

Associational Emphasis Time



A Fishing Fleet of Churches

The fishing fleet points to our area of responsibility and reminds us that our main mission is to be fishers of men. We encourage each of our churches to get into their boats, go fishing, and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”
- Mark 1:17

Kissinger Offering for Associational Missions - 2009 Goal: \$18,000

Eastover - \$3000

For recreation equipment (e.g. canoes, basketball goals) and RV hookups for volunteers with motor homes.

Partnership Missions - \$6000

To give scholarships to collegiate and church mission teams, support our South Africa Partnership and acknowledge our commitment to cross-cultural partnership missions around the globe.

Technology Upgrades - \$2500

Continued improvements to allow the association to operate efficiently and at a high level.

Sports Camps - \$2500

For three areas: new equipment, unusual equipment (port-a-potties), and scholarships for children whose families cannot pay for the camp.

Work Camps - \$1000

For elderly/indigent who have no one to help with the cost of materials. Most of the sites we work on have the materials furnished by other assisting organizations.

Senior Adults - \$500

Program upgrades.

Community-Based Support - \$2500

To offer support to churches/association staff in their efforts to discover felt – need ministries in their local community, as well as help with training.

“... let down the nets for a catch.” **Jesus of Nazareth, Luke 5:4**

William & Mary BCM: NYC Mission Trip

By Rachel Asbury and Nathan Belcher

The Mustard Seed Dance. That is what I learned on my last night at Graffiti Community Ministries in New York City. I also learned that being blonde does not make you stupid, the Jonas Brothers can in fact be used as part of a Bible Lesson, and that seventh graders can have life insights greater than those of some adults I know.

When BCM announced that they were going on a mission trip to NYC over spring break I knew I had to jump on this opportunity. We were told that one of the main things that we would be doing was working with at risk teens in an after school program, run by Graffiti; however, I never imagined that after just four days there, the kids would have such an impact on me.

The program was made up of about 12 seventh graders and 5 ninth graders that would come in every day after school have a snack, work on homework, hang out and play video games or do artwork, and then our team would lead a time of devotion. One of the first things I noticed about the youth was their intelligence. While sometimes needing encouragement, they finished their homework quickly and gave well thought out answers in devotion, as well as knowing all the cheat codes for Guitar Hero. They seemed receptive enough of our group, but I did not fully realize how much they were listening until the Wednesday night Bible Study.

On Wednesday evening after the regular program, there was a longer, more intense Bible Study, which gave a deeper look at the devotions we had been doing all week. I led the middle school section of this study with two other members of our team. It was here that I discovered the real meaning of outreach. We started with the parable of the Mustard Seed, actually having to read through it twice so they all got a turn to read a part. Their excitement to know part of the Bible was so genuine; it proved just how real this was for them. The Bible was not just a one-time deal—this was their real lives—and for the next hour that's just what we talked about. Their real lives: their dreams, struggles, goals and fears came pouring out and crashed over each other as they all tried to share at once. As soon as they discovered they had someone who would listen, all they did was talk. In that hectic, energy-filled hour of emotion and sharing those seventh graders demonstrated that one act of outreach is not too small a thing. God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed, small but so powerful. And thanks to the youth of the Graffiti after school program, I now have a small part of their real lives in mine, the Mustard Seed Dance.

Rachel Asbury, Class of 2012
College of William and Mary

In addition to a youth team, we had an administration team and an adult team. The administration team helped out with various office projects for the church, and deep-cleaned many parts of the church (for which they were very grateful). The adult team helped with computer and ESL classes, and had some very good conversations with the people they met. Overall, the trip was awesome, and I truly believe that everyone on the trip took more back to college with them than we left at the church as far as growth and understanding of themselves and God. Thanks very much for the use of the van, and for all of your financial and prayer support. God bless.

Nathan Belcher, Class of 2008
College of William and Mary, Team Leader



Eastover Update

Attention PBA Pastors!

If you have never stayed overnight at Eastover Retreat Center we would like to invite you and your wife to spend a free night in the Manor House. Your free night will include breakfast at the Manor House, plus dinner and lunch at Kissinger Hall. You may choose from the following dates: July 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Call Christy at 757-294-3564 to make your reservations.



Tea Time Luncheons

Our luncheons are the second Thursday of each month at twelve noon. The cost is \$20.00 per person, but we do offer group discounts. Our next two luncheons will be on July 9th and August 13th. For more information please contact Christy Wilkinson at eastover.innkeeper@yahoo.com or 757-294-3564.

Eastover Cookbook

If your church would like to contribute recipes to the Eastover Cookbook please submit them as soon as possible. You may submit your recipes online at www.gandrublishing.com or mail them to 601 Eastover Drive, Spring Grove, VA 23881. Order your cookbook today for only \$12.00. The cookbooks will be published in time for Christmas. For more information call Christy at 757-294-3564 or e-mail her at eastover.innkeeper@yahoo.com.

Sports and Youth

Youth News

Our final YouthNet of the season at Langley Baptist was outstanding! We had a great turnout, and eleven churches were represented.

PBA Sports Camps

Sports Camps are about to get underway. Our first camp starts Thursday, June 18th. There are nine camps to choose from. Check out the PBA website for times, locations and registration details, or e-mail Mike Haywood at yefinch@aol.com.



Children's Kickball League

The PBA Children's Workers are sponsoring a new kickball league for younger kids. It is going to be a one-month trial project and there will be no cost. For complete information see the Youth page on the PBA website to download the announcement flyer.

The Peninsula Baptist Association (PBA) is made up of sixty-four Baptist churches in Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, York County, Poquoson, James City and Gloucester. Our reason for associating is to encourage and support one another, start new churches, and to do ministry together that we may not be able to do alone. Together we seek to impact our area with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

Churches and Pastors

- First Baptist (NN) has called Dale Seley of Downtown Baptist, Alexandria, to be their pastor. He will begin in August.
- John Minter is moving to New Friendship Baptist in Burgess, VA. He will be greatly missed!
- Temple Baptist has baptized over one-hundred people since Pastor Lynn Hardaway has come to the church! Praise God!
- Yorkminster Baptist and Tabernacle Baptist are both ordaining new men to the ministry in the coming weeks.
- Mark Reon, former pastor of Pine Chapel, recently had double-bypass surgery at Hampton General and is recovering well.
- Tommy Davidson and Rusty Beck are working on a pastors retreat for July. Stay tuned for details.
- Temple of Faith is looking for a new place to meet, and they must move by the end of the month. If you are able to help please contact Pastor Dale Miles at 757-706-3257.

News and Events

- The PBA Spring Meeting went very well. All proposals passed without amendments. More details on the changes will be forthcoming.
- There will be a Beth Moore Simulcast at Ivy Memorial Baptist Church and Menchville Baptist Church on August 28th-29th. Menchville will be providing printed programs and snacks each evening for \$10.
- Menchville Baptist Church is currently working on a several mission projects for their upcoming trip to Mexico. Read more about it at www.missionmenchville.com.

Job Openings

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper (Part-Time, 15-20 hours per week)

Experience with computerized accounting programs is highly desirable. Send resume with letter to Williamsburg Baptist Church, 227 Richmond Road, Williamsburg VA 23185.

Worship Leader (Part-Time)

Tabernacle Baptist Church in Newport News is seeking a part-time energetic worship leader who loves the Lord and is passionate about worship! The complete job description is available at www.tbenn.org. For further consideration, send your resume in Microsoft Word or PDF format to churchoffice@tbenn.org.

Organist (Part-Time)

Emmaus Baptist Church in Poquoson is looking for a part-time organist. Contact Betty Warren at 757-868-9215, ext. 3 if you are interested.

Women of the Bible

The "Women of the Bible" (aka Bible Babes) would love to visit your church or group! To learn more about the them visit the PBA website, or contact Shelia Williams at jbw-scw@cox.net.



Genesis Stories and Church Health

A word from Tommy Davidson, Interim Leadership Team



I'm encouraged by the fact that there has been renewed emphasis in recent years on church *health*, not just church *growth*.

A sick congregation will usually find it very difficult to grow, and if it somehow manages to, it will simply be spreading toxicity.

It's interesting that some of the events in the patriarchal narratives of Genesis 12-50 *illustrate* inappropriate and ineffective ways to deal with issues in church life. Key personalities in those ancient stories demonstrate approaches in handling concerns that actually foster relational pathology when utilized in modern day local assemblies.

Take, for example, the destructive power of *keeping secrets*. Jacob could tell you a thing or two about that. In Genesis 31, his wife, Rachel, steals the set of household idols belonging to her father, Laban, as she and her family stealthily flee his home. She does not tell her husband what she has done. When Laban catches up with them and demands back the stolen figurines, Jacob authorizes the death of anyone in his party found to have them. Fortunately they are not uncovered because of further deception on Rachel's part, but this episode obviously *could* have ended very badly. Years later Jacob again found himself the victim of a devastating secret. In Genesis 37, some of his sons *lead him to believe* that his favorite son, Joseph, was killed by a wild animal when *they* know that he is really still alive, sold by them, in their jealousy and hatred, to slave traders. Jacob would now live in unnecessary grief and sadness and darkness. The brothers would experience a psychological wall between them and their dad, and shame and guilt and suspicions and fears among themselves. The whole family would be haunted by this for years.

In congregations where critical underlying issues are never brought up to the surface for exposure and illumination and resolution, fellowship will suffer. When only a handful of members is privy to pertinent information that could make a difference, doubts and questionings will arise and a lack of intimacy and team spirit will result. An unholy spiritual bacteria will invade the ranks that will generate distancing and loss of joy. Secrecy breeds darkness, which in turn provides a setting for all kinds of undesirable consequences.

Some churches, and the individual members who make them up, choose to *run* from problems. Once again, Jacob offers some insight because it seems that he was *always running*. In Genesis 27-28 he's fleeing his home due to the murderous rage of his brother, Esau. He gets far away, to the home of his uncle, Laban, but he finds there, in addition to some blessings, a *whole new set of disturbing issues*. Plus, there's still a lot of unresolved stuff inside him that hasn't been worked through yet. After many years, Jacob *takes off once more*, again in a clandestine way. Only a gripping encounter with God and a beautiful reconciling experience with his sibling, recorded in chapters 32-33, get him to the point where he really *starts* to face up to crucial matters and change and grow up.

Church members who flit and hop from church to church at the first sign of trouble *or* because they aren't noticed or appreciated enough *or* because their "needs" aren't being met *or* because they had a falling out with someone do themselves as well as the next congregation to which they link up a real disservice. There's no way we can advance in spiritual maturity if we're *always on the run* and not dealing with the internal heart issues and the external relational concerns that we find *where we are now*. And carrying our unfinished business and emotional garbage to the next church we join can hurt *them*. Local assemblies that push significant matters and conflicts under the rug without confronting them and handling them with loving truthfulness will usually be stymied and will often atrophy.

Certainly in churches where there is political manipulation, such as that cooked up by Jacob's mother, Rebekah, in Genesis 27 in order for him to get his father's blessing *or* where there are calculated attempts to get a group of people to *conspire* to achieve their own selfish ends, as we see with Joseph's brothers in chapter 37, anger, pain, hurt, and division will eventually surface. Deception and backroom maneuverings seldom have positive conclusions in congregations. Little cliques and small groups of bitter folks who take church matters into their own hands usually make a mess of things.

We probably can best learn the *right way* to function in church life if we look at the example of the final of the great patriarchs, Joseph. He managed to straighten out years of multigenerational dysfunction and ultimately bring his family *together* in healing and reconciliation. And he didn't sacrifice truth to do it. Tears and the often difficult work of honest, loving confrontation pulled it off. See for yourself in chapters 42-50.

Maybe that old, old book of Genesis is the best manual we could ever find as we try to develop strong, healthy, thriving local fellowships in these challenging days!

Tommy
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Verse of the Month

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Psalm 9:9

757.596.4587 www.peninsulabaptist.org

Don't Forget to Join us for PrayerNet!

Our next meeting will be on June 29th at 10:30am at Yorkminster Baptist Church. Please join us as we pray for our association and our member churches! You may also submit prayer requests online at the PBA website.

Camp Wilderness at Eastover, June 29th – July 3rd

Camp Wilderness is a Christian camp geared toward boys entering the 4th through 9th grades. The camp will teach boys to be good stewards of God's creation. For more registration information visit the PBA website, or you may contact Eastover at 294-3636 for more details.