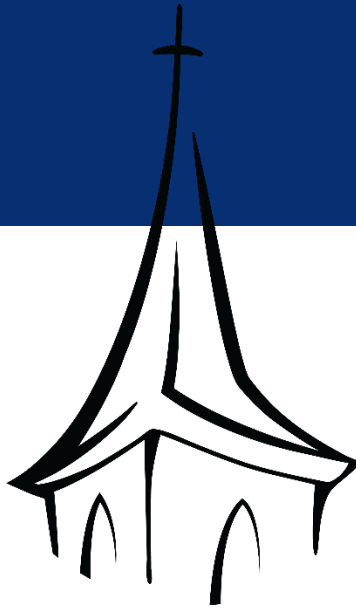
Birthdays:

- 10 – Judy Brouse
- 11 – Bill Neubaum
- Micah Waring
- 15 – Alice Chin
- 18 – Logan Waring
- 22 – Frank Strock
- 25 – Milan Vulich
- 27 – Jena Myers



Anniversaries:

- 25 – John & Sheri Conner
- 29 – Greg & Alexis Kabakjian
- 31 – Martino & Lindsay Neve



WEST SHORE

BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Worship Service — 10:30 AM

Live streaming online and at church

Staff:

Senior Pastor:	Rev. Kelly Legg	Cell: (610) 755-8203	Email: pastorkdl@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:	Rev. Greg Kabakjian	Church: (717) 761-0942 Cell: (717) 877-6055	Email: gkabakjian@gmail.com
Choir Director:	Carol Saltzer	Cell: (717) 383-9740	Email: carolsaltzer@hotmail.com
Office Manager:	Janet Spriggs	Church: (717) 761-0942	Email: j.spriggs@wsbc.org
Organist:	Gary Stefanic	Home: (717) 635-9602	Email: garystefanic1@comcast.net
Church Sextons:	Rimma & Vladimir Torchilo	Church: (717) 761-0942	