



22 February 2013

Upcoming Events

Wednesday-Friday, 6-8 March – MACSA Bible Quiz Retreat, Black Rock Retreat, Lanc. Co., PA

Friday, 8 March – 2013 FJS Spring Banquet at Shady Maple Banquet Center. **EARLY DISMISSAL: 12:00 noon. There will be NO LUNCH period on this day.**

Friday, 15 March – NEW DATE for rough draft for Science Fair research

Monday, 25 March - Monday, 1 April – Spring Break. **NO SCHOOL.**

FJS Mission Statement, Part 2

*Followers of Jesus School exists to provide a quality, academic education **from an Anabaptist perspective** to Christian families in the Cypress Hills community. Our mission is to partner with parents in equipping their children to become lifetime learners who embrace Truth and become servant-leaders.*

What does it mean for an FJS education to be from an "Anabaptist perspective"?

One of the questions we get from time to time is "Why are you *against* Baptists?!" We are **not** against Baptists. The prefix "ana-" does not mean "against," but "again." Anabaptists in the 16th century were "again baptized" or baptized a second time as adults after their initial baptism in the Roman Catholic church or the state church as infants. Based on their understanding of the New Testament, they believed that one should only be baptized after he/she had made a conscious decision to follow Jesus, usually as an adult. Although today we also baptize children and young people who accept Jesus as their Savior, we sometimes call this "adult believer's baptism." While Baptists, Pentecostals, and many independent Bible churches also practice adult believer's baptism, today the Amish, Mennonites, and various Brethren groups are typically considered Anabaptists.

The Mennonite church has its roots in the Anabaptist movement of the 16th century. A Menno Simons, a catholic monk, was its founder. The 500th anniversary of the Mennonite Church may be celebrated in 2025.

There are several distinctives which characterize the Anabaptist movement. First, and primary, is acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior for the forgiveness of ones sins and recognizing him as Lord of ones life and choices.

This results, secondly, in a commitment to living a disciplined Christian life separate from the practices of a godless world. This is practiced in many different ways. For the Amish, it is choosing to live in community without the benefits of electricity and motorized transportation. For many, it is expressed through distinctive dress so as to not get caught up in the immodesty of modern fashion. Many Anabaptists avoid contemporary media and entertainment because of the lifestyles portrayed in them. While the "disciplined life" takes many different forms, for each of the various groups there is a strong emphasis on living, not just knowing, the teachings of the Bible.

Anabaptist groups have a strong service mentality. Every place they have gone, they have worked to better the communities where they have lived. Christian schools, hospitals, community centers, agricultural projects, drilling wells for fresh water, and disaster relief such as is happening in Far Rockaway, Staten Island, and New Jersey, are just a few of the ways in which Mennonites have impacted their communities. In each case, the purpose is to share the message of Jesus and his love through acts of service and making friendships.

Anabaptists are also a people of peace. As such, they chose not to participate in the armed forces or the police force where they would be required to carry deadly weapons. Many also chose not to sue their neighbors or others when wronged, choosing rather to suffer loss for the sake to Jesus to maintain open doors of friendship and communication. Here at FJS, we work diligently with your children to help them to learn a lifestyle of peace and forgiveness rather than aggression and revenge.

Followers of Jesus School is committed to teaching the Word of God to our students from this Anabaptist perspective. In a world overrun with violence and godless lifestyle choices, FJS wants to partner with families to raise godly children who will be a contribution to our churches and community. Thank you for permitting us to teach your children the way of peace and discipleship.

Your partner for godly children,
James E. Gochnauer, Principal