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Official Paper of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Keystone BAPTIST



Who are you?

Have you ever been asked that question? It is usually asked by one who is unaware of your identity – has no idea who you are or what you do. It is to be expected from a total stranger to ask such a question when our paths might cross. In fact, I may be the one asking such a question just so I can know to whom I am talking with, and then I usually follow with, “And what do you do?” That often opens the door for me to share the Gospel.

So, in my travels for our association I still come across folks (in our churches) who don’t know much about the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches (PARBC) and when told that I am the State Representative for the PARBC, they quickly conclude my office and work must be in the state capital building in Harrisburg. We all laugh as I explain my office is in York and my ministry is working with nearly ninety fundamental, separated, independent, Baptist churches across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

So I suppose the question should be, “Who are WE?” Just a few basic points may help to identify who we are and what we do. Our association of churches stands together for:

- Fundamental Bible Christianity
- Baptist Distinctives
- Separation from worldliness and compromise
- Biblical evangelism to reach our state for Christ

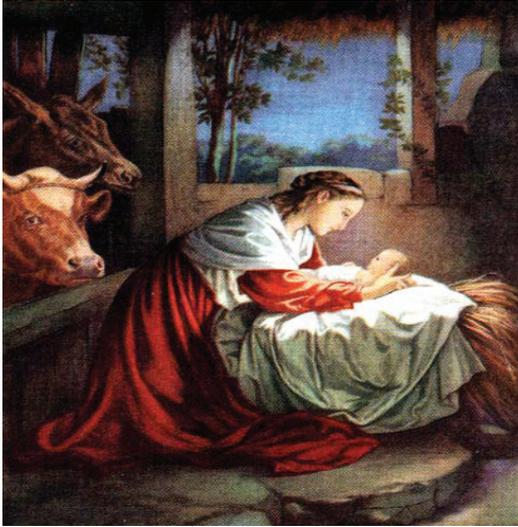
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The birth was over. He was minutes old. Even though trembling from shock and exhaustion, His mother was tenderly washing Him and wrapping His tiny body in swaddling clothes, the garb of newborns.

She instinctively pried open His hands to count five little fingers. He drew them back to His chest in protest. She straightened a leg and held out a tiny foot to look at His toes. Again, He protested the exposure by drawing up His knees, assuming a familiar fetal position. She lifted Him up close to her face and touched His cheek and listened to His steady breathing. His skin was so soft. He was perfect.

Her husband had helped her through the birth as best he could. Earlier this evening when they had arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room in the inn. The only shelter he could find was in a stable the inn keeper had offered. At

least he could make her a bed of dry clean straw. Gratefully, with the baby in her arms, she now lay down in the straw and let it envelop them. Its smell was refreshing—one of the room's few pleasant aromas. Her husband moved behind her and took a cow out of its stall and filled its feed box with more of the straw. He suggested that she might lay the baby in the box so she could rest, but she wasn't ready to part with Him yet.

She had wrapped Him in a blanket and pulled it back to expose His face to hers. Cradled in her arm, He slept. A lantern so dimly lit the room that she could barely see Him. His head which she now held in the cup of her hand, was crowned in downy dark hair. His brows knitted as he squeezed His eyes tightly against the feeble light. Would she ever get used to His magnificence? That He was God's son? She was holding the Messiah, the one Whom Israel had waited centuries for. She tried to speak but could not. Instead she listened as her mind filled with the words of the ancient prophets. She personalized them:

You shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto You the throne of Your father David. You shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of Your kingdom there shall be no end. And the government shall be upon Your shoulder: and You shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. And of the increase of Your government and peace there shall be no end.

Overwhelmed, tears spilled from her cheeks onto the baby's. She drew Him close to her as if to protect Him. Her mouth quivered, as her mother's heart could not bear to think about Isaiah's words: *He shall grow up as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; He will have no form nor comeliness; and when they shall see Him, they will not desire Him. He will be despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; He will be despised; they will not esteem Him. But He shall be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; and with His stripes we will be healed.*

She was bewildered by how she would rear this baby. How would she be the mother of Israel's Savior and King? Her husband Joseph knelt down to comfort her. Silently, they looked at the infant. It seemed they were the only ones in all the world who knew that unto all men had been born that day, "a child...a son...a Saviour...Christ the Lord?" "And his name shall be called..."

"Jesus," Mary finally said His name out loud.

At the sound of her voice, the baby opened His eyes. Like all newborn babies, He could neither focus nor speak, but her soul heard, "Be still and know that I am God."

This story is from a collection of Bible stories that Anita Fordyce of Hope Baptist Church, Hanover, has written for her church and family. It is her prayer that this story will bless your holiday season.

Now with the above in mind and with the understanding that this is a voluntary association that highly respects and protects the autonomy and sovereignty of each and every church in governing its own affairs, we find our association of churches provides:

- A fellowship among churches of like precious faith
- A united voice for fundamental Baptists in Pennsylvania
- A sharing of information on the issues of the day
- A coordinating of our vision for establishing fundamental, autonomous, separated, independent, Baptist churches
- An encouragement to individual churches in time of need or in an emergency
- A blanket provision for our churches of the 501 (3) (c) exemption status with the Internal Revenue Service

And our association is able (by the financial support of the churches) to have a fulltime state representative and a part-time secretary. It is beneficial to know what this state rep. does so the following few items kind of help describe the position and responsibilities:

- He is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week to offer help, counsel and prayer to our churches.
- He is called by pastors, deacons and churches to work with them through difficulties they are facing and/or experiencing.
- He is able as he is contacted and asked to pass on to all the churches any urgent prayer requests via the email list in his office.
- He is available to travel across the state to fill pulpits when pastors are away or for special occasions.
- He is able to help Pulpit Committees as they begin their search for a new pastor and occasionally fills their pulpits.
- He works for and with the PARBC Council of Ten for the well being of the fellowship of churches.
- He works with the C-10 Program Committee for our Spring & Fall Conferences
- He works with the Pastors & Wives Retreat Committee in securing special speakers and makes arrangements for the retreat location..
- He works with the Youth Retreat & Talents for Christ Committee as they plan each year's event.
- He works with other good, sound organization for the well being of our churches and the cause of Christ – such as the Keystone Christian Education Association in Harrisburg.
- He edits and sends out the Keystone Baptist quarterly newsletter to the churches and many individuals electronically via email.
- He is the web-master that keeps the association's website updated at www.parbc.org
- He keeps an updated Directory of Churches and circulates a new edition annually.
- He serves on the Executive Board of Pennsylvania Baptists for Life and Families, Inc., a pro-life and pro-family ministry of the PARBC: www.pabflf.org and www.actionlineforlife.org
- He works with interested churches in considering and eventually becoming a part of the PARBC.
- He is accountable to the PARBC and its Council of Ten.

With a little better understanding of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches and its state representative, I trust you will find opportunity to support us in prayer and in financial gifts through your local church. We do need to work together as we determine, by God's grace, to stand steadfast in the faith. At least now you can say, "I know you!" "Oh, I know about the PARBC!"

Keystone Christian Education Association

by Dr. Ted Clater, Executive Director

(taken from) SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '14 NEWS NOTES

IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE 2013-14 LEGISLATIVE TERM. All but two activities are complete:

(a) The Governor has a number of bills on his lap for signature or veto. (b) There is a very outside chance that “lame duck” (post election) session days could be conducted to address legislation that might be passable under Corbett and the current office holders but not under a new governor and/or a new batch of new legislators (due to changes in philosophy compared to the current office holders). Here is a summary of “where we are.”

Relief from Government Control of Children’s Ministries. We did not succeed in getting votes on this issue, being opposed by: (a) Career bureaucrats in the Department of Public Welfare; (b) Secular, for-profit agencies that insist that their philosophy of child rearing should be imposed on religious institutions; (c) Democrats and Establishment Republicans who prefer bigger government; and (d) Several SE PA Republican Senators and staff in the governor’s office who did not want to allow a vote on our issue lest their political opponents run some half-truth political ad against them, asserting that they were endangering children. The election results will foretell our chances in the next two or four years in the legislature.

Somewhat related to, but “opposite” this issue of controlling ministries to children, both President Obama and governor candidate Tom Wolf are strongly advocating universal public school pre-school. We have not had to “fight” this issue for the past four years. We may need to dedicate resources to this effort in the near future as the issue is both a direct and indirect threat to Christian education.

Protect and Improve the EITC/OSTC Programs. The programs have been saved from the budget-cutting axe. HB 91 has been enacted to allow more businesses to participate and to increase the opportunities to “spend” all allocated moneys. A separate e-mail summary is being distributed.

Protect Marriage. In Pennsylvania, like in other places, a federal judge has declared our laws as unconstitutional. Our government officials did not contest the decision, and no legislative effort is on the horizon.

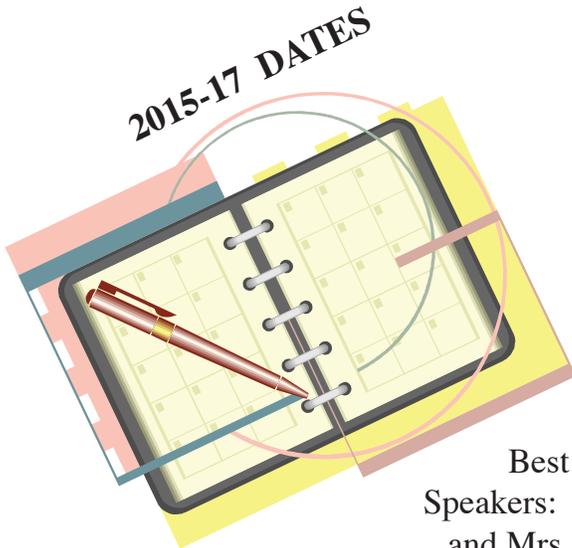
Protect Against Adding “Sex” Behavior to the List of Hate Crimes. SB 300 / HB 300 are dangerous bills for our liberties. The bills have been stopped but will be back. Additionally, the alternate lifestyle community are regularly seeking to implement their agenda through local initiatives (cities, counties, etc.).

Protect Against Taxation of Religious Ministries. For decades churches and other religious bodies have had to demonstrate compliance with the five-part HUP criteria embraced by the PA Supreme Court in 1985. A new case came down in 2011; and in the current economic climate, many taxing authorities are taking a more aggressive stance. A separate e-mail summary is being distributed.

Enact Free Enterprise Policies. Several key efforts did not get enacted, and the next office holders will determine our future prospects. Issues include: (a) The level of taxes upon the citizens and business (and the “size” of government), (b) Prevailing Wage (allow government to contract for work that is not at union wages), (c) Pension Reform (high wages and benefits to government workers, (d) Privatizing the State Store System (get government out of the booze business), (e) Paycheck Protection (discontinue government collection of union dues), (f) Strengthening the Public School Education Monopoly (adding \$billions of new funding), and (g) Obama-itis (easing the harmful impact of various initiatives, as possible, including, Obamacare, immigration, Common Core, etc.).

KB Editor’s note: the recent elections within the legislature has these results:

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Future PARBC Activities

Pastors & Wives Retreat – February 2-3, 2015*

Best Western Country Cupboard Inn, Lewisburg
 Speakers: Dr. Rand Hummel, Dir. Wilds of New England
 and Mrs Anita Fordyce, Hope Baptist Church, Hanover

Spring Conference – April 13-14, 2015*

First Baptist Church, Ebensburg
 Hosts: Pastor Doug Barclay & Congregation

Youth Retreat & Talents for Christ – April 17-18, 2015*

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg
 Hosts: Pastor Timothy Smith & Congregation

Fall Conference - September 14-16, 2015

Dexter Baptist Church - Wellsboro
 Hosts: Pastor Jim Truax & Congregation

Spring Conference – April 4-5, 2016*

Calvary Baptist Church, New Stanton
 Hosts: Pastor Richard Sementilli & Congregation

Fall Conference – September 12-14, 2016*

Bible Baptist Church, Shickshinny
 Hosts: Pastor Donald Thomas, Jr. & Congregation

Spring Conference – April 24-25, 2017*

Hope Baptist Church, Hanover
 Hosts: Pastor Allen Harris & Congregation

Fall Conference – September 11-13, 2017*

Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church, Wellsboro
 Hosts: Pastor Keith Williams & Congregation

**These dates are not necessary if the Rapture has taken place!*

Next Town Evangelism Church Projects

Pittsburgh – Pastor Denis Rew (Restoration Baptist Church)



Community outreach: On Halloween night, groups from three churches were able to come and help us serve the people in our community in a small and meaningful way. We had 4 groups passing out safety glow sticks (which was perfect for a dark and somewhat rainy night) along with literature about our church. The kids were very excited for the glow bracelets and necklaces, and the parents were very receptive of the literature. Dennis and another volunteer were also able to pass out over 100 bags of candy and literature to all the employees who were working that night. They were very appreciative of the candy and that someone was thinking about them. It was a reminder to us that simple acts of kindness and love really make a difference in how people receive the message of the Gospel.

This Saturday, we are planning on getting out into the community with a Rake and Bake. We will be raking leaves for residents while providing them with some baked goods as well. Pray for good weather, volunteers that would be able to help us, and a fruitful day showing our community the love of Christ.

Children's Bible Hour: God opened the door to be able to use the recreation room at the park across the street from our house. After much prayer and thought, we felt God was burdening us to use this room for a children's ministry. We have more children in our neighborhood than any other neighborhood in the city. So, starting Sunday, January 4th, we will be hosting a Children's Bible Hour. Every Sunday at 10:30am children from K-6th grade can come and sing songs, learn Bible verses, play games, and hear a Bible lesson. We are excited for God's leading in this. Please pray for us over the next 2 months as we plan and prepare. Also, pray that children will be interested in coming and that parents will show an interest as well. We have already heard of kids who would like to come, but it will be up to the parents to allow them to.

Bible distribution: This week, we began distributing New Testaments door-to-door. To be honest, we weren't sure how this would go or what the reception would be, but if the first 3 hours are any indication, it will be a profitable opportunity to get God's Word into the hands of people who want it and let them know who we are as a church. In each Bible is an invitation to our weekly Bible study and an evangelistic study we will be starting up at a local restaurant in January.

Rejoicing and Praise: Recently, we were considering the words of the prophet Samuel when he said, "only fear the Lord and serve Him with all of your heart, for consider what great things He has done for you." As we consider all that God has been doing in Brookline, it can only cause us to fear and serve Him more and more. We give Him praise for those we have been able to share the Gospel and demonstrate the love of Jesus to. We are excited to see what things God has for us this winter. Thank you for your support.

Wellsboro – Pastor Keith Williams (Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church)



As the seasons change, we reflect on what has been accomplished at MCFBC. We are amazed that God provided the means to replace a very old roof and leaking gutters. The building looks great and is ready to accommodate the work of the Lord for decades to come.

In July, we were blessed by a concert by a group from Pensacola Christian College that brought over 100 people to gather with us and to enjoy homemade ice cream, too. We have recently concluded our year-long chronological study through the Old Testament and have begun a

study of Revelation and other prophetic books that will give us insight into God's plan for the future. Dr. Larry Oats, Dean of Maranatha Baptist Seminary, was with us in September. Last Sunday we added a new member to our church; Jeanie has been attending since July and has already been a great blessing to us by her faithfulness and servant's heart. We look forward to a visit this weekend from Bev Simpson, a missionary our church has supported for 35 years.

Our average attendance this summer was 32. We can remember weeks a year ago when attendance was sometimes in the single digits on Sunday mornings.

A very important prayer request is for our first attempt to hold revival / evangelistic meetings Saturday, November 1st, through Wednesday, November 5th. The church has not held one of these meetings in nearly a decade, but is excited about what God will do. Our evangelist is Brett Gellos, with wife Kaity and their three children.

We also continue to ask God for a mini-bus with handicap access. Thank you all for taking our church before the throne of grace.

Legislature Election Results:

Senator Joe Scarnati (R-25) has been nominated again to serve as **President Pro Tempore**. The full Senate will vote on Scarnati's nomination when it reconvenes in January. As President Pro Tempore, he will be responsible for appointing the chairpersons and members of the standing committees of the Senate. He will also play a significant role in legislative negotiations with the Administration and House of Representatives. A native of Brockway in Jefferson County, Scarnati was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 2000. A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University at DuBois, the Senator is a third-generation small business owner and served in local government.

Senator Jake Corman (R-34) will serve as **Senate Majority Leader**. His duties include overseeing the legislative agenda, developing policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, chairing the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and playing a key role in floor debates. He will also have a major role in negotiating issues with the Administration and House of Representatives and in supervising action on the Senate floor. Corman previously served as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESIGNEE: Rep. Mike Turzai (28th District, Allegheny County) is ending his second term as majority leader. He was first elected to the House in 2001 and previously served as whip during the 2009-2010 legislative session. In 2006, he was elected Republican Policy Committee chairman.

MAJORITY LEADER: Rep. Dave Reed (62nd District, Indiana County) was first elected to the House in 2002. He is currently serving his second term as the Policy Committee chairman. Reed has also served as chairman of the House Republican Campaign Committee since 2009.

Be in prayer for the new session of our PA Legislature as it convenes in January.



PA House of Representatives

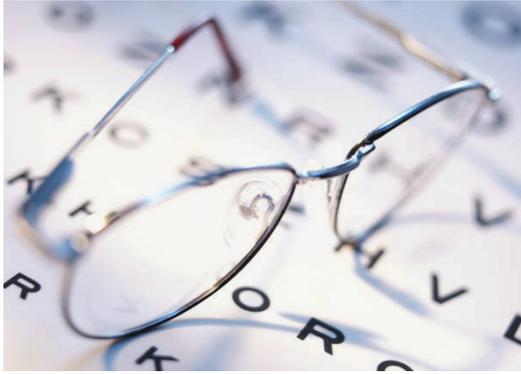


PA Senate Chambers



PRAY FOR CHURCHES SEARCHING FOR A NEW PASTOR

Calvary Baptist Church, Athens
 Faith Baptist Church, Bradford
 First Baptist Church, Corry
 Andrews Settlement Baptist Church, Genesee
 First Baptist Church, Grove City
 First Baptist Church, Hallstead
 Sharon Baptist Church, Hermitage
 Jersey Mills Baptist Church, Jersey Mills
 Acre Lake Independent Baptist Church, Kingsley
 Calvary Baptist Church, Union City



RESOLUTIONS

Honoring the Holiness of Our God

Whereas Holiness is the basic, immutable essence and character of the God of the Bible, the sum of all His perfections, the mark of His unique divine perfection (I Samuel 2:2), so that He is holy in His Person, in all His works and ways (Psalm 99:9; Isaiah 6:3; John 17:11; I John 1:5), therefore, Holy is His Name (Job 6:10; Luke 1:49); and

Whereas as an absolutely Holy God, He is completely separate from evil in His Person and work, and His Holiness remains unaltered by His interactions with man, His fallen creation or Satan, so that He is the absolute moral Governor of the universe; and

Whereas Holiness is the source of God's perfect righteousness and justice, He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and all sin must be paid for in full (Ezekiel 18:4); and

Whereas no sin, evil, or unrighteousness is acceptable in His presence, He warns all those who reject His salvation of their eternal separation from a Holy God (John 3:18,36); and

Whereas He is holy, He is the absolute and eternal enemy of sin, evil and Satan, hating all sin, evil and unrighteousness (Habakkuk 1:13); and

Whereas He seeks Holiness in His people, He sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins, so that we being made the righteousness of Christ (II Corinthians 5:21) are reconciled to a holy God, through His shed blood (Colossians 1:21,22); and

Whereas He seeks holy living in all believers in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior, because He has made us new creations (II Corinthians 5:17) to live holy lives (I Peter 1:16) as a testimony of our faith in Him and demonstration of God's standard of Holiness (Genesis 39:9),

Be it therefore resolved that we, the messengers of the churches of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Faith Baptist Church, State College, Pennsylvania, September 15-17, 2014, do declare and affirm that God, as He has revealed Himself in His Word, is the absolute and eternal measure and standard for Holiness, by both demonstration in Christ (John 8:46) and in principle.

Be it further resolved that we be devoted to upholding His standard for Holiness in a world bent on undermining such basic principles of Scripture and strive to teach and live Biblical Holiness personally, as well as proclaim it in all our ministries that we might be a faithful witness to the true character of our God before a broken and corrupt world.

Be it finally resolved that because our God is Holy, we will honor Him with all praise and worship, for He alone is worthy and He is our song (Exodus 15:2; Psalm 96:1-8,118:14; Isaiah 12:2).

Resolution Regarding the Attacks Upon Christianity and Judaism

Whereas we have witnessed the growing attraction of Baptists towards the adoption of some of the tenets of Reformed Theology, including elements of amillennialism and post-millennialism, which deny a future for Israel in favor of the Church, leading to the denial of God's plans for an Israeli nation, the condemnation of the present nation Israel and increasing support for a Palestinian state being taken out of Israeli territory (Gen 12:1-3, 13-15; Psa 122:6); and

Whereas the increasing support for the Palestinian cause in the Presbyterian Church USA, the Episcopal Church, etcetera, is typical of the antisemitism that is already increasing worldwide; and

Whereas we recognize the oppression and terrorism against those who profess to be Christians in Middle Eastern countries, including the destruction of church buildings, the kidnaping of young women, the beheading of babies, much of which remains unreported in America; and

Whereas in our own nation, we have witnessed the growing acceptance by our society of those practices the Bible marks as evil and abominable in the sight of God, including homosexuality, perversion of marriage, acceptance of drug and alcohol use, including the acceptance of social drinking in some Evangelical and Baptist circles; and

Whereas, we attribute most of the degradation of America to the acceptance and governmental imposition of social engineering programs over the last 50 years, such as multiculturalism, advocacy for Socialism/Marxist philosophies and principles, preferential treatment for religions other than Christianity such as Islam, homosexuality and gender neutrality, lawlessness and lawmaking in defiance of our Constitution and the usurpation of the God-given prerogatives of all citizens, but particularly believers in Jesus Christ and His Church,

Be it therefore resolved that we, the messengers of the churches of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in Faith Baptist Church, State College, Pennsylvania, September 15-17, 2014, do hereby reject all theologies and flawed systems of hermeneutics which deny God's future plans for Israel, according to His promises, and that we openly express both our personal, as well as church support for Israel and their rights to all the land that God has promised to them.

Be it further resolved that while we recognize that not all who identify themselves as "Christian" are true believers in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior; nevertheless, we acknowledge that their sufferings come because of their willingness to bear His Name and the hatred from others who are enemies of Christ and Christianity, resulting in their abuse and deaths.

Be it finally resolved that we will not be silent about the changes foisted upon our society by the abandonment of Biblical principles and values by our governments that rob the people of their God-given rights. While we recognize the signs of the last days, we are still bound to "preach the Word" and press for the fulfillment of the Great Commission until our Savior comes again. Meanwhile, the task of making Christ known still relies upon the faithful witness of all believers and Church ministries that are true to God's Word. Secular programs will always be inferior to the work of the Church.

As we approach the end of another year and approach the beginning of another, Judy and I want to thank you with all of our hearts for your continual outpouring of love and generosity throughout the year.

We pray that as we serve the Lord with you that we will keep our eyes and hearts focused upon Him with the same diligence as the Wise Men who searched diligently for the King. Perhaps this will be the year that we see His return.

*Love,
Paul & Judy Connor*



Pennsylvania Baptists for Life & Families, Inc.

Action Line for Life & Families 570-376-2584

www.pabflf.org

100 Babies Aborted Today In Pennsylvania



Would you help us fight this terrible tragedy by:

- **Praying ?**
- **Giving ?**
- **Volunteering ?**
- **Training ?**

Please call, Pennsylvania Baptists for Life & Families at 570-376-2584