# THE WISCONSIN BAPTIST

Published by the American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin

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**February 2018**


## *Packing up the "Christ-mas" decorations*

*Reflections by Delight Antos, ABC/WI Board President*

Is it easier to remember Christ as Christmas decorations come out? When we look at the nativity displays in our homes, our church front lawns, or the Christmas cards with the scenes of the season printed on them, does it help us to focus on Christ? So what happens when we put them all away and pray in a new year? Does our faith go back in the box? Do we go back to our normal giving, caring faith lives? Do we say, *"I've celebrated Christmas by giving to charities, friends, relatives, and an occasional stranger...On to 2018"?*

Deuteronomy 6:5 states, "And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength." Ephesians 3:16-17 states, "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." (NLT translation)

I found a song entitled "Christmas in our Hearts" by Jose Mari Chan which encourages us to keep Christ-mas always in our hearts and guide us in another new year. Can we do that? Do we dwell in His presence and listen for His leading in our lives? If it is Valentine's Day or the first day of Summer is there any less need in the world around us, in our family, or in ourselves than on Christmas? No, I believe there is more need.

With Christ in our hearts, and just as importantly our hearts in Christ, we can keep Christ in all we bring to this year of 2018. Hebrews 10:24-25 reads, " Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more…" (GNT) .

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

Did you know that American Baptist Women's Ministries offers three college scholarships every year? Application deadline is MARCH 31, 2018. Information and application forms can be found at http://www.abcofwi.org/partners/american-baptist-womens-ministries/

### The 3rd Annual ABC/WI Faith and Fellowship Day

***Sunday, February 25, 2018***. Friends and family of ABC/WI are invited to come out and enjoy Wisconsin's NBA team, the Milwaukee Bucks play the New Orleans Pelicans at 2:00 PM for Faith and Family Day at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. There are a limited number of tickets available. Tickets for the event are $16 (a $10 per ticket savings) and are in section 435, rows G – K. Post-game activities include a free throw for kids, live interview with a Bucks player, and a message from Buck's Chaplain Chip Bernhard! A flyer/order form has been sent to church offices or can be found at abcofwi.org.

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2018

- 2/25: Bucks Faith & Family Outing
- 3/9-10: Small Church Training Event
- 3/23: CENTRAL Catfish and Cod: A Lenten Reflection on Reconciliation
- 4/20-4/22: ABC/WI Men's Retreat
- 5/5: ABC/WI Board of Mgrs Mtg
- 5/12: 2018 CENTRAL Wis Grads attend Graduation in Shawnee, KS
- 6/1-3: ABWM Retreat
- **October 12-13, 2018 ABC/WI 174th Annual Gathering** at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Milw.
- 11/3: ABC/WI Board of Mgrs Mtg.

CENTRAL WISCONSIN

- Courses continue for the LENT 2018 term. Please contact Dr. Jones (john.jones@abcofwi.org) about visiting on a Friday night or Saturday morning.
- If you know anyone who may be interested in seminary studies, please have them contact Dr. Jones or Patrick Roberts (patrick.roberts@abcofwi.org).
- Save the date: March 23 - Catfish and Cod: A Lenten Reflection on Reconciliation

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2018 — CULTIVATING LEADERS EQUIPPING DISCIPLES HEALING COMMUNITIES Ephesians 4:11-13

**Support the 2018 AFC Offering**
**Equipping Disciples**

Remember that this is one of the four special offerings and it supports the work of the Baptist family throughout the United States. 29% of the offering comes back to ABC/WI for regional ministry. For more info go to https://abhms.org/afc.

### CAMP TAMARACK 2018

**Summer Camps**

(grades just completed)

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| **May** | 17th-20th Spring In to Camp |
| **June** | 10th-16th Sr High 9-12 grades |
| | 17th-20th Primary 1-2 grades |
| | 17th -23rd Middler 3 – 4 grade |
| | 24th-30th Junior 5 – 6 grade |
| **July** | 1st -7th All Inclusive |
| | 1st – 4th Grandily |
| | 8th – 14th Jr. High 7 – 8 grade) |

15th-21st Special programming - stay tuned!


AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF WISCONSIN www.abcofwi.org & www.camptamarack.org

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