The goal for writing this article is to inspire the readers to think beyond the status quo and then respond to what’s relevantly revealed in this newsletter. Equally important is that this article aims to serve as a platform; to launch our newsletter throughout the Bristol community, to advance the Second Baptist Church ministry and to help spread the gospel message in hopes that someone might be redeemed.

And so, during this time, in the history of humanity, now is surely a time when we need the Lord to intervene. Although we live in a country that claimed God as her guiding force for about 200 yrs., authentic Christianity is now in the back seat to other forms of religious faiths. And yet, we must all concede that faith is part of being human. Indeed, we all have strong beliefs in something! Whether we believe in the One God who created the whole universe in which we live, or not, all of us believe something greater than ourselves.

Obviously, Christianity is not the only body of faith that occupies the heart and soul of people populating the world today. Unfortunately, atheism, evolution, agnosticism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, cult groups that practice Spiritism and all the other faiths fall woefully short of meeting humanity’s most essential and basic need. Despite the proliferation of Biblical resources and other scholarly written materials designed to help us draw closer to God, the culture we’re transitioning through is saturated with skepticism, violence, injustices, greed, poverty and lawlessness that only points to the tip of the iceberg. Be that as it may, there is still Good News.

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Our Church Has Left The Building

*by Dana Stancil*

The Second Baptist Church has ramped up its Evangelistic outreach efforts within the Bristol Borough community! How? Through monthly Prayer Walks each 4th Saturday of the month at 12:00pm. The starting point is the steps of the church where we pray, asking God to go before us as we venture out into the streets. The walk usually takes us towards the intersection of Race and Buckley Streets and then onto the intersection of Bath and Buckley Streets. Along the walk participants will stop at the intersection, read Scripture, pray and then move forward to the next assigned stop on the route. Along the route participants engage residents in

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More Than A SISTERhood
by Theodora Jones and Easton Mingle

In a world where labels define almost everything, it’s nearly impossible to escape the stigma that’s associated with the word “sisterhood.” Whether it’s a band of “I can do it all” feminists that comes to mind or the idea of house partying sorority sisters that crowds your thoughts, suffice it to say when someone uses the word “sisterhood” a baggage of pros and cons come along with it, that even we, as the Women’s Ministry have to contend with from time to time.

The truth is, on the surface and in its simplest form, the Women’s Ministry is a sisterhood. We are in fact a group of women within our church community who share many of the same interests, function in similar if not the same capacities in and outside of said community, and we maintain relationships one with another within our local church community. So yes – at the bare bones of it, we are indeed a sisterhood. But (and there’s almost always a “but”) our kinetic make-up and our deliberate course of action as it pertains to meeting the needs of those within and without our church community, sets us worlds apart from being just a mere sisterhood – for we are MUCH MORE than that!

For starters, SBC Women’s Ministry is intentional about identifying the needs of women who we know and encounter. Ultimately, we make it our mission to pull our resources together to help meet those needs. Now, one might assume that when we say “needs,” we’re only referring to physical or tangible needs like food, clothing, or money. In addition to those basic needs, while essential for anyone, there is a far greater need that we aim to meet - a Spiritual need.

It’s great to have a group of women who you can count on to talk to when you’re dealing with an issue on the job that requires varying perspectives –we do that! It’s wonderful to have a handful of girlfriends who you can rely on to give you a little financial support when the need arises or to be a reference for a job application and interview process – and we do that too! But it’s altogether something different when you have a squad of prayer warriors – I mean women who know more than anything that prayer changes fate and that faith in Jesus the Christ paves the way for true destiny – those kind of women going to GOD on your behalf – In PRAYER and in FAITH and in the Name of Jesus! And that’s not all – there’s nothing like having a “souled out sister” who will fight the good fight of faith alongside you and encourage you to keep moving forward no matter what! When you can count on women of faith to do THAT – with no strings attached and no gimmicks to ploy, then you know unequivocally THAT it’s much more than a sisterhood that you’re a part of! And THAT is what the SBC Women’s Ministry is about – evangelism, discipleship and fellowship through prayer, biblical teaching and spiritual enrichment. And we’re only just getting started…. 
The Second Baptist Church "Homeless Ministry" is committed to serving the Homeless who are part of the Bristol, Levittown community. Our ministry efforts focus on providing monthly nutritious dinners every third Wednesday for the homeless and for whoever walks through our doors in need of a meal. We also provide information and make appropriate referrals to the homeless about nearby associated homeless shelters and agencies that provide support.

Though the public face of hunger is usually depicted as the face of a "homeless person (s)," recent statistics contradict this widely held assumption by citing that 1 in 8 Americans are at risk for ‘food insecurity’ and may experience periods of hunger throughout each month. Our SBC “Homeless Ministry” is composed of compassionate and caring volunteers who understand that there are also many ‘hidden populations’ (or those whom we cannot so obviously identify as being ‘needy’) within and outside our own community as well as nationally. These people depend on churches, food banks and other volunteer organizations to help them bridge the gaps between paying their household bills, transportation, medication and other necessities of life and finding that they don’t have enough resources left over to provide food for their households.

There are so many ways that a person or family can suddenly find themselves in need of food assistance. Their need may be short-term or long-term, but regardless of the circumstances that contributed to the need, we are here to help. Please consider volunteering with our Homeless Ministry; not only do we serve food we serve the Word of God! Always remembering that as we serve our brethren we serve Jesus Christ.

Our Church Has Left The Building

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SBC Academic Achievement Awards

The Second Baptist Church’s Christian Education Ministry is dedicated to supporting the academic success of all of the members of Second Baptist Church. This is especially true for the youth of our Church family. Every year at the close of the academic school calendar year of our local school districts in Pennsylvania and in New Jersey, the Second Baptist Church Christian Education ministry is allotted time during a morning worship service to recognize the accomplishments of our members.

This year, we acknowledged twenty two individuals including two adults for their academic and professional achievements over the course of this past school year. The Lord has blessed our youth with the drive to persevere through adversity and press toward higher marks in school. We acknowledged the students who may have never been given ‘kudos’ for improving in academic areas where they had previously struggled. There are also youth members who have achieved “straight A’s” for all four marking periods, had perfect attendance, are involved and excel in extracurricular activities and are dedicated members of other ministries at Second Baptist Church, such as the usher board, children’s choir and the praise dance ministry.

The leaders of the Christian Education Ministry acknowledged our academic achievers by handing out certificates and trophies while narrating a brief biography about the awardees. This ceremony has grown over the years and as the Holy Spirit leads the Christian Education Ministry. It is our prayer that it continues to grow exponentially in the years to come.
A Message From The Pastor

Without apology, the foundation of our faith is grounded in the finished work Jesus performed on the Cross at Calvary.

His Death, Burial and Resurrection make up the other essential doctrines of the faith that provides for our eternal security. The fact of the matter is that Christianity is the only body of faith that provides forgiveness of sin and offers the abundant free gift of eternal life through the authorship of our Savior, Jesus our Redeemer, who did for us what we could have never done for ourselves. And so, no matter how troublesome or fantastic our circumstances are right now, God’s word informs us that life on this planet at best is temporary. And so, in closing, I’d like to remind you that a day is coming when life as we experience it today will be over. One of Jesus’ greatest messages left for us was recorded in John 14:1-2 which reads; “Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me, in my Father’s house are many mansion, if it were not so, I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you.” Then, in verse (6) he said, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father, but by me.” While on earth, we all are Homeless. Thank God, We’re Going Home, One-Day!

Family Health

by Patricia Blair

Alzheimer’s disease is currently a heavily researched brain disease and the ‘cure’ may well be within our reach. As with obesity, diabetes and hypertension it may respond the best when preventative measures are taken before significant damage is done.

Based on a recent 2018 Harvard University study, Alzheimer’s disease is a disease that has a lot of complexity associated with its management in the person who is diagnosed with it. Changes in behavior, cognition and memory are distressing for the individual as well as for their family and friends. The aforementioned study emphatically cautions that each individual diagnosis must be handled according to that individual’s symptoms and the manifestations of their own particular disease process. According to Dr. Albert Hoffman, Chair of Harvard T.H. School of Public Health, Epidemiology Department, Alzheimer’s disease is predominately a vascular disease and is not a result of aging. He goes on to state that this research would indicate that there is good news and bad news.

The bad news is that older persons have had a longer time for the vascular damage to have developed and accumulate with plaques, tangles and other brain changes that are associated with Alzheimer’s disease…thus a change in diet and exercise would have a lesser effect on the outcome of their disease. The good news is that this disease has decreased markedly (decrease of 20% from 1990 -1999) in recent years and Dr. Hoffman attributes this decrease to people taking better care of themselves. He states that individuals should start early with regular exercise and a healthy diet...protecting their brains now for later.

Avoid Being Misdiagnosed

Get a Medical Examination to rule out the following and many other conditions...
1. UTI
2. Sepsis
3. NPH (normal pressure hydrocephalus)
4. Thyroid problems
5. Medication
6. Depression
7. Vascular dementia
8. Parkinson’s disease
9. Huntington’s disease
10. Slow growing brain tumors