

Westgate Witness



April 2024

2235 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 -- 717-394-1071

Facebook: [Wesgate American Baptist Church](#)



Dates to Remember

April 16th – Men's Breakfast
April 28th – Potluck Lunch
May 4th – Kentucky Derby Party
May 6th – Board Meeting



April
SHOWERS
bring May
FLOWERS

Greetings in the Name of our Lord!

A “Serendipitous” Blessing

The Word Serendipity means “the faculty or phenomenon of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for.” Such moments happen quite often in life especially when we are a tune to them. For instance, last week I had a serendipitous conversation with someone who shared a favorite song that is also one of my favorite songs—suffice it to say the conversation was so bright and positive as a result. I had another serendipitous moment last evening. Just moments before leaving for the monthly Board Meeting at Church one of the Board members called to tell me he could not be present at the meeting and that he was scheduled to offer the devotional at the meeting. He then asked if I could offer up a devotional in his place.

Given how late the information came to me I had little to no time to prepare. In what I would now deem a serendipitous moment I reached for a favored devotional book, literally

closed my eyes and pointed my finger randomly in the center of the book. Interesting that what I found serendipitously—spoke with inspiration and clarity to my own spirit. It was the word I needed for my own soul—at just the right moment in my day—and with just the right counter to some of my defective thoughts.

With this as a backdrop I would like to offer in writing the devotional that I offered to the Board taken from Max Lucado's devotional book called "Live Loved." Max writes: My friend and I went on an extended hill-country trek on bicycles. A few minutes into the trip I began to tire. Within a half hour my thighs ached, and my lungs heaved. I could scarcely pump the pedals. I'm no Tour de France contender, but neither am I a newcomer, yet I felt like one. After forty-five minutes I had to dismount to catch my breath. That's when my partner spotted the problem. Both rear brakes were rubbing my back tire! Rubber grips contested every pedal stroke. The ride was destined to be a tough one.

Don't we do the same? Guilt presses on one side. Dread drags the other. No wonder we weary so. We sabotage our day, wiring it for disaster, lugging along yesterday's troubles, downloading tomorrow's struggles. Remorse over the past, anxiety over the future. We aren't giving the day a chance. How can we? What can we do?

Here is my proposal: Consult Jesus, Seek God. The "Ancient of days" has something to say about our days. He doesn't use the term day very often in Scripture. But the few times he does use it does provide a delightfully simple formula for upgrading each of days to blue-ribbon status.

SATURATE YOUR DAY IN HIS GRACE. "I tell you in solemn truth," replied Jesus, "that this very day you shall be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

ENTRUST YOUR DAY TO HIS OVERSIGHT. "Give us day by day our daily bread" (Luke 11:3).

ACCEPT HIS DIRECTION. "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me." (Luke 9:23).

GRACE / OVERSIGHT / DIRECTION. G-O-D Fill your day with God. Give the day a chance.





AB Men's Breakfast - Our next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on April 16th at 9:00 am. We will meet at the Family Fare Restaurant, 5921 Main St., East Petersburg PA 17520 for a casual Christian Men's fellowship time.

Join us for our Potluck Luncheon after Sunday worship on Sunday April 28th. Consider bringing a main course, a vegetable, fruit dish, salad or dessert. If you don't bring anything at all, please bring your appetite. If you have been missing lately due to weather or personal reasons this Sunday would be a great week to re-engage in worship and community. Additionally, it's a great opportunity to invite others.



***Next Board Meeting
Monday, MAY 6TH @ 6:30 PM***



On Saturday Evening May 4th at 5 p.m. the entire Westgate Church Family is invited to Ron and Gloria Austin's Home for a Kentucky Derby Party. We will enjoy plenty of great food, fellowship, and the viewing of the 150th Kentucky Derby Horse Race. Ladies don't forget to wear your decorative hats for this festive occasion. Beginning 5 p.m. at the Austin residence: 2126 Stonecrest Drive, Lancaster PA 17601.



Women's Bible study!

Join us at 9:30 am each Tuesday for coffee, fellowship, study, and prayer.

We are studying the book of Matthew.

We'll look at the life of Jesus, His sermons, His disciples, and His love for us. The book culminates in the description of the resurrection and the great commission.

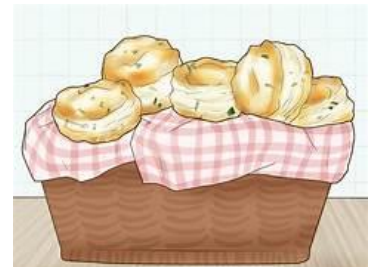
NO BIBLE STUDY: April 2nd, 9th, or 16th

Blessed
are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8



A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast. “Lord, I hate buttermilk”, the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, “And Lord, you know I don’t much care for raw white flour”. The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn’t the

only one to feel uncomfortable. Then the farmer added, “But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So, Lord, when things come up that we don’t like, when life gets hard, when we don’t understand what you’re saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen”



[The Story of Moses](#) on Netflix now.

Testament: The Story of Moses Tells an Epic Biblical Redemption Story.

This is the new documentary series exploring his life, from his exile as an outcast and murderer to eventual prophet and liberator. The three episodes take the story of Moses far deeper than the conventional wisdom generated by history classrooms and Charlton Heston; in other words, even if you think you know Moses, you have no idea. The new three-part

series is directed by Benjamin Ross.



Please remember to give us a like on FACEBOOK and share the page with family and friends!

Westgate American Baptist Church



Baptist History Homepage

Pennsylvania Baptists

The Baptist Encyclopedia, 1881

Thomas Dungan, an old minister, came from Rhode Island to the colony of Penn in 1684. He gathered a church at Cold Spring, near Bristol, Bucks County, "of which," says Morgan Edwards in 1770, "nothing remains but a grave-yard and the names of the families that belonged to it, - the Dungans, Gardners, Woods, Doyles, etc." He died in 1688 and was buried at Cold Spring. Even the grave-yard has disappeared now, and only the foundations of a wall can be traced, which formed a part of the church or a portion of the cemetery wall. The church itself disbanded after a brief but useful existence.

The second church founded in Pennsylvania was the Lower Dublin, or Pennepek. In the year 1686, Elias Keach, of London, a wild young man, arrived in Philadelphia. He dressed in black and wore bands to pass for a minister. He obtained an opportunity to preach in the house of a Baptist in Lower Dublin, and when he had spoken for some time, he "stopped short, looked like a man astonished, and the audience concluded that he had been seized with some sudden disorder." But they speedily learned that he was deeply convicted of sin. He went to Fattier Dungan, of Cold Spring, who pointed him to Jesus; he soon had peace in believing, and he was baptized and ordained by Mr. Dungan. He formed a church of twelve persons at Pennepek in January 1688, and became their pastor. He labored with burning zeal, and, considering the difficulties, with astonishing success, through Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and established missions at "the Falls (Trenton), Burlington, Cohansey, Salem, Pennsneck, Chester, and Philadelphia," and he maintained preaching at Cold Spring and Middletown. He had the zeal of an enthusiast, and "he was considered the chief apostle of the Baptists in these parts of America." He returned to his birthplace in 1692, but the missions in several cases became churches, and the spirit he planted in these communities created the Philadelphia Association a few years after he left the colony.

The Great Valley church was constituted in 1711. The Brandywine church was formed in 1715. The Montgomery church was organized in 1719. The Tulpehocken church was founded in 1738, and the Southampton in 1746. The Philadelphia church had an existence either as a branch of Lower Dublin or as an independent community p. [902]from 1698, the former is the more probable. But in 1746, to settle doubts on this question and to protect legacies, the church was formally incorporated. The New Britain church was organized in 1754, and the Vincent in 1770.

Since our national independence was secured, about 200 churches have arisen in the counties east of the Susquehanna River and its North Branch. Some of these became extinct, or changed names and locations, so that a clear and complete sketch of them all, however interesting, would be entirely impracticable in this work.

The first known English Baptist preacher on the Susquehanna was the first person named as slain in the first Wyoming massacre, in 1763. He was William Marsh, a New England Separatist, but came from Wantage, N.J., into Pennsylvania. The first church was formed in Pittston, in December 1776. The first Baptists in Northern Pennsylvania were from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Virginia, New York, and New Jersey. They were Revolutionary soldiers and pioneers of the settlements, both ministers and private members.

A portion of Southwestern Pennsylvania was taken up by Virginians. There were Baptists among them, and a church was founded at Aughwick, Huntingdon Co., in 17716; at Konoloway, Bedford, in 1764; at Sideling Hill, Fulton, in 1790; at Turkeyfoot, Somerset, in 1775; at Great Bethel (Uniontown), Fayette, in 1770; at Goshen, Greene, in 1773; at Peter's Creek, Washington, in 1773; at Pigeon Creek, in 1775; Loyalhanna, in 1775; Forks of Yough, in 1777. Enon church arose in 1791; Beulah, Cambria Co., in 1797; Pittsburgh in 1812. These facts show the progress of settlements, without attempting details of the scores of churches which have arisen on and west of the Susquehanna.

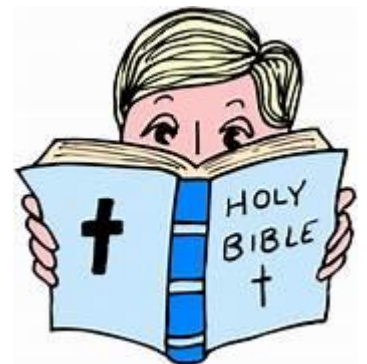
Submitted by Pastor Robert Zimmerman



Test your knowledge.

1. Who watched as Moses floated in the basket down the Nile?
2. Who would have nothing to do with the author of 3 John?
3. In the book of Philemon, who is Paul's fellow prisoner?
4. James used the example of which Old Testament figure to demonstrate how the prayers of a righteous man can have powerful results?
5. Who was the grandson of Samuel?
6. Who pretended to be mad to avoid capture and death at the hands of an enemy king?

Answers on last page



Birthdays – April



1st Shariyh Lafontant
 9th Marlana Saylor
 Wislene Joseph
 11th Rriel Pate
 12th Gary Stump
 13th Joan Batzer-Williams
 16th Lloyd Appleby
 21st Gideon Htoo



24th Christian Saw & Drusilla
 Wah Wah Pawter
 28th Timothy & Cynthia Ferris
 30th Daniel & Loretta Chure

Treasurer's Report

April 2024	\$10,777.00
Budget Income	\$9,213.00
Non-budget income	\$1,564.00



Bible Trivia Answers

1. Answer: His Sister Miriam: See: [Exodus 2:4](#)
2. Answer: Diotrefes See: [3 John 1:9](#)
3. Answer: Epaphras: See: [Philemon 1:23](#)
4. Answer: Elijah: See: [James 5:13-18](#)
5. Answer: Heman: See: [1 Chronicles 6:33](#)
6. Answer: David: See: [1 Samuel 21:13](#)