

# The Network News

December 2017



***We pray that the Good News of the coming of our Savior  
will fill both you and your church during this wonderful season.  
May we all share that Good News with everyone  
we encounter!***

### **SAVE THE DATE FOR TRAINING EVENT**

We are planning an Equipping Event on Sunday, February 25th, 2018 at Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Temple (3100 Butternut Drive Hampton, VA 23666) from 3 PM-5:30 PM. Last February we had a great evening of training, resourcing, and equipping at West Hampton Baptist Church. Therefore, we're looking forward to this upcoming year's event. Some of the breakout session topics include missions, discipleship, leadership. Look for more details in the New Year.

### **PBA TOUR CONTINUES**

**Attention** Williamsburg churches and dwellers! On January 21st from 6:30 PM-8 PM your PBA staff will be at Walnut Hills Baptist Church (1014 Jamestown Road Williamsburg, VA 23185) to talk about what it means to be a part of this network of churches. This is our second regional meeting designed to give our people an opportunity to learn and to share about the PBA. We would love to see you all there and would love to gain your feedback. Hope you're able to make it.

### **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

But for some, Christmas can be a sad time. Many people struggle to put food on the table, much less gifts under the tree. Under the Tree, Inc. (formerly known as the Hampton Christmas Store) is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide a unique Christmas shopping experience while preserving dignity. Pre-qualified parents actually shop for their kids' "new" toys in a store we set up for the day. They buy their gifts with a very minimal fee (last year they were allowed to spend up to \$5 per child which gave them about \$100 worth of toys) to allow them to invest in their family's Christmas.

The Christmas store provides a family experience with gift wrapping, parents shopping, kids shopping in their own store and of course pictures with Santa. We have found that this keeps their dignity intact. It's a hand up, not a hand out. We have been able to develop many relationships through the last few years and have the opportunity to show Jesus' love.

This year we will have to provide for over 250 kids. We need toys!!! If you can help, please donate a new, unwrapped toy (with the price tag left on please!), or monetary donations by December 7th. We are a 501(c)3 and can provide a tax receipt upon request. Our Christmas store will be held December 9 at Hampton Baptist Church. For more information or questions feel free to email us at [underthetree757@gmail.com](mailto:underthetree757@gmail.com), call us at 757-755-4669; or visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/underthetreeinc](https://facebook.com/underthetreeinc). Have a Merry Christmas- and help others do the same!

(NOTE: "Under The Tree" is a Partner Ministry of the PBA, led by Steve and Denise Edwards.)

### **MLK A DAY ON NOT A DAY OFF**

Once again, in 2018 we want to invite people to join with us in making Martin Luther King Day a day of serving the community. Last year over 80 people came out to refurbish a community center in Phoebus. It was covered by the local TV news. This kind of serving enhances the reputation of our churches in the community, and offers a tangible way to share the gospel.

So, on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> we will be gathering in the Southeast Community of Newport News to engage in several projects to bless that community. We are still finalizing details for the specific projects (so far, we have three projects). For now, put the date on your calendar. Anyone may participate. This is an excellent opportunity for youth groups, Sunday School classes, or small groups from churches to do some hands-on ministry. Stay tuned for more information on this!

### TIME FOR CHANGE?

When we look at a new year, we often think about changes we can make in life. Maybe 2018 will be the time to lose a few pounds, get back in shape, read the whole Bible, or do something else to improve the quality of your life. How about your church? Is it time for the church to make some changes to improve the quality of its life?

I have had the opportunity to offer training based on my book *"What Happened to Our Church?"* to many pastors and church leaders. I have also taught individual churches how to apply the principles in the book and accompanying workbook. I'd love to sit down with you and talk about how I may serve your church in the coming year. I can offer many options from simply coming in on a Wednesday night, to doing four sessions using my Clear Vision Survey, to teaching the entire book over eight sessions. (The only cost involved is if the church decides to buy copies of the book and workbook for the eight-week study.) If any of this sounds interesting, please contact me so we can get together and explore possibilities.

If there is enough interest, I'd also like to offer another Coaching Cohort for pastors interested in an in-depth study of the book over a six-month period. You can email me at [1chuck@outlook.com](mailto:1chuck@outlook.com) or call 757-753-9422.

### HOLIDAY CLOSING

The PBA office will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Holiday season. If you need to contact any of the staff during that time, feel free to email or call us on our mobile phones.

Also, January 8th, 2018 will be the cutoff date for checks to be counted as 2017 contributions.

### "CHRISTMAS IN THE AIRE" CONCERTS

Saturday, December 9th at 7:00 pm (outdoors, with live nativity & animals)

Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 pm (indoors with live nativity) as well as many of our music groups.

Each performance will include familiar Christmas carols for audience participation, with refreshments provided on Saturday evening.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

First Baptist Church Newport News  
12716 Warwick Blvd  
Newport News, VA 23606  
757-930-0911; [www.fbcnn.org](http://www.fbcnn.org)

Music Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/musicfirstbaptist/>

### CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

This is to keep you informed of changes going on within our network of churches. Please let us know if you have any changes. [pba@peninsulabaptist.org](mailto:pba@peninsulabaptist.org)

Emmaus Baptist  
Orcutt Baptist  
Peninsula Chinese Baptist  
Yorktown Baptist

Hampton Roads Baptist  
Memorial Baptist  
Warwick Baptist

## **SENIOR SAFETY TIPS FROM MENNOWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

Always be on the lookout for ways to keep yourself safe. Crime and the fear of crime create special problems for the elderly. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for law enforcement. Seniors can learn how to protect themselves from crime by following these simple, commonsense suggestions.

Let's start when we are in our homes. Always lock your doors and windows and never open the door without checking to see who is there. Keep your home well lit at night, inside and out; keep curtains closed. Use your "Neighborhood Watch" to keep an eye on your neighborhood. When you leave don't leave notes on your door saying to leave a package in the back. Also let your neighbors know when you are leaving so they can keep a watch on your home. Cancel deliveries such as newspapers. Be wary of unsolicited offers to make repairs to your home. Ask for proper identification from delivery person or strangers. Never let a stranger in your home. Deal only with reputable businesses. Keep an inventory with serial numbers and photographs of re-saleable appliances, antiques and furniture. Finally, don't hide your keys under the mat or in other conspicuous places. If you arrive at home and suspect a stranger may be inside, DON'T GO IN. Leave quietly and call 911 to report the crime.

This time of year we may be out more shopping due to the weather. So when you are walking to and from a building carry a whistle on your key chain so you can make as much noise as possible if you are attacked on the street. Avoid going out alone at night, have a companion accompany you. If traveling in your car, don't leave your purse on the seat beside you; put it on the floor, where it is more difficult for someone to grab it. Keep your purse close to you and don't dangle it from your arm (Twelve percent of all crimes against elderly are purse snatchings and street robberies.) Never leave your purse unattended or in a shopping cart. Try to carry as little cash as possible and definitely don't display large sums of cash. Lock your bags in the trunk and not on the seat. When returning to your car check the front and back seat before entering. Walk in well-lighted areas and have your keys ready when you approach your car or home.

Just some other reminders, criminals know exactly when government checks arrive each month and may pick that day to attack. Avoid this by using Direct Deposit or choosing another day to go to the bank. Never give your money to someone who calls on you, identifying himself as a bank official.

Mennowood is constantly looking at ways to keep our seniors safe. This year we added security code entrance key pads for our residents and families to have quick access into the building without having to use keys to enter the building. Mennowood also added more lighting to our parking areas to keep our seniors safe. In December, we sponsored a Senior Safety class for safe shopping for the Holidays. Valerie Young, MPO, Virginia State Certified Crime Prevention Specialist with the Newport News Police Department came and spoke to our community which was open to the public on how to stay safe while shopping.

## **STUDENT MINISTRY NETWORK CORNER**

Praying you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you lead or help lead your church's student ministry and haven't already had coffee with Paul Eaker and I (Melanie), please contact me, [melanie@peninsulabaptist.org](mailto:melanie@peninsulabaptist.org), so we can meet for coffee and hear more about your church's student ministry. Also, keep an eye out for some upcoming opportunities through the network in the New Year.



[www.facebook.com/pen.baptist](http://www.facebook.com/pen.baptist)



[@penbaptist](https://twitter.com/penbaptist)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpi0kvUHFKA>

## **PBA STAFF**

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