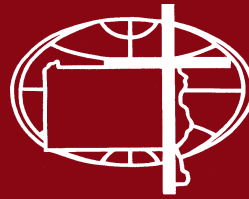


# Notes & News, Thoughts & Views



For ABCOPAD Churches from Rev. Kelly Legg  
Regional Pastor — [pastorkdl@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkdl@gmail.com)

Volume 34, Number 9

September, 2024

A few hours before boarding an airplane to head out on vacation over the summer, I had one final zoom call with Mark Mahserjian-Smith, our Regional Executive Minister. He concluded our time by praying for me. Among the myriad other prayers he said, “God, don’t let Kelly fall into a volcano. I want my friend to come back!” Thankfully my microphone was on mute, because I cracked up over that one. In fairness to my friend, he has told me that he once knowingly decided to walk off the path in the dark in an area riddled with volcanoes. And he did, in fact, nearly fall over the cliff and into a pit of lava. So the threat of death by volcano feels real to him. But I digress . . .

What really struck me was the note in his voice that he would miss my presence if I didn’t return. There’s something really powerful about that knowledge, isn’t there? That you are seen, known and your absence is noted with sadness by those with whom you are in relationship.

It brings to mind images of the body that Paul uses in 1 Corinthians 12 when he talks about the church. All of us, Paul says have unique gifts & personalities. No two of us are the same. For instance, some of us will stumble through the dark while knowing a volcano is nearby. Others of us are smarter than that.

None of us are the same, yet together we create one body that absolutely cannot function as we are intended without all the other parts. Try functioning with only one eye or ear; give running a shot with the use of only one leg. We know intuitively in our own physical bodies that we quickly notice and greatly miss the use of any organ, sense or appendage if it is suddenly compromised.

And the same is true in the Body of Christ, whether we are referring to our local churches or to our regional church family. We simply cannot function without each other; without you. Soon, our regional family will gather for the Biennial Leadership Conference. And I am really hoping we will see you there.

Because the Body functions best when we’re all together, using our gifts for the glory of Christ. Sometimes we just need a little reminder that we’re missed.

In Christ,  
Kelly Legg



**Rev. Rob Rice**  
**Regional Pastor**  
**[pastor.rwice@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rwice@gmail.com)**

A few weeks ago, we moved our girls into college. Our oldest Alexa headed back to Clemson for her sophomore year, while our second daughter, Kaylyn, moved to Messiah to begin her freshman year. While it required much more time, and many more miles to get Alexa moved into college, there wasn't as much anxiety or fear involved. Alexa had been at Clemson before, she was renting a small house with a friend, and she already had a lot of connections and friends on campus. While each year of college brings with it a new set of challenges, Alexa feels like she knows the ropes. Instead of beginning a whole new routine, she was picking up where she left off in September. Dad's role wasn't encouraging Alexa to make new friends, get involved, and find her place on campus; instead, he was responsible for taking her to Sam's Club, stocking her fridge, and making sure she had everything she needed.

Moving Kaylyn in was a little different. The trip wasn't nearly as long, but there were far more first-year jitters involved. Kaylyn didn't yet know the campus, went in having only briefly met her roommate, and was really unsure about what college was going to be like. Dad's role wasn't just buying the necessary items for the dorm (although I did head to two different Walmart stores), but instead, assuring Kaylyn everything would be fine, and encouraging her to find her people, and get involved. Kaylyn was facing the unknown, but as we reminded her in the candlelight service that was the last event we were together for on the move-in day, if we fixed our eyes on Jesus, He would get us through this time of transition.

Within a few days, I was grateful to know that Jesus was answering a dad's prayers for his daughter. Kaylyn was finding her way through the transition of college, making friends with girls on her floor, navigating her way around

campus, and slowly building the relationships that her sister had her freshman year. Will there still be challenges for Kaylyn? Of course. There will probably be a few more tears along the way, but because of her relationship with the Lord, and the relationships with friends, professors, and campus staff that will help encourage her and uplift her, she will surely make it through.

Having served my church for over a decade, I've learned the ropes. There are still new challenges, and I can't say that you ever fully figure out what it means to be a pastor, but I feel much more comfortable now than I did ten years ago. The one thing that has gotten me through these ten years of ministry, and continues to carry me as I find my way through this new role of being a regional pastor, is relationships.

Each day, the advice that was given to Kaylyn during that candlelight service is still the advice we all need to follow, I need to fix my eyes on Jesus and deepen my relationship with Him. Along with that, I need to build my relationships with fellow Christians, especially other colleagues in ministry. As I look back on the past decade of ministry, it's these relationships, with the people in my LLC and other pastors in my area and around the region that have made all the difference in the world.

Whether you are new in ministry, starting a new pastorate, or a seasoned veteran, let me take this time to encourage you as we begin this next season of ministry, to fix your eyes on Jesus, and build your relationships with colleagues in your area, and across the region. It's these things that will keep you grounded and will allow you to not simply survive in ministry, but to thrive and do the work that God has called you to do.

**Shameless Plug:** This year, we've got a great opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues across the region at our Biennial in October. It's a great place to catch up or to meet people who can walk alongside you and encourage you in ministry. Don't miss this chance to connect with others, and to be encouraged!



**Ms. Caryl J. Casey**  
**Treasurer**  
**800-932-9442**  
**ccasey@abcopad.com**

Many of us can remember being a child and receiving a card and when it was opened, there was a gift of money inside. The excitement and gratefulness were almost overwhelming and if you came from a loud, exuberant family, you ran through the house, waving the card and the money. If you were a saver, you could not wait to add it to your piggy bank for a timely purchase later. You may have had a million dreams of things you wanted or needed and whatever the amount the gift was, the possibilities seemed endless. Please consider this article, a piece of each of those responses.

2024 marks eighteen years of the Philadelphia Foundation, recognizing and acknowledging the work and ministry of the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware, through a grant from the Henry Griffith and Anna Griffith Keasbey Fund. This year the amount received was \$47,191.89, the largest amount we have ever received.

It is wonderful that pastors and lay leaders know that they have a GPS staff person in each area, who they can call when there is a need or to share news of their congregation's ministry. Knowing that if your church has two teenagers or twenty, that there are Regional Ministry Associates, who are ready to be supportive in ministering to these students, as well as planning regional events for teens to come together. The women across the region, who serve as pastoral leaders or who fill other ministry positions within their congregation, find support and a colleague through the Women in Ministry, Regional Ministry Associate. The ABCOPAD website: [www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org) is overseen by another Regional Ministry Associate, who has been a part of ABCOPAD for over 40 years and brings both experience and expertise to this work.

Our two part-time Regional Pastors are providing leadership to the GPS, helping to get two new pastors' groups up and running and supporting the workload of the Regional Executive Pastor. We rejoice having a Regional Executive Pastor who weekly, joins congregations and important meetings for those special times of celebration or who can respond when a loss in the church family occurs. Pastors depend on the confidentiality and pastoral care that they find in our Regional Exec.

The ABCOPAD Office Manager serves in the Pittsburgh ABCOPAD office, and it would be difficult to find someone who has not called that office for information, mission trip support, annual report filing instructions or help with filling their pulpit for a Sunday. The news and event sharing that comes out of Constant Contact emails and the Notes & News that is mailed out ten times a year, besides being available online through web updates, is all a part of her important work. The Notes & News Editor brings her knowledge and skill to providing an attractive and informative piece each month. As the ABCOPAD Treasurer, I am here to help treasurers, mission treasurers, pastors and trustees with the business matters that face every congregation, as well as supporting the mission remittance and reporting process.

The financial support that needs to happen to have all these people working on behalf of every pastor and church in ABCOPAD is significant. It would not be possible without the gift of this grant from the Philadelphia Foundation, each year. We owe a huge debt of gratitude and appreciation to the vision of Henry Griffith and Anna Griffith Keasbey for ministry and the Philadelphia Fund for designating ABCOPAD as a recipient.



**Rev. Cristy Wise**  
**Southwest Geographic**  
**Pastoral Servant**  
**wisefour14@gmail.com**

Philippians 1:3-5, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."



If I asked you what is this a picture of, I guarantee most of you would say "um...a swing"! Yep, you would be correct! Not a hard question at all!! But when I see this swing, I see more than a swing. I am flooded with

memories of a previous swing in my childhood. That swing was one of peace, comfort, praying, cuddles, conversation, popcorn, laughter, relationship building, tears, storytelling, enjoying the rain, the sunshine, worship, and just so much more.

You see my parents had a swing on their back porch and it was the center of so many things in our family's life. Such good memories. So, when we got married, I knew that someday there would be a swing on my back porch to help re-create those memories and create new memories for our family. I am so blessed as God provided. When we went to finally add the roof over the porch, I told the contractor this entire porch was built for the sole purpose of that swing being placed in that spot! He just laughed at me but that was true. It didn't just happen, we had to work to make it happen. You will find me on that swing every moment I can!



Let me ask you another question...what do you see in this logo? Many of you say ABCOPAD's Biennial. Yep...again you got it! Are you ready? When I see this logo, I see so much more. I, again, am flooded with memories of past Biennials that were amazing. Worship, laughter,

tears, storytelling, prayer, uniting our ABCOPAD churches as new relationships are being built, Testimonies of God at work in our churches and people, networking, food and more food, celebrations, ABCOPAD Family uniting, smiles, meeting our staff, creative brainstorming, rest, devotions, hugs, smiles, education, and so many more memories of being at past Biennials.

Being at the Biennial, you will be able to begin to create YOUR new memories. You won't regret your time with your ABCOPAD family. Families are important in every way. So is our ABCOPAD family. Please come and be a part of uniting our region together, keeping our family together, and being a part of all God is doing in and around our region! It doesn't just happen; we must do our part to make it happen.

It is NOT too late to get registered for this year's Biennial! I have included the link below so you can go and do it right now. Can't afford it? You need to speak to your GPS as there are ways to get you there. All the years I did Youth Ministry, one thing God showed me...money is the least of His issues. If He is in it and He wants you there and the only thing standing in your way is money, step out in faith, pray and talk to someone, because \$ isn't a concern to our Father.

I look forward to seeing you there! my NEW Friends and my ALREADY Friends!

Start praying now for the leadership team, the speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, and God to prepare you for this great opportunity of being together as a family at the Biennial!

See you there, my Brother and Sister but also friend!  
**October 17-19, Blair Convention Center, Altoona**  
<https://www.abcopad.org/Events/ABCOPAD-Biennial-Leadership-Conference/>



**Rev. David Hardin**  
**Northeast Co-Geographic**  
**Pastoral Servant**  
**dhardin@abcopad.com**

## **Hey there! Here's Why You Should Join Us at the ABCOPAD Biennial**

So, you're probably wondering, "Why should I bother going to the biennial this year?" Well, grab a cup of coffee (or tea, if that's more your style), and let me tell you why this is going to be an event you really don't want to miss.

First off, we're getting together October 17-19, 2024, at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. I know, I know, you're busy. Your calendar is probably already packed with meetings, services, and who knows what else. But trust me, these few days could make a world of difference for you and your church. Here's the scoop:

### **Hang Out with Your Fellow Believers**

Let's face it, ministry can be lonely sometimes. You're always giving, always "on," and it can feel like no one really gets what you're going through. But at the biennial, you'll be surrounded by folks who totally get it. It's like a big family reunion, but with people who actually understand what it's like to lead a church!

You'll have chances to chat over meals, during breaks, and even in some fun interactive sessions we've got planned. You'll laugh, you'll share stories (the good, the bad, and the "you won't believe what happened at the church picnic" kind), and who knows? You might just make some lifelong friends. Imagine having a network of people you can call on when you need advice, support, or just a good laugh. That's what the biennial is all about.

### **Recharge Your Spiritual Batteries**

We've all been there - feeling burnt out and wondering where our passion went. Maybe you've been so busy taking care of everyone else's spiritual needs that you've neglected your own. Well, this is your chance to hit the reset button.

We've got prayer rooms set up where you can have some quiet time with God, no interruptions. Our worship sessions aren't just about singing a few songs; they're opportunities to really connect with God and remember why you got into ministry in the first place. It's like a spiritual spa day (or three)!

And the best part? You don't have to lead or organize anything. Just show up and let others minister to you for a change. You'll head back to your congregation feeling refreshed, reinvigorated, and ready to take on the world.

### **Get Some Fresh Ideas for Your Church**

Ever feel like you're running out of ideas to reach your community? Like you've tried everything, but nothing seems to stick? We've got you covered. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, is a real pro at church renewal. He's not just going to give you a bunch of theory; he's going to share practical, tested ideas that have worked in real churches.

He's going to introduce some cool concepts like "growing the center, experimenting on the edge." Don't worry, it's not as complicated as it sounds. Basically, it's about strengthening what's already working in your church while trying new, innovative approaches to reach people who might never set foot in a traditional church service.

Dr. Beck will also guide us through the Five Congregational Personality Types. It's like a Myers-Briggs for churches! You'll discover your church's unique strengths and learn how to leverage them for growth and vitality. This isn't about turning your church into something it's not; it's about helping your church be the best version of itself.

### **Meet the New Kids on the Block**

Okay, they're not exactly "kids," but we've got some exciting new faces in ABCOPAD. You'll get to be part of installing our new Regional Executive Pastor, Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith. It's like getting in on the ground floor of something big.

Rev. Mark isn't just going to give a dry speech about administrative stuff. He's got a vision for our region's future that's going to get you excited about the possibilities for your church and our whole ABCOPAD family. Plus, this is your chance to start building a relationship with him. Imagine having a direct line to the regional leadership when you need support or resources. That's pretty valuable, right?

### **Connect with Our Mission Partners**

Want to know how your church can make a real difference in the world? We've got a special mission lunch where you can meet Brian and Lynette Smith, our Global Servants in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and Rev. Rick Bunker from the Race Track Chaplaincy of America.

*continued on Page 6*

These folks are doing amazing work, and they'd love to tell you all about it. But it's not just about hearing their stories. It's about discovering how your church, no matter its size, can get involved in global and local missions in practical ways. Maybe you'll be inspired to organize a mission trip, or find new ways to support missionaries right from your hometown. The possibilities are endless!

### **Support and Be Supported**

Here's the thing: when you show up, you're not just helping yourself. You're supporting every other leader there too. It's like one big group hug for ministry leaders. Sometimes, just knowing you're not alone in this crazy, wonderful world of ministry can make all the difference.

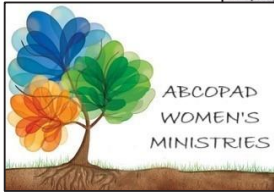
The connections you make and the things you learn will keep on giving long after the conference is over. Imagine having a group of fellow leaders you can text when you need prayer, advice, or just want to share a win. That's the kind of supportive community we're building at the biennial.

Look, I get it. The world out there can be tough on churches. We're facing challenges our seminary professors never prepared us for. But that's exactly why we need to come together. This biennial isn't just an event, it's a lifeline. It's a chance to remember why we do what we do and to find new ways to do it even better.

So, what do you say? Are you ready to invest in yourself, your ministry, and your church? Are you ready to be part of something bigger? And don't worry about the cost - we've got scholarships available because we really want you there.

Come on, join us in Altoona this October. Let's figure out this whole "church in the 21st century" thing together. It's going to be more than great - it's going to be transformative. And who knows? This might just be the event that changes everything for you and your church. Don't miss out!





## THRIVE RETREAT 2024 RECAP

Once again, we are praising God for all the blessings He poured out as we gathered on Peters Mountain, Halifax PA at Camp Hebron for our lady's retreat! Our focus for the retreat was RESTORATION, emphasis on REST.

The weekend offered many sorts refreshment:

- Chatting or walking with friends



- Learning with retreat speaker Pastor Kelly Legg (who speaking style does not disappoint!)
- Sweet worship with Emily & Ryan Jeffries



- Times of instruction in the making tee shirt jump ropes and hand towel toiletry pouches for a

future local events mission project



- Sharing cookies from the table
- Singing around the campfire with smores

- Enjoying God's beautiful creation all around us



- Sharing meals around the table with Sisters
- Adding to and watching the collection of items grow – these items were brought to be given to Camp Hebron as our Retreat Project



- And then there were some 'SHE-nanigans' that went on....The Variety Show was a hit with lots of laughter, tears, wonders and wows!



**OH HOW** our mission hearted women and churches of **ABCOPAD** responded to the **2023-2024 Region Project 'Feed My Sheep – Care for My Lambs'**, Bill and Ann Clemmer in Goma Africa!



**\$25,137.00**

Total funds raised for Goma! God is so good, so faithful – and He shows it as it flows through our Region into the world!

## News From our Associations ([www.abcopad.org](http://www.abcopad.org))

### Allegheny River

Pastor Clint Pearsall [FBC Shinglehouse] reports on a life-size Operation Game they had at the County Fair. The congregation had 12 teams of 2 each staffing the booth during the week. It was a great opportunity to introduce the community to the church and Operation Christmas Child while offering fair-goers a chance to play the classic game in a BIG way!

### Central Union

Pastor Jonathan Yohannan and Exton Community Baptist Church received a grant check from ABCOPAD to support their Vacation Bible School outreach to the growing Asian community around them. Two years ago, Pastor Jonathan arrived to respond to God's call to lead ECBC in their visionary efforts to reach their new Asian neighbors.

Pastor Jeff Evans and New Hope Baptist Church, Broomall, received a grant to assist with the purchase of much needed technical assistance for their music ministry. New Hope is one of two churches that recently joined the Central Union Association. They recently built a new gymnasium to better serve their community.

Pastor Randall Harris and Youth Pastor Nicole Skinner received a grant on behalf of the region to assist the great work that Siloam Baptist Church, Norristown is doing with their young people. Pastor Harris came several years ago to serve as Siloam Baptist's transitional pastor and the place has caught fire spiritually!

An ABCOPAD Grant was delivered to the congregation at Royersford Baptist Church. While Pastor Sarah was on vacation, Office Manager, Jillian Dietrich received the check. This grant will help them upgrade their live-streaming efforts for worship and special events.

Pastor Eric Kraihanziel accepted a grant from ABCOPAD. Pastor Eric does a lot of work for ABCOPAD and the ACTS program with AV technology, and this grant will help upgrade equipment to keep up with changing technology. Thanks for all you do Eric!

The Audubon Christian Fellowship (a Chinese congregation) is sharing some of our space at Lower Providence Baptist Church. Yesterday we had a combined worship service. For communion, Pastor Wha-Chi Wang and I presented the elements, me in English, and he in Chinese. To say that it was an awesome morning of worship and fellowship would be an understatement. After communion, we joined hands around the sanctuary and sang the first verse of Blessed Be

the Tie That Binds with the lyrics projected in Chinese. To hear it with the combined voices and languages was super powerful. We've done this a couple of times in the past, but with the inclusion of communion, it was truly special.

GraceCrossing Community Church, Phoenixville, wraps up a week-long free day camp offered to the community thanks to ABCOPAD grant funding! Starting at 7:30 am and running until 5pm on Monday through Friday, this camp offered Bible lessons, arts and crafts, games, interactive lessons by special guest artists, and life-skills training (not to mention breakfast, lunch and snacks!) This is the second year we have offered this to the community free of charge and registration filled up fast with repeat attendees from last year. Few of these students attend church anywhere else so this was their first exposure to the Gospel! Kudos to our volunteers who took time off work to make this happen!

FBC Norristown hosted over 40 kids for a week of Vacation Bible School under the theme of "Breaker Rock Beach". They offered music, games, crafts, snacks, Bible lessons and tons of fun for kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Pastor C.G. Coats set a goal for their mission project and offered to let them dye his hair green if they met the goal.

Pastor Ken Webster reports, "It was another awesome week at Lower Providence Baptist Church as we welcomed two new members. My brother-in-law through baptism and another young man through transfer of membership from his former church. As a symbolic measure, I always add a little Jordan River water to the baptism. God continues to do a mighty work among us."

New Hope Christian Church would like to share another testimony from their outreach ministry "The Healing Rooms of Delaware County". A lady came in with severe knee pain. She was anointed and prayed over by the team. The next day she called informing us that she was healed and pain free. Praise the Lord!

### Harrisburg

Rev. Dr. Kevin Walden, interim at Thrive Community Church, Lancaster, accepted an ABCOPAD grant. The church will use the money to purchase a new video camera and other equipment to greatly enhance their livestream. They've discovered that many would-be visitors to churches begin 'visiting' online before they ever walk in the doors and want to use every opportunity God gives them to share the Gospel.



## Pittsburgh

Minister Stephen Blum, as the Campus Outreach Coordinator of the **FBC, Pittsburgh**, was grateful for funding to aid in reaching out to its surrounding college student population. Many events are being planned. But I am most excited to attend their taste fest, which will include foods from many countries.

Pastor Howard Irwin and the **Woodlawn American Baptist Church** utilized the grant funds to purchase a professional keyboard with many bells and whistles to accompany their worship services. They also added new monitors so that the praise band could better hear each other.

Pastors at the Pirates. 29 went from ABCOPAD churches. **GPS Pastor Randy Powell** organized through a grant for our pastors and spouses! They were great seats, great company and great ball game til they lost it in the last inning!! Bummer!

It was **Kennywood Day for ABCOPAD!!** Pastor Felicia Brock did an amazing job organizing the event, and everyone wore a huge orange dot sticker to connect us through out the park. Weather was great, with a break in the heat; and with 146 tickets sold it was an amazing time with the lines not too long and the food just right to start the day. Thank you ABCOPAD for underwriting the event with the grants to bring our associations and churches together.

An Online Ordination Council is called for Les Scales, Union Baptist Church of Swissvale, on Monday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. Pastors and **two** delegates from each church are asked to attend. Please call 412-687-3940 with the names of your delegates.

After 200+ years of service to the Lord, **First Baptist Church of Washington** closed on August 11, 2024. They will reform as a new church plant called Christ Fellowship Church of Washington County.

## Reading

Rev. Dr. David Hardin accepted two grant checks for the ministries of **FBC Bethlehem**. The congregation is moving forward in building their after-school ministry and clubs in their local schools. They also oversee Camp Ichthus - and are building a new shooting range at the camp. We pray that God will use both of these ministries to lead students to Jesus.

An Ordination Council is called for Kevin Sorensen on Saturday, September 28, 10 a.m., at **Cross Road Baptist Church**; 201 South 2nd St; Bangor, PA 18013. Pastors and 2 delegates from each church are asked to attend.

## Ten Mile

On June 30th Pastor Bob Mooney retired from **Pursley Baptist Church** after more than 20 years of service. Pastor Bob and his wife Helen were honored during the worship service. Also, during the service, a young family had their daughter dedicated. The church offered Pastor Bob and Helen special gifts crafted from stained glass harvested during recent repairs to the church windows. It was a great day of celebration and rejoicing as the church family recognized the many years of service to Jesus and the Pursley Community.

It was one hot Sunday afternoon when the **Ten Mile Association** had their summer picnic. Around 75 people braved the heat for a catered lunch. There were 6 churches represented from the association. All enjoyed the water games and bounce house and sidewalk chalk. It was a great time to spend time just hanging out, catching up with one another and laughing together.

A great crowd from **Jefferson Baptist Church** gathered for its annual picnic following its Sunday worship service. Chicken was provided and, as Baptists are, amazing cooks and bakers prepared so many wonderful foods to choose from. There were about 65ish in attendance with games and a playground available for all ages.

## Miscellaneous

An amazing day at **Camp Judson** celebrating 75 years of faithful ministry to generations of campers. So good to see so many people attending who had been blessed by the camp in their faith walk and to hear about how, "Jesus changes lives at Camp Judson."

	2024	2023
United Mission Basics	\$12,859	\$24,111
Love Gift	\$306	\$655
Partners in Ministry	\$24,073	\$25,884
Over & Above	\$437	\$0.00
Annual Offerings		
AFC	\$5,297	\$4,752
WMO	\$545	\$1,087
RMMO	\$720	\$452
OGHS	\$20,367	\$14,385

**The cumulative comparison figures**

United Mission Basics is behind for Jul. 2024 by (\$11,252.)

The decrease in United Missions (includes UMB and Love Gift) amounts to (\$23,784.) less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received thru Jul.

Over & Above is the ABCOPAD Womens Ministry offering.

AFC is behind by (\$10,290.) thru Jul. This decrease amounts to (\$3,018.) less in actual dollars, that ABCOPAD received thru Jul.

Partners in Ministry is behind by (\$12,226.) thru Jul. This amount includes a \$30,063 from a charitable gift annuity.

In actual dollars, from UM, AFC and PIM, ABCOPAD has received (\$39,028) less thru Jul.

ABCOPAD Women’s Ministries supports ABCOPAD monthly.



**October, 2024 Deadline:**

Items to be included in the Oct. issue of Notes & News need to arrive **by 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 3.**

Please send all material to Denise Veselicky via one of the following:

**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

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY HARK, THE HERALD!



In his classic book, Models of the Church, Avery Dulles speaks of the church as “herald” – *ie*, one who receives an official message with the commission to pass it on. Just as Jesus came as the herald of the Father, proclaiming and demonstrating God’s love for the world, so the Church is called to be a herald community. She is called to proclaim the love of God, especially expressed in the passion, death and resurrection of his son, Jesus Christ. She is also tasked to proclaim the dignity of every person and the coming of God’s kingdom.

It’s a life-changing, world-changing message which ABCOPAD seeks to herald. With a vision “to build healthy partnerships with churches, pastoral leaders, and our wider ABC family, to fulfill Christ’s mission in our world,” the region has built a strategy of communication to share the gospel. Through its website, social media platforms, Constant Contact, YouTube, ZOOM, and more, ministry examples and mission opportunities have been shared with thousands. [Last year, over 60,000 connections were made through ABCOPAD Facebook!] In so many ways, local and international stories have been proclaimed and celebrated.

A few highlights from 2023 include:

- *Substance Abuse and Addiction Webinar* ...learning how to identify and support individuals with a substance use disorder.
- *Private, Public, and Pulpit Lives* ...examining the various aspects, dimension, and complexities of pastoral life.
- *Town Hall Listening Sessions* ...a series of online opportunities for church leaders to communicate with the ABCOPAD Regional Executive Search Committee.

When you support **Partners in Ministry**, you make it possible for ABCOPAD to herald the good news. And there’s nothing more important than getting the Word out!



*To Build Healthy Partnerships with Churches, Pastoral Leaders, and the Wider ABC Family to Fulfill Christ's Mission in Our World.*

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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](http://www.abcopad.org)). Your church can receive mission-giving credit for your online gift.
3. By giving through your mobile device ([www.abcopad.mobile](http://www.abcopad.mobile)).
4. By sending your check (made payable to ABCOPAD WMS) to:

**ABCOPAD**  
**P.O. Box 421**  
**Hatboro, PA 19040**

**Thank you** for your giving to **Partners in Ministry** and for your partnership as we minister together in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

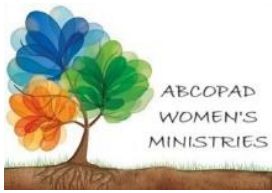


**American Baptist Churches of  
Pennsylvania and Delaware**

Pittsburgh Baptist Association  
159 N Bellefield Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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***NORTHWESTERN PA ONE-DAY LADIES EVENT***

**RESTORATION**



***Saturday November 2, 2024***

**First Baptist Church of Franklin, 1041 Liberty St, Franklin, PA 16323**

**\$25.00 Registration Fee includes: Programming, Refreshments & Lunch**

*8:30am Registration & Refreshments*

*9:30am – 11:30am Programming*

*11:30am – 1:00pm Lunch and Craft*

*1:00 - 3:30pm Programming*

*SPEAKERS KRISTI YOUNG & JODIE VASBINDER*

*LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS PRESIDENT SUE MACDONALD*

*HANDS-ON MISSION COORDINATOR PAM HUGHES*

*For full details and registration forms visit:*

[Northwestern One Day Ladies Event: Restoration \(abcopad.org\)](http://Northwestern One Day Ladies Event: Restoration (abcopad.org))