

Penn-Jersey Baptist on-line

May 2009 Volume 1, Issue 1

Thoughts from David Waltz

Executive Director/Treasurer, BCPSJ

Special points of interest:

- Spanish VBS
- Disaster Relief
- Peacemaking Training
- It's A New Day
- Church Strengthening Institute
- Prayer Conference

Welcome to our first on-line edition of the Penn Jersey. We hope you were able to access the paper easily and find the format easy to read. Please give us your comments as we try this approach to delivering the news of Penn-Jersey Baptists. You can contact us at dwaltz@brnonline.org.

Executive Board Report

We had a great board meeting May 1st. The board heard a great report from Dr. Bob Hylton on the NAMB pilot project in Philadelphia. The response in Philadelphia through the Evangelism Response Center was greater than all the other pilots combined.

I was pleased to be able to share with the board a positive quarterly financial report with our giving year to date 5.43% ahead of a year ago. That's great news in the midst of the financial crisis hitting our nation. Thanks for your continued support of our joint mission endeavors through the Cooperative Program.

Resort Ministries Block Party Trailers

All of our block party trailers vary in their contents, but they all include enough supplies to throw an effective evangelistic block party. Contents include such items as popcorn poppers, sno-cone machines, bounce house, balls, games, etc. To check on the availability of a trailer and/or make reservations, please contact the association closest to you. The state office no longer manages the trailers.

LOCATION of BLOCK PARTY TRAILERS & TENTS WITH CONTACTS:



Block Party Trailers South Central Baptist Association

Steve Sheldon
717-367-9779 (office)
or 215-307-0119 (cell)

Keystone Baptist Assoc.

Richard Wall
717-502-0280 (office)
717-514-5753 (cell)

BRN Philadelphia

Nate Holder
215-680-3740

Conemaugh Valley Baptist Association

Doug Pilot
814-695-6101 (office)

Northeast Baptist Assoc.

Julianne Neger
570-459-1908

Southwest Baptist Assoc.

Karen Warren
412-931-6040

Youth Sports Trailer

**Baptist Convention of
Pennsylvania/South Jersey
ONLY**

John Richardson-Youth Trailer
717-652-5856 X 24

TENT MINISTRY

TENT ONE:

Philadelphia Area Association
Northpoint Baptist Church
Dave Foche
610-564-1549

TENT TWO:

Southwest Baptist Association
Contact Karen Warren
412-931-6040

TENT THREE:

Keystone Baptist Association
Contact Richard Wall
717-502-0280 (office)/
717-514-5753 (cell)

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Is Your Church User Friendly?

Several years ago I went to speak at a church in Connecticut. When I arrived, I saw many cars in the parking lot. I parked and went to the front door, but the door was locked! I tried nearby side doors. But could not get in them either. I finally found a way to get in. The main entry point had changed to the rear of the church due to construction. But no sign showed how to enter the church!

In fact, quite often, churches do not make clear where to enter their building. And often the entry hall way is dimly lit and frequently there are no clear markings show the way to the worship center - or for that matter, the nursery, rest rooms or office.

In recent years, some churches have taken pride in being "seeker sensitive." That is, they do not want to turn off people who may not be accustomed to church attendance. But too many of our churches are neither "seeker sensitive" nor "user friendly." Even people quite accustomed to attending church may have difficulty negotiating the obstacles that churches unwittingly put in the way.

There are lots of ways that churches can project an unfriendly atmosphere without even knowing it. For example, too many



restrictive signs can be a turn off. Signs such as "No Running" or "no food outside the fellowship hall", "members only", "do not walk on the grass," etc., may communicate that the church values property above people. If you find such directions absolutely necessary, try to use some softer way to word them. For newly planted grass, you might say, "Thank you for not walking on the grass" or "Your feet are killing me!"

One of my pet peeves is for the best parking places to be reserved for the Pastor or staff members. The best parking places should be reserved for visitors. The staff, of all people, should be willing to hoof it if necessary from a more remote parking place! It might be appropriate to rope off a couple of rows in the back of the church for late-comers and visitors. Remove the ropes about five minutes before the service starts.

Certainly, in churches that have Sunday School prior to worship, a receptionist should be stationed near the well-marked entrance to direct new-comers to their appropriate classrooms. Larger churches may need to have parking attendants to help people park and find their way or escort visitors to the entrance to the building.

Now if you are scratching your head about what this has to do with stewardship, let me say that stewardship is management. We are managers of the Gospel and, as such, we should make the Good News as accessible as possible. But I can guarantee you that, if you will make your church truly "user friendly", it will help your bottom line!

Bob Tallent
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In fact, quite often, churches do not make clear where to enter their building.



Diana Davis is author of:
Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry, by Diana Davis, B&H Publishing Group, 2008. ISBN 978-0805447231. Part resource book, part planning tool, this book challenges church women's groups to create a vibrant, worthwhile women's program.

Fresh Ideas-1000 Ways to Grow a Thriving and Energetic Church, by Diana Davis, B&H, '07. ISBN 978-0-8054-4492-6. Freshen up how your church does church. It's the perfect book for church volunteers, pastors and staff. (In its third printing)

Deacon Wives - Fresh Ways to Encourage Your Husband and Your Church, B&H 2009 ISBN Christian bookstore, or at Amazon.com or Lifeway.com.

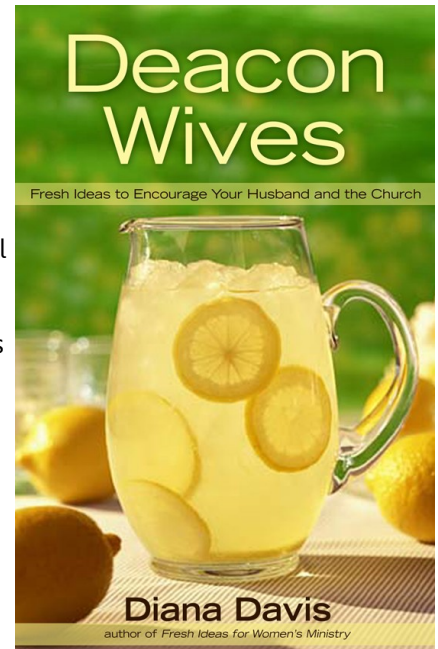
"Let's Do Lunch," a booklet by Diana, published by State Convention of Baptist in Indiana, is available as a free download on www.keeponshining.com.

Fresh Ideas Ten Tiny Tweaks to Enliven Worship

By Diana Davis

If someone snuck into your church and replaced Sunday's bulletins with last year's bulletins, would anyone notice? Need a few fresh ideas to keep your Sunday service from predictable sameness?

- Fill prime seating.** Challenge your church's most vibrant age group to help lead worship by filling the front and center seats weekly.
- Set the mood.** Set a relaxed, worshipful pre-service tone with live or recorded music, along with pre-service audiovisuals of announcements and Scriptures.
- Light matters.** Use quality lighting during the pastor's sermon. To add variety, dim light for the Lord's Supper, backlight a musician, uplight a theme banner, shine colored lights on a focal wall, or spotlight a dramatic scene in the center aisle.
- Theme enthusiasm.** Plan ahead to visually reinforce a sermon series. Make banners for the worship center or exterior. Plan a serial skit or unique handout. Create a distinctive display for the foyer or stage.
- Ushers** can rope rear seating to help seat worshippers toward the front. They should graciously seat latecomers at an appropriate time and take care of interruptions and needs during worship.
- Quality music with variety.** Try adding a different instrument such as bagpipe, zither, violin or a person whistling. Try an echo duet from the balcony or worshipful solo from the audience.
- Smooth transition.** Intentional silence can be worshipful; "dead spots" are not. Does it take ninety seconds to arrange the children's choir or wait for someone to stroll to the mike? Plan carefully to use every scheduled moment wisely.
- Intentional interaction.** Invite worshippers to reverently stand for Scripture reading. Offer a fill-in-the-blank sermon outline listening sheet. Quote 1 Chronicles 29:13 -14 in unison before offertory.
- See with fresh eyes.** Ask a decorator to assess your church platform area. Inexpensive changes may make a huge impact—plants, rugs, paint colors, polished pulpit, rearranged seating, reupholstered furniture.
- Small adjustments** create interest. Rearrange choir seating or praise team placement. Vary the Scripture reader. Add seasonal flowers or banners. Slightly tweak the order of worship—baptism at the beginning, offertory last, or sing after the sermon.



As you plan worship for our great God, create anticipation with a fresh, updated plan every Sunday. Oh, and there might be an additional benefit: less snoring in church.

© Diana Davis, wife of [Indiana Baptist](http://www.indianabaptist.org) executive director, writes a regular column for *Let's Worship* magazine ([LifeWay.com](http://www.LifeWay.com)). Her new book, *Deacon Wives*, releases this month. www.keeponshining.com

LIVING PROOF LIVE

Get away. Get renewed. Get a fresh Word from God.

Featuring Bible teacher Beth Moore



LifeWay's Living Proof Live Brings Pittsburgh Women Together

Popular Bible Teacher Beth Moore Speaks June 12-13 at Petersen Events Center

Pittsburgh, PA – Thousands of women are expected to converge in the Petersen Events Center on The University of Pittsburgh campus Friday and Saturday, June 12-13, when LifeWay Christian Resources brings Living Proof Live with popular Bible teacher Beth Moore to the City of Steel.

Moore is known for her ability to apply biblical scripture to everyday life. Her mission is to guide women everywhere into a richer, more fulfilling relationship with God. Moore's message for Pittsburgh women will be uniquely created for them, based on what God has laid on Moore's heart to speak. No two Living Proof Live events are ever the same.

An author whose books and Bible studies have sold millions of copies, Moore shares from her own experiences and challenges and inspires women to strengthen and grow their own relationships with God.

Ann Thompson is the director of women's ministries at Memorial Park Church in Allison Park, Pa. She said her church has offered eight different Beth Moore studies in the last five years. Thompson is excited about bringing several ladies from her church to the event after attending LifeWay's simulcast last year. "I think the girls and myself are looking forward to that synergy you get when you see people coming from all sorts of places that have been involved in a moment of spiritual growth. We're looking forward to seeing other Christian women walking the walk and celebrating that pilgrimage together."

Joining Moore for the weekend event will be worship leader Travis Cottrell and his praise team. The event is scheduled for Friday from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Petersen Events Center—University of Pittsburgh

3719 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15621

Register by Phone:

Call LifeWay Events Registration
toll free at 800.254.2022

Register by Fax:

Fax your information to:
615.251.3730.

Register by Mail:

Mail your information to:
Living Proof Live
P.O. Box 24001
Nashville, TN 37202

All seating is general admission, \$60.00 per person.
ASL interpreting available for the deaf / hearing impaired.
Wristband(s) are mailed to each registering individual or group to be worn for admission to the event.



Travis Cottrell and Praise Team lead worship for Living Proof Live.



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