



A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Love Without Boundaries

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

This is an amazing passage where Paul uses the analogy of a human body to explain the make up of God's church. He explains that the many members of God's church are like the many parts of a body. These members unite to create one functioning church just as the many parts of a body unite to form one body. He goes on to say that when we were baptized, the barriers of society no longer apply to us within the body of Christ. This is to say that while the world may still place certain labels on us as individuals, we no longer see each other that way. In other words, there should not be any difference of economic class, race, nationality, culture, or any other social barrier in the church God has built. We are to view each other as one in the same as a unified family of God working together for His purposes.

Sadly, this is not the case in many American churches today. Exclusivity has marked most churches today in a way that makes it hard and confusing for honest seekers to find their way to God. It's hard to read the New Testament and reconcile the message of "love for one another" when so many churches are not holding to the standard of an all encompassing love for each other. It has become common to see an all white and an all black church across the street from one another. Some may justify this by saying they just feel more comfortable worshipping with people from their own social circle, but this is exactly what Jesus didn't want. He wants us to reach out of our comfort zones and love each other deeply and sincerely being completely united regardless of our social statuses. After all you would never allow one part of your body to discriminate against another part of your body. Instead they would work together in harmony to accomplish its work.

While we are far from perfect, it is truly amazing to see what God has built in the Great Baltimore Church of Christ. We are a loving family of many diverse social, economic, and international backgrounds. We represent more than 30 different nationalities from all over the world, both rich and poor, and people of all ages who are a united and loving family. It is rare today to find such a diverse collection of people who love each other. We should be proud of what God has built here in the GBCOC. I hope and pray that God is glorified every time someone new sees the GBCOC simply because it is a testament of His all encompassing love for His people. As the body of Christ we must continue to love without boundaries so that God's church will continue to shine brightly in this dark world.

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Things to Remember

Communion Bread Baking Class

Mobeka's Home (Patrick & Rita),
3128 Stiles Way, West Friendship, MD 21794
(410) 489-7818
Saturday, April 20, 2013
9am

Father Daughter Banquet

Saturday April 20, 2013
Martin's West
6817 Dogwood Rd Baltimore, MD 21244
6:00pm-10:00pm
Registration is open online at: gbcoc.net

Middle School Ministry Parent Lunch

Be sure to mark your calendars!
April 28, 2013
Long Reach High School
Cafeteria
Immediately after service

2013 International Campus Ministry Conference- East

"Bent On Conquest"

Registration is now open!
hereamisendme.net
July 4-7, 2013
Orlando, FL
Guest Speakers:
Ed Anton, Glenn Petruzzi, and A.T. Arneson
Cost: \$90 per campus student
\$85 per high school senior
*Special HOPE worldwide Benefit
Concert on July 4th!*- Cost: \$10

HOPE Story Tree Gang

The HOPE Story Tree Gang is looking for teens and campus students to perform with them in Baltimore on April 29, 2013 Contact Cjay Philip at cjayphilip@gmail.com

New England Singles' Retreat "Even Greater Things"

Join singles from across the New England region for a encouraging weekend of spiritual enrichment!
Woodstock, Vermont
April 20-22, 2013
Registration and details can be found at: bostoncoc.org/event/singles-retreat

Singles Beachstock Weekend

Registration is now open!
beachstockx.com
May 24-26, 2013
Guest Speakers: Sam & Cynthia Powell
First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach
Cost: \$70, until May 1
Price includes special performance by Speech from Arrested Development!

National Volunteerism Week!

April 21st-April 27th is National Volunteerism Week and we are asking each small group to choose a service project to do during this time. Also choose a project leader(s) to communicate with our HOPE Coordinator CJay Philip about your plans by April 18th. If you have trouble choosing a project, contact CJay and she can help connect you to a project best suited for your group. cjayphilip@gmail.com Many thanks for your hearts of service!

Connect with us on the web:

<http://www.gbcoc.net>