

PBA GLEAM NEWSLETTER

The Gleam is published every month and available to view online on the PBA website at www.https://petersburgbaptist.org/the-gleam/

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Associational Churches

Associational Ministries

Camp Kehukee

Missionaries

Wars and Conflicts



DECEMBER 25th IS EXTRA SPECIAL THIS YEAR

It's the date Christmas is always celebrated but this date in 2024, marks the day Hanukkah begins. The eight-day "festival of lights" is observed by Jews around the world and marks the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the second century after it was liberated. With eight total occurrences in 117 years, *Hanukkah* starts on *Christmas Eve* or *Christmas Day* roughly once every 15 years. *The significance is that the holidays don't align very often.* The two dates randomly align because the Jewish and Gregorian calendars don't align. Both Christmas and Hanukkah share similarities. Both holidays commemorate religious and historical events: Hanukkah celebrates the victory of Jews over suppression in 165 BCE; Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Both holidays center around family time, gift giving, lights, the season, rededication, new beginnings and goodwill.

Every Christmas Eve, churches around the world hold candlelight services to celebrate the birth of Christ. Many Christmas songs and traditions use the motif of light. That is because the Bible often describes Jesus as "light": The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them" (Isaiah 9:2). There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man" (John 1:9). I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life" (8:12). **Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. But sometimes it seems like the darkness of this world has overcome the light of Christ's birth.** Perhaps there's an empty place at your dinner table this year because your family has been touched by the darkness of death. Maybe darkness has invaded your life in the form of illness, family conflict, or financial issues. Or you may feel overwhelmed by the darkness of our world. ... But it won't always be that way. **No matter how dark things seem right now, the Bible promises that light eventually overcomes the darkness.** Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness" (John 12:46). He is called the Light of the world because He overpowers our darkness. Rabbi Ari Lev shared some of the Jewish responses they say to each other in time of grief. "There is one final greeting that gets spoken about the dead - / זיכרוןם לברכה zikhronam livrakha, *may their memories be a blessing.* This is the highest calling of Jewish tradition, to lift up the memories of our loved ones as *sources of blessing, as vessels of love, as legacies of purpose.*" **May God help us to remember loved ones that have gone on before us and live with meaningful purpose.** The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:7 KJV⁶ And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up." And Proverbs 22:6 reads, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is good to ask God to help us remember to live with purpose and share the most important things in life. **Let us take time to remember and teach the next generation the values of life.** Because life's most important lessons are in God's WORD and should not be forgotten.

Excerpts of this article are from Weekly Devotions from Alan Pomaville Chaplain / Hope and Healing for Heroes

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MINISTERS CONFERENCE

We thank Stephen Stamp and the pastors and staff of Woodlawn Hopewell for hosting the December conference.

Stephen gave us a great reminder that our people must see us evangelizing in order to follow our example. We were also challenged to remember that we must build relationships in order to reach people. Afterward, Tammy Dickey served us a great lunch. Again, thank you. Because we enjoy having churches host us for the monthly conferences. We have made adjustments to the locations for the rest of this conference year.

January 6, 2025, at 10:30 AM, we will meet at First Baptist Church in Petersburg (235 West Washington Street). Guest presenter will be Dr. Valerie Carter-Smith from the Women's Missionary Union of Virginia.

February 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM, our meeting will be at Second Baptist (3355 Johnson Road, Petersburg). Our special guest is Nathan Taylor from Virginia Baptist Historical Society.

March 3 at 10:30 AM at West End Baptist Church (6506 Boydton Plank Road, North Dinwiddie). Dr. Mark Hughes will bring our topic.

April 7 meeting will be held at 10:30 AM at Immanuel Baptist Church (620 Lafayette Avenue, Colonial Heights). Rev. Steve Lalk will be our presenter.

May 5 Dr. Roger Crump will close out the year with the **May 5** conference at 10:30 AM at Powers Memorial Baptist Church (2807 Jackson Street, Hopewell). We look forward to seeing you at the conferences, and possibly coming to your church in the near future.

"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight,¹ ²not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you;² ³not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not ⁴domineering over those in your charge, but ⁵being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when ⁴the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the ⁵unfading ⁶crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:2-4).

In Christ,
Mike



Camp Kehukee Update

Well, 2024 is over . We didn't just "get it over with", we successfully got through it triumphantly! In spite of numerous issues and setbacks, Kehukee was much better in December 2024 than it was in January of 2024.

Without going into a lot of detail, I would like to remind everyone how the Lord blessed us. Not only did we receive many hours of volunteer labor, we also were blessed with many donations. A number of contractors did jobs at significantly reduced rates. These blessings resulted in numerous successes which included the Halifax end being cleaned and graded; donated millings were spread all around the lake; all roofs have new or near new shingles (two roofs did not need new shingles); all issues in the pool pump room have been corrected; all bathrooms have been put in good order with new fixtures; the fences were replaced at the Powell Pavillion; ceiling tiles in the basement were replaced; the hall and meeting room at the Conference Center have been painted; the wooden benches around the lake were repaired; all the terrain around the pavilion and the Conference Center was cleaned of briars and brush; most of the trails were cleared; the overflow for the lake was repaired and the shed that was located at the PBA office was relocated and installed at Kehukee. Now all of our equipment is under cover. These are the main accomplishments achieved in 2024. There were many other improvements done on a lesser scale. Not noted in this article is all the routine work that goes on every week. To include grass cutting, weed whacking, clean up after storms and equipment maintenance. Because Kehukee is over 40 years old, there will always be issues and problems; it is to be expected. Even now, I know of some jobs that must be addressed in the near future. The pool, for instance, is operational but will need some work that will be expensive. However, I think Kehukee is worth the time and effort. I believe the Lord does too. Look at what HE has already done just this year.

To God be the Glory!
Bob Streetz
Kehukee Coordinator

FROM THE DESK OF...
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

It's a great day to be alive. It's the start of a new year, 2025. I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas season and now we start a new year that looks to be a very busy one.

Are you ready for the new year?

Genesis 1:1 says, ***"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."*** That fact should give us confidence as we head into 2025. As God's children we should enter each year as an opportunity to enjoy His presence and blessing of life. In fact, we should begin each day with such an attitude. God will guide us if we are willing to follow. Unfortunately, we often fear the unknown. We don't always recognize the security we have in Christ. The security we need does not come from within us but does come from God.

The new year can give us a promise of hope for all that is to come. Even as we bring our troubles and burdens to Him, we can, and should, be engaged in what He wants us to do and to be. Remember, most things end up in a positive manner if we start correctly. So, Petersburg Baptist Association, let's start our year with God and the ending is all up to Him.

Please remember our Executive Council meeting on Monday, January 20 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will take place at the PBA Office Complex, 3018 County Drive, Petersburg.

In the Annual meeting last October, the messengers voted to sell the current complex and move into another office space. The facilities committee is working very hard to make that happen, and the Trustees are working toward the sale of the facility. Please continue to pray for the sale of the facility.

We want God to be glorified in all we do.

Blessed Beyond Measure,

Pastor Fred

Wishing you a New Year full of Joy and Peace & Prosperity!

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 1:2

STRONGER TOGETHER

The Petersburg Baptist Association has a rich and varied history that includes you.

Without you, there is no us. So it is important that we keep the lines of communication open and strong. The PBA is here to serve as the Lord leads. If you need prayer, please let us know. We stand ready to offer tangible help. We can announce your churches upcoming events to invite more participation. The PBA website is not only available for announcements but can be used as a platform to plan, collaborate and fellowship with one another. So please, visit the website often. In the new year, let's "grow and glow" together by "letting our light so shine."

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve the Lord in the fellowship of His suffering for the upbuilding of His Kingdom.

The PBA Staff

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven. Matthew 5:16

Happy New Year—Let's Grow & Glow Together!



January—2025

Associational Calendar January 2025 – February 2025

Jan 1		New Year's Day – OFFICE CLOSED
Jan 6	10:30 AM	Minister's Conference – First Baptist Church, Petersburg
Jan 7	11:45 AM	Kehukee Team Leaders Meeting – PBA Complex
Jan 9	7:00 PM	Kehukee Council Meeting – PBA Complex
Jan 14	6:30 PM	Missions Council Meeting – PBA Complex
Jan 15	10:00 AM	Budget & Finance Meeting – PBA Complex
Jan 19		Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Jan 20	7:00 PM	Executive Council Meeting – PBA Complex
Feb 3	10:30 AM	Minister's Conference – Second Baptist Church, Petersburg
Feb 10	7:00 PM	Leadership Council Meeting – Kehukee
Feb 12	10:00 AM	Budget & Finance Meeting – PBA Office
Feb 16		WMU Focus Sunday
Feb 17		President's Day – OFFICE CLOSED

We wish you a very Happy New Year!

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