



**Christ Memorial Baptist Church**  
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Web-site: [christmemorialbaptistdover.org](http://christmemorialbaptistdover.org).

The header features the word "Connections" in a large, white, cursive script font with a pink shadow, set against a background of many small, semi-transparent red hearts. The word "February" is written in a small, white, cursive font above the main title.

## Connections

February

### Intentional Evangelism

January 9th, after dinner, we watched our program "Apostles of Comedy". After a few shared their Christian thoughts embellished with comedy, J John shared some thoughts that have stuck with me and had a meaning I need to consider as a Christian member of our church. It was really a wake up call all of us at Christ Memorial need to consider seriously. Our lack of church growth is a fact that all of us need to ask ourselves; How can I help? I think J John gave us an answer. Years ago when we first came to CMBC, we had prayer meeting every Wednesday night, and then many of us followed that with visiting those we invited to join our church.

Our culture has changed in 50 years and I'm not suggesting that, but there are things we can do and must do if we hope to reverse our loss of membership.

J John called it Intentional Evangelism. The Apostle Peter says it the same way when he says "But always revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." To me, they both are saying we should anticipate our opportunity to share our faith whenever the time, and whatever the situation. It might mean what we say to a clerk at Lowes, a waitress at dinner, a nurse at the hospital, your mechanic, a fellow student, or maybe a family member or our neighbor. If we faithfully reach out to whomever and whenever possible, God will take care of our numbers.

That is **Intentional Evangelism**.

Bob Brown

Connections is the monthly newsletter of Christ Memorial Baptist Church, located at 1160 East Lebanon Road, Dover, DE. 19901.

**Christian Life Development Center:**

**Winter Session Begins February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**

**Spanish/English class** (material: Bible and Bible dictionary)

Taught by Luis F. Figueroa

“The idea for this class came to me as I was thinking about our church and how many of you are amicable to the idea of Spanish and Spanish speaking people and I also find some of you trying to understand. I’d like to teach a class where we all teach each other the language. I think I know enough about the two languages, so I’ll act as a moderator of sort. I do not have a textbook, it will be our Bibles, a Bible dictionary and you as the class members.

I’d like at least 8 people and we’ll meet for the first time on **February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. We may decide to meet outside the church and it may be weekly or bi-weekly. To be comfortable we may meet outside the church building.

Let’s get together and see what God has in store for us – are YOU interested?

**Falling in Love with Jesus: Abandoning Yourself to the Greatest Romance of Your Life**

(material: book \$12) Taught by Pam Taylor

This study will introduce you to the ultimate love relationship of all time: a relationship with Jesus Christ. Using humor, lyrics to contemporary love songs, real-life stories, and solid Biblical teaching, you will discover a life-changing intimacy with Jesus. No matter your age, male or female, or marital status, you are His bride, the object of His affection. The secret to an abundant life lies not in ten steps, but in developing a deep love relationship with Jesus, abandoning yourself to the greatest romance of your life!

With so much pain, loss, and depression in the world today, even among Christians, look to God’s Word to see what God says about YOU in this relationship. Deepening your God relationship will help you show others the deep love that is in store for them when they enter a relationship with Jesus Christ! **Begins February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6”30pm**

**Pastor’s Masters Class on Ezekiel**

The Pastor will be leading a class on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel for the Christian Life Development Center in February. The class will meet in his office and together they will learn *how* to study the Bible, using the book of Ezekiel along with other Old Testament books and resources. Participants will learn to use the tools that Pastors and scholars use to dig deep into a Scripture passage. The class will be limited to 9 people, with a minimum of 5 and will meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm starting on Feb.20<sup>th</sup>.





## SPARE OUR WALLS!

Please note that no staples or tape or anything else that would leave a mark or hole should be used on walls or pews at church. If you need to post something please use the available bulletin boards. Tape may be used on glass surfaces, but must be completely removed when items are taken down. Thank you!

## Delaware Family Policy Council Member Lunches

DFPC Lunches at Grotto Pizza in Dover help members understand current hot issues and how to address them as Christians. They start on Thursdays at 12:30pm in the meeting room at the back, on the following dates: Feb.14<sup>th</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, and May 9<sup>th</sup>. Find out more about DFPC at [delawarefamilies.org](http://delawarefamilies.org).

## **CURRENT SERMON SERIES: “LIKE” – A picture of God’s Kingdom**



### Pastor’s Upcoming Messages, February 2019:

**February 3, 2019** *Good Fish/ Bad Fish*  
Mt.13:47-50, Public Reading of Scripture (PRS): Judges 4:9-15, **Kingdom Series: “Like”**

**February 10, 2019 PASTOR ON VACATION** Rev. Dave Dunn, *Guest Preacher*, PRS: Judges 4:15-24

**February 17, 2019 PASTOR ON VACATION** Flor Figueroa, *Guest Preacher*, PRS: Judges 5:1-12

**February 24, 2019** *Like a Mustard Seed*, **Matthew 13:31-33**, PRS: Psalm 22:18-31, **Kingdom Series: “Like” continues**

## A Challenge from Pastor Jeff

### ***PRAY: I Dare You!***

People often say, “Don’t pray for patience, because God teaches us patience *by trying our patience*.” So, if we don’t pray for it, we won’t have to put up with the trials that might come our way, which help us to develop a patient spirit. We don’t want to be patient in the first place. We want instant gratification. So we don’t pray for patience. Instead, we shut out what God is trying to do in our lives. We don’t want anything from God that might take effort or require suffering from us.

That’s our old nature coming out. We don’t want God to change us. We don’t want to submit to His will for us. But if we are truly going to follow Christ, we are required to surrender ourselves fully to what God wants to do in our lives (note: I am not saying we *desire* this, but that we need to trust what God desires for us). We are being conformed to the likeness of Christ (Romans 8:29), not vice versa. And we will have to *fight* our old nature every step of the way as God works to make it happen.

Do we claim Christ as Lord, yet still assert our own will be done? Or, can we say with Paul: “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).”

I believe that there are certain things we know God wants, yet we refuse to pray for them because we’re afraid that God will actually do them. Maybe, if we can *own* our feelings, we can overcome our hesitancy.

**Exhibit A:** Jesus says to His disciples: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:37–38).” He said this because He had compassion on the crowds of people who came to Him because “they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36).” He cared about the lost. He yearned to reach them and bring them into the Kingdom.

So... do *we* pray for workers in God’s harvest field? I fear that we don’t... because we fear that He will... and when He does, it may be us he sends... and we don’t want to go!

*I dare you* to prove me wrong! (*He told me to say it!*)

During the upcoming Lenten season we are preparing strategic opportunities for *you* to pray for the lost in our/your community. I invite you – no, I challenge you – to commit yourself to look out onto the fields of harvest in our community and pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send workers into His field. I challenge you to ask God to show you what He wants to do in our community. I challenge you to listen closely to how God may be leading *you* to take action in response to what He shows you.

Are you willing? Do you dare to risk that God will answer?

## Wednesday Night Dinners

### TODAY'S SPECIAL

February 6<sup>th</sup> - Taco Soup and Chicken Corn Chowder with crackers

February 13<sup>th</sup> - Baked Chicken, Noodles with gravy, Carrots

February 20<sup>th</sup> - Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Peas

February 27<sup>th</sup> - Meatloaf, Pasta with Broccoli and Mushrooms, Applesauce

## From the TEEN LIFE Desk:



The Teen Life ministry would like to thank everyone in the congregation for its prayerful support of Teen Life these past months! These first several months have been successful in getting the youth of our church out and involved in our group on Fridays and active in our Sunday mornings. Your prayers and God's blessings are making a difference in our church on Friday nights and beyond! The next time you see one of our youth, please stop and talk to them about what is going on in their groups.

**"UNDER MY NAME"** - A Christian band featuring Luis Figueroa - will be visiting our church during February for **Teen Life's** Praise and Worship time. Please watch your bulletin and service announcements for the date and time. **Bring your kids, your grandchildren, your neighbors and YOURSELF.**



Women's Ministries for February includes the Night Owls on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the church.. Peggy Curtis will also be doing the program for the evening. The Day Glow Circle will meet at the Curtis' home, 131 Brookdale Road, on Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. Carolyn Kersey is slated to do the program. And don't forget about the Gathering of Friends who meets for knitting and crocheting twice a month. Check for times in the weekly bulletin.

In March we will have our annual Auction for Missions. Please bethinking about what you can donate for the cause. The Auction will happen on March 17<sup>th</sup> following the second service. Come and join the fellowship.

Consider attending the Thrive Conference this coming June. The information is on page 7.

## Report from the Moderator: 2019 Annual Meeting

On Wednesday evening of January 16, 2019 some 25 members and friends gathered for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting of Christ Memorial Baptist Church. We heard stirring reports of God's work among us from the treasurer, pastor, and ministry directors. They shared from the record of 2018 and plans for 2019. Much of the content is recorded in the Annual Report. Pastor Jeff presented an analysis of the church ministry status and challenged us to reach out to our communities with the gospel.

At the meeting we acted on the agenda as stipulated in the church By-laws. The 2019 budget was adopted. The financial officers of the church were elected for 2019. They are as follows: treasurer--Bob Wikso, director of finance—Mike Pollock, financial secretary--Carolyn Kersey, assistant financial secretaries--Helen Ruiz and Peggy Curtis.

We are grateful to Jerome Patterson for his service as Financial Director in the last few years. We thank God for all He has provided and what He has done in and through us. We look forward to his guidance in ministry and vision in 2019. Let us commit our lives to his service in love.

Woody





The following items are needed in the Food Pantry, if you would like to make a donation.

\*Peanut butter and Jelly, powdered milk, fruit and fruit juice, soups, tuna, and cereal/oatmeal.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Special thanks to our friends the Orchard UMC in Magnolia for their donation of over 50 food boxes from their Christmas drive.

The Deacons

## GO DEEPER IN LENT

CMBC's leadership invites you to join them in **specific strategic prayer** for our neighborhoods, communities and the church this Lenten period. While this prayer emphasis will officially take place in March and April, our church leadership is starting now and you are welcome to join them.

- On Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> worshippers will be invited to come by the church in the morning to observe a brief, private devotion of commitment in the Sanctuary and ashes will be placed on the forehead of those who wish to receive them.
- On Sunday Mornings in Lent, those who are willing to commit to pray will attend one worship service and spend time in prayer during the opposite worship service.
- Individuals and Prayer Teams will commit to daily prayer for specific neighborhoods and communities. A prayer map will be posted at the church to allow participants to choose the area they wish to cover in prayer.
- "PRAY4DOVER Prayer gatherings will be held at 4pm each Sunday in Lent. Those who cannot attend in person will be encouraged to join us by taking even a few minutes to pray at 4pm each week.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 and ends with Palm Sunday, March 14, 2019 (which is the beginning of Holy Week). Traditionally, Lent has been a period in which to deepen one's commitment to Christ (often by practicing spiritual disciplines, like fasting and prayer, etc.). While many associate these practices with the Roman Catholic Church, they are practiced by many denominations, including many Baptists. The beauty of a 'free church' tradition is that we can adopt any traditions which we feel that God would have us use for a time. Prayer is one of the most foundational spiritual practices and we hope to use the opportunity that Lent provides to strengthen our prayer lives.



**Hershey , PA**  
2/15/2019 – 2/17/2019  
**Hershey Lodge**  
Price: \$175.00/person

**Myrtle Beach , SC**  
2/15/2019 – 2/17/2019  
**Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**  
Price: \$175.00/person

**Reston , VA**  
3/15/2019 – 3/17/2019  
**Hyatt Regency Reston**  
Price: \$175.00/person

**Skytop , PA**  
3/22/2019 – 3/24/2019  
3/29/2019 – 3/31/2019  
**Skytop Lodge**  
Price: \$175.00/person



Our Christmas Child has arrived. Have you seen him/her? Have you handed in a name? We will let you know in March when a name has been chosen. Also, check out the sign board that the Christmas Child is holding to find out the item of the month that is needed. The children that receive these gifts will know that someone cares. Your generosity will bless them and you.

During January, we were celebrating the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering. Because of the weather and one missed Sunday, we decided to continue it through the first week of February. Our total after two weeks is \$345.00 and our goal is \$1,000. We thank you in advance for your faithfulness to our God.

We continue to support our sister church through our prayers and letters. If you place a card in the replica church, please let us know so we can mail them.

Throughout each month, we receive letters from our missionaries. As they arrive, we try to post them in the Communications Room for you to read. Remember to keep these special individuals in your prayers as they serve God around the world.

# THRIVE 2019



Annual Conference Sponsored by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Pennsylvania And Delaware

**JUNE 28 - 29, 2019**

**BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION  
CENTER, ALTOONA, PA**

**Adult Conference Fee \$95\***

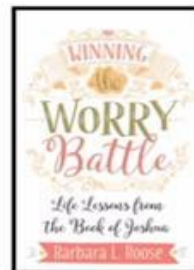
**Girls Fee \$100** (includes housing)

\*Hotel not included, Look for housing info with Registration Materials early February 2019.

\*Some Early Bird Discounts will be available for those registering and paying for conference prior to May 1, 2019.



**Barb Roose**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Popular speaker and author, passionate about equipping women to win at life with Christ-empowered strength and dignity.



**Marie Monville**  
TESTIMONIAL SPEAKER

"When all other lights go out, He still shines!"

On October 2, 2006, Marie's life was forever changed when her then husband made the decision to hold an Amish school hostage.



**Abigail Medina  
Betancourt**  
MISSION SPEAKER

Abigail is the Puerto Rico Volunteer Coordinator at the American Baptist Home Mission Society in Cantano, Puerto Rico.

THRIVE 2019 updates, as they become available, can be found on the ABCOPAD Website, Notes and News Publications, on the ABWMOPAD Facebook Page or on the THRIVE Facebook Event Page. [FIND US ON FACEBOOK!](#) A REGISTRATION BOOKLET and forms will be mailed to each church in the region in early February. Please SHARE it when it arrives in your churches mailbox!