



Temple Topics

The Baptist Temple

1101 Clover Street
Rochester, NY
14610-3309

Phone: 585-473-3200
Fax: 585-473-5929
www.bapttempl.org

Rev. Arlen G. Vernava
PastorArlen@bapttempl.org

General Email:
bapttempl@bapttempl.org

Inside This Issue:

1. From Pastor Arlen
2. Balancing a Healthy Me summer Camp
2. Thinking of you
2. From Dr. Nitsch
3. RAIHN News
3. Christian Education
3. Cameron Community
3. Shore Winds Service
3. Birthdays
3. Cookout
3. Pastor Away
3. Office News
4. Calendar

Dear Friends,

The so called Robbers Cave experiment or study of 1953 highlighted, Kwame Anthony Appiah writes, "that identity allegiances can be easily conjured into being; and that...the Other may not be very other at all." (pg 64) Two groups of 11 year old boys from the same community with similar backgrounds, in all respects, competed against one another in an outdoor camp setting. Within days their dissimilarity mattered more to them than their similar family, religious, education, and social experiences. "To the Rattlers...the Eagles were 'sissies,' 'cowards,' 'little babies.' To the Eagles, the Rattlers were a 'bunch of cussers,' 'poor losers' and bums.' One group saw itself, and was seen, as prayerful, pious, and clean-living; the other as boisterous, tough, and scrappy." (pg 63, *The Ethics of Identity*)

Our New York State Senate (as of June 16) serves as an easy reminder of how quickly groups of people lose sight of ultimate things for the sake of temporary identity. On the positive side temporary or provisional identity is all we ever have. Most people grow out of adolescence; Senators serve one term at a time. Persons under the age of 30 will change careers several times throughout their working lifetime. Religious affiliation shares the same fluidity both within Christianity and between Beliefs. Identity need not define up and against, yet this negative tendency, pervasive and strong, does real harm.

Keep your allegiance with Jesus, with God in Christ, the Apostle Paul coached one faith community when they were identifying with strong leaders, rather than the One who called them into community. Keep your allegiance with Jesus, with God in Christ, Paul wrote another time when persons were identifying with certain customs, rituals, and rules, rather than *how* they felt called into community. Arguing over differences and while avoiding and ignoring Ultimate Concerns, Paul essentially said, makes everyone a loser.

Friends, you are heralds, coaches, and ministers for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The "Rattlers," "Eagles," and NY State Senate's in your world are desperate for a reason to retreat from fighting and rest on common ground. Give them a reason through your wonderful generosity and hospitality. Give them a reason through your fairness and insistence on kindness with justice. Give them a reason through your love for peace as joy and hope. And believe in God to increase goodness, dissolve bitterness, and create a longing for reverence – reverence for those who soar and those who slither, for elephants and donkeys

Peace,

Balancing A Healthy Me summer camp with Genesee Baptist Church

July 6th – August 14th, Monday – Friday ~ 8:30am – 3:00pm

Themes

- Week 1: "Family and Friends"
- Week 2: "Free Will!"
- Week 3: "Fitness!"
- Week 4: "Food!"
- Week 5: "Flow!"
- Week 6: "Future!"

Field Trips

- Strong Museum of Play
- Penfield Town Hall Picnic and Games
- Red Wings Baseball
- Parents Day Picnic
- Seneca Park Zoo
- JCC InZone and Seabreeze

Volunteers include: Kathy Nicastro, Beverly Maville Letter, Dan and David Nitsch, Matt and Brian Dibble, Mona Dibble, Kyle Sackett and Molly Squilla, Knitters, and more!

Do you have one day, a morning, or an afternoon to volunteer? Can you chaperone a field trip? Help out at breakfast or lunch time? Lend a hand with arts/crafts? Let Pastor Arlen or Brenda know.

Offer Brenda Nitsch thanks and kudos for her effective and faithful administration. Her work includes fine-tuning curriculum, helping to interview, hire, and train staff, arrange for off-site trips, invite and confirm volunteers, and help pull together registration paper-work and processes.

Offer Joyce Connelly thanks and kudos for serving as book-keeper, a job already well underway!
Brenda and Joyce, thanks!

* * * * *



Dear Friends,

Hope things are going well and everyone is working hard to keep up the Temples service to God. Think of you often and miss you.

Blessings - Eleen

* * * * *



Sean Jernigan is a baritone from Murfreesboro, TN - a city just south of Nashville. He completed his masters of music in vocal performance from Eastman School of Music this past May in the same graduating class as The Baptist Temple's own Julie Norman and Abi Levis. Sean has sung sacred music, opera, and music theatre for the last ten years, and worked in music ministry for over seven years. He's eager to bring his gifts to the congregation here at The Baptist Temple. He will be with us until September.



July 12th and August 16th



RAIHN news

July 19 through 26 is the next week we are scheduled to assist with the RAIHN program at Asbury. The guests have been most appreciative of the meals we have prepared for them in the past. You can volunteer to cook something, go along to help serve an evening meal, or help buy something for the menu.

Anyone can also offer to provide hospitality for a few hours or serve on the overnight shift.

See Marilyn or Rod.

* * * * *



Christian Education team news:

How blessed we were to hear Katie Kerber, our graduating high school senior, deliver the morning message on Children's Day. It was an inspiration for everyone who was present. We were also privileged to hear our own young people provide music and take part in other portions of the service. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious celebration smorgasbord. Thank you to everyone who brought in such a tasty variety of food to share.



In the evening your Christian Education team prepared and served the Sunday supper to over 45 hungry people at Cameron Community Ministries. Thanks to Frank and Sam Creek and Sam's friend Austin, Clare Kerber, Kandee Tabor, Joanne, Burt, and Rod Vane and Pastor Arlen, who not only served food but gave a brief, thoughtful devotion.

Thanks also to Pat VanZandt who made over 50 biscuits for our chicken alking meal and to some generous members who provided money to purchase food. It is wonderful to be part of such a warmhearted, generous church.

* * * * *



The Shore Winds Protestant Worship Service

Is the 2nd Sunday of every month at 2 pm
One family unit a month join the Pastor at the service (rotating among the different families in the church.)
Sign up! Help Support this Ministry!



July

- 11 Dick VanZandt
- 24 Maria Baez
- 24 Martha Rowlinson
- 28 Katie Kerber



Church Pot Luck

July 17th @ 6:00pm

Dr. Riddle on Wellness is our guest



- June 24th - June 29th
ABC Biennial - California
- July 21st - July 28th
Branson Missouri
- August 10th - 24th

The deadline for submitting materials for publication in the Temple Topics for **August is July 16th.** All articles must be turned into the office by this day !!