

Calvary Baptist Church Weekly Newsletter



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Issue 98

A Pastoral Letter from newly appointed ABC-USA General Secretary Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer

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(the following letter was written on June 16 and has been slightly edited for brevity)

Dear ABCUSA Family,

The recent terrorist attacks in England, the apparently politically motivated shooting that took place in Virginia, ongoing debates over how to treat immigrants and visitors to our country, and the struggles of another Baptist denomination to take a clear stand on issues related to white supremacy remind us all that we are living in a violent and divided world that desperately needs to overcome every form of social and political discrimination and search for more just ways to live in harmony. In 2017, American Baptists gladly and forthrightly reassert our fundamental Baptist convictions regarding individual liberty, dignity and respect for all people, regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage, political or religious beliefs, or any other factor. In 1976, the General Board affirmed a policy statement on human rights, which said:

“Baptist history is rooted in concern for conscience and for freedom of individual beliefs, for choice, and for unregimented living whether by religious dogma and institution or by social and political structures. John Bunyan in prison and Roger Williams driven from Massachusetts, reflect commitment to these ideas, as did Martin Luther King, in his witness to human dignity and the rights of minority groups. Resolutions by the American Baptist Churches over the years have particularly sought to reflect the denomination’s basic principles of freedom of thought and belief, the right of dissent, the responsibility to speak prophetically to church and society and support for human dignity and social justice.”

In the past, American Baptists have expressed these convictions in resolutions and statements, which make clear we have consistently opposed every form of racism and discrimination. For example, in 1983, the ABC General Board declared,

“We, as American Baptists, believe that all people are made in the image of God and that the right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person without regard to race, is foundational to our faith... Racism, whether individual or corporate, is a sin against God... We affirm the diversity of races and cultures as distinctive aspects of our denomination. We accept each person as a full participant and each race and each culture as valid expressions within the life and witness of the ABC family.”

We also have clearly stated that American Baptists reject violence as a means of achieving one’s social, religious or political goals. In a resolution opposing racial segregation adopted in 1964 and reaffirmed in 1985, we urged our members to engage in “programs of nonviolent direct action” and made clear that only “Christian means must be used to obtain these desired ends.”

With such a rich and diverse set of resolutions and statements, how should we as American Baptists respond to the challenges we face in today’s troubled and fractured society? I suggest we not only re-affirm the statements of the past, but resolve to live them out in practical and consistent ways in our individual and congregational spiritual journeys. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, “One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying” (*Strength to Love*, 37). To bring our thoughts and actions in line with our expressed convictions, we must re-engage Scripture and let its message take control of our beliefs, attitudes, emotions and actions. Please consider these:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for a person’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.... (James 1:19-20)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

As I reflect on these Scriptures, I glean the following challenges to help us all hold fast to our Baptist convictions while also contributing to a more harmonious American civic life:

1. Commit to listen more graciously and with an open mind, especially when we are in conversation with people who hold different views than we do.
2. Reject anger, rudeness, hatred, arrogance, and egotism in our dealings with others. Being prophetic is not compatible with being obsessive, abusive or insensitive.
3. Do not forget that people we disagree with are still human beings, and desire respect, grace and acceptance. The Golden Rule still applies to human relationships.
4. Be patient before responding to situations and people; oftentimes, first reports of an event do not convey the whole truth. Knee-jerk reactions are seldom helpful.
5. Do not assume that one’s own position on an issue is the only Christian response to which all others must subscribe. We know only “in part,” as Paul says.

As American Baptists, may we, through our words and actions, “let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds” (Matthew 5:16) and be drawn to Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

Members and Friends at Home

Each week a member or friend of the church at home will be highlighted. Greeting cards are always appreciated



**June Hare
109 Edjil Drive
Newark, DE 19713
302-368-8094**

June and her husband, Norman, have been members of Calvary for many years. June was always very active in earlier years serving as head of the Clothes Closet, working on the Fellowship Committee, and a big part of the Women's Group. These past few years have been a decline in her health and she hasn't been able to attend services for several months. She enjoys visits and cards and appreciates still being part of the Calvary family.

June Birthdays!!



- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Darlene Battle |
| 3 | Joy Hickman |
| 3 | Nathan Hickman |
| 6 | Lillian Jarry |
| 6 | Krystal Smith (Koeller) |
| 7 | Denise Dowell |
| 8 | Carolyn Inciardi |
| 9 | Hannalee Houtz |
| 9 | Morgan Kline-Hill |
| 11 | Jason West |
| 11 | Bernard B. Foster, Sr |
| 12 | James Alley |
| 14 | David Hopkins |
| 20 | Courtney Widdoes |
| 21 | Jennifer Cahill |
| 22 | Marcia Williamson |
| 23 | Mark Wells |
| 23 | Fran Wilson |
| 24 | Alanna Williamson |
| 25 | Samantha Elliott |
| 26 | Sharon Pemberton |

July 4th Picnic on the Lawn

We are inviting the community and Newark Empowerment Center clients to Calvary's annual 4th of July Picnic noon - 2PM at Calvary Baptist Church. This is a fun time for our honored guest, the needy and homeless of Newark. Please feel free to join us, or provide sides, snacks, drinks, or desserts. Contact Tom Parkins.



VBS needs volunteers!

VBS needs adult & teen volunteers! The program will run from July 30 to Aug 3rd. Hours are 5:30pm-8:15pm. Volunteers will help with the following areas: Bible Discovery, Game Makers, Snack Factory, Imagination Stations (crafts), and Group Leaders. If you are interested, please email Amber at amberhickman33@hotmail.com



High School Summer Sunday School Program

After taking a break in June the High School students will be meeting each week from July 9th through August 27th from 9:15am to 10:15am. We will meet at a local coffee shop (exact location to be determined) for a light breakfast, fellowship, and sharing of praises and prayer requests. Your breakfast will be paid for so all you need to do is show up! Let Kyle know if you have any questions or would like to join us.






The American Baptist Women Of Pennsylvania And Delaware are happy to share with our Region the New Nominees on the Region Team! We are thankful to God for giving these ladies willing spirits to serve Him in our ABCOPAD Region. We ask you to lift these, and the entire ABWMOPAD Region Team as we seek to THRIVE to the glory of God!

GOD IS ON THE MOVE! ON THE MOVE, HALLELUJAH!

Maureen Koeller



White Cross Coordinator Maureen Koeller is a member of Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, in the Delaware Association. Maureen lives in Newark, DE.

LOOK WHO SHOWED UP IN THE MOST RECENT ABCOPAD NEWSLETTER 😊

Calendar

June

-----No Sunday School during the month of June for K through 12th-----

27- 7/2

Creation Fest

29-7/2

ABC-USA Biennial

July

4

12pm-2pm

Community Picnic
Independence Day (office closed)

6

7:00pm

Band Practice

9

12:00pm

Christian Ed. Board
Diaconate

11

6:30pm

Finance Committee

14

Office closed

14-16

ABWM conference in Shippensburg, PA

16

12:00pm

Mission Board
Trustee Board

17-21

High Point Camp (Jr. week)

20

9:00am

Hope Dining

24-29

High Point Camp (Teen week)

25

Vision Team

27

Band practice

30

5:30pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS! (daily until Aug 3)



August

4

Calvary to a Blue Rocks game

13

12:00pm

Christian Ed. Board
Diaconate

17

9:00am

Hope Dining

20

12:00pm

Trustee Board
Mission Board

21

7:00pm

Worship Team