



THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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Trees and Fruits

*A word from John Jones IV
Associate Regional Minister—Education*

"¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. "

Matthew 7:16-18 NRSV

*"⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:8 NRSV*

As our weather warms and the sun shines longer, I'm eager for the season of beauty and bounty when the miracle of agriculture can be seen up close and personal. When we reap the harvest of good fruit this summer, we'll know directly the wonder of God's gracious care. But even a romantic city boy like myself knows how much hard work goes into the care and preparation that makes that bounty possible. The soil must be prepared, the roots tended, and water provided. The fruit is wonderful, but the work is real and often hard.

This month, as 5 students celebrate graduation and commissioning at CENTRAL Wisconsin, we will all be celebrating with them the fruits of their labor. ***I hope you'll consider joining the celebration and worship on May 21 at 3pm.*** And I'd encourage you to pay attention to the fruits that will be born out through these student servant-ministers well into the future – the fruits of compassionate ministry, of care for the needy and the lonely, the fruits of the spirit that Paul mentions in Galatians. They will bear much good fruit because they, we – and you through your support – have done much good work to make that possible.

We are constantly bearing fruits of all sorts. I'd encourage you to pay attention to what you're producing, but also to pay attention to your roots. How are you honoring the soil from which you grow? How are you recognizing the many gifts given by the people that make you possible? As we celebrate the fruits of graduation and commission looking to fruitful ministries of the future, I'm so grateful for all the gifts of God's people – the deep roots and good soil – that make our work possible. The lives of the faithful who have gone before us, the hard work that we do, and most importantly the sustaining grace of God all make possible our new and novel growth to produce new and beautiful fruits for a new day.

News About People, Churches, & Partners

- **Art Basile** - Memorial Service information: First Baptist Church, 518 N. Franklin Ave., Madison on Saturday, June 3, 2017 beginning at 3 p.m. Obituary can be found at 866allfaiths.com.
- **Manny Santiago** - Leaving his position as Executive Director of The Crossing in Madison to become the Executive Director of the Rainbow Center in the state of Washington.
- **Wisconsin Council of Churches - Scott Anderson** has left his position as Executive Director and **Laurie Wilkinson** will be the interim Executive Director until a replacement is found.



Biennial Mission Summit
June 30 - July 2
Portland, Oregon

www.americanbaptists2017.com

Contact Executive Minister Marie at the region office if you plan on attending and have questions about how to make the most of your experience.

Sign Up Now for 2017

Summer Camps:

- Sr. High 6/11-17
- Primary 6/18-21
- Middler 6/18-24
- Jr. High 6/25-7/1
- All Inclusive 7/2-8
- Grandily 7/5-8
- Junior Camp 7/9-15

Sign up by April 30th for the early bird discount of \$15.

Church Retreats, Pastor Sabbath, Small Group Getaways...Let us know how Camp Tamarack can support your ministry.



At the 8th ANNUAL COMMISSIONING OF GRADUATES

Sunday, May 21, at 3 pm
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
3456 N. 38th St, Milwaukee

**2017 Annual ABWM
Retreat Weekend**
FRI, 6/2 - SUN, 6/4



This year's theme is
"AT SWEET LIFE CAFE" Speaker will be
Laurie Mc Garvey Cost is \$110; Sat only
is \$45 Registration now open. Contact
person is Linda Jolly at (608) 201-2528.

SAVE THE DATE: October 13-14, 2017
ABC/WI 173rd Annual Gathering
at Green Lake Conference Center.
Registration Opens Up Summer 2017

Remember to sign up for "Spring Into the Camp"

May 17th – 22nd we will be preparing camp for the summer season. We need your help cleaning cabins, clearing trails, raking, dusting and all that goes into preparing the spaces for campers and renters. We encourage individuals and groups of all kinds to help out.

Please let Carolyn or Kim know ASAP if you can help out during any of these days. carolyn.dugan@abcofwi.org 715-281-2267 or kim.drost@abcofwi.org 608-566-4209

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN

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