

A View from the Summit

(Biennial Mission Summit Wrap Up and Supreme Court Same-Sex Marriage Ruling Commentary)



Dr. David Carrico

The 2015 Biennial Mission Summit was an American Baptist gathering at Overland Park, Kansas from June 26-28. The summit highlighted transitions, challenges and changes, including a report regarding the search process for a new general secretary. Roy Medley will be retiring from that leadership position at the end of 2015. The present search committee discontinued their work because of a high level of dysfunction and a new search committee will be established in 2016. Other board of general ministries' items included the formation of a United Mission task force to increase the awareness of United Mission without changing the concept.



Aidsand Wright-Riggins will be retiring from the leadership of the American Baptist Home Mission Society on October 31, 2015. Jeff Haggray, a unanimous choice by the search committee, will succeed Wright-Riggins in that leadership role.

Reid Trulson celebrated the strong American Baptist values of doing and being a missional people. In the spirit of affirmation and celebration, there was a reminder of the 2016 World Mission Conference on July 3-9, 2016 in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Trulson will retire from the International Ministries' board at the end of August 2016. The International Ministries' board approved an executive director succession plan.

The music for all the sessions was grand, and our own Claire Dent of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) was part of the music leadership at each session. The preaching expressed a focus on social justice issues, racism and sexism with an emphasis on our multicultural Baptist family.

The issues pressing in on our gathering, and of great interest to the West Virginia Baptist Convention was the United States' Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage. On our website there is a statement that was shared during the Biennial meeting. One of the most helpful places for guidance is the Christian Law Association (www.christianlaw.org). As a reminder, *please make sure your church has a stated building use*



policy in your ruling documents. Keep the wording simple and direct, and note churches are not public institutions receiving public dollars. One of our West Virginia Baptist Convention staff members said it well in citing that there is another part of the

majority decision that should give us comfort as religious leaders. Justice Kennedy, in his writing for the majority, expressly cited *the First Amendment protections for churches and clergy who object on religious grounds, stating that neither could be forced to perform ceremonies for which they had religious objections. This citation makes these protections as much the law of the land as the main point of the opinion.* It may be challenged, yet it is the official opinion of the court.

Let us not panic, but rather *use this opportunity to proclaim the truth of the love of Jesus!*

As always, if you have questions or need support in doing ministry, please contact us at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office at 800.879.9822 or 304.422.6449. You can find us on the web at www.wvbc.org.

*Blessings,
David Carrico
Executive Minister*

West Virginia Baptist Camp Cowen

by *Rob Ely*, Director of Discipleship,
Camping and Youth



Vol. LXXXII, Issue 05 August-September 2015

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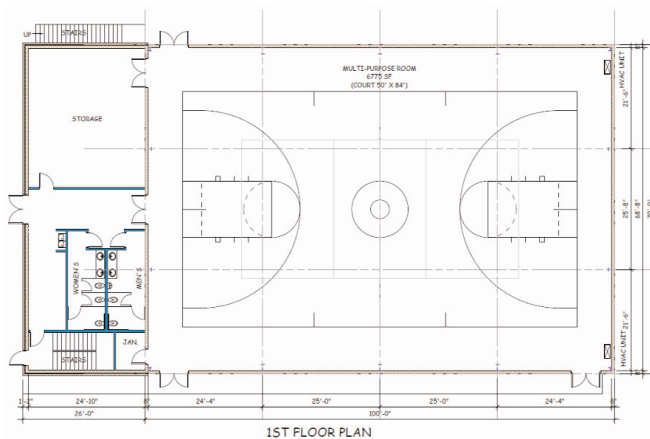
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Leadership Center Coming to Camp Cowen

The *Sunny Day Leadership Center* will be a great addition to the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen facility. It will be a full-size gymnasium, along with a large meeting room, showers and a kitchenette. This activity building will help the Baptist camp meet the constantly changing needs of each camp.



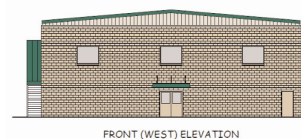
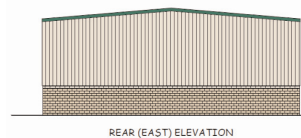
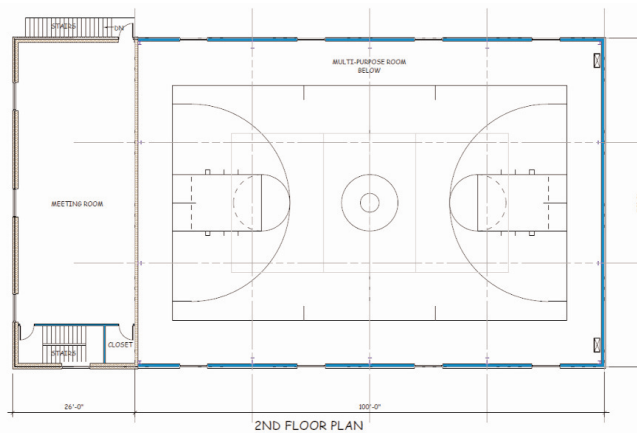
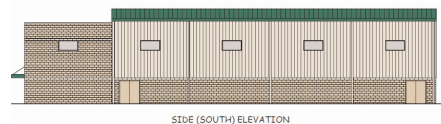
The school calendar continues to squeeze the summer and the camping ministry is trying to change to continue to reach as many campers as possible. Part of the dream is for the facility to be equipped to handle two camps at one time. A possible example would be 150 fifth and six grade campers and a high school camp with an additional 150 more at the same time.

This new facility will allow them to share pool and meal times!

The *Sunny Day Leadership Center* will be dedicated to all individuals who have been important to the ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen.

This training facility will create a new teaching space, open possibilities of off-season tournaments, reach the community of Webster County and provide space when it rains at Cowen ... and it does rain at Cowen!

Please pray and think about how you can support this new addition that will increase our facilities and ultimately be a place "Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith!"



Growing Together in God's Work

The **Mountain State Mission Offering**, along with United Mission are the financial pillars that support our mission together. Without the generous support of these offerings, our mission would face serious reductions.

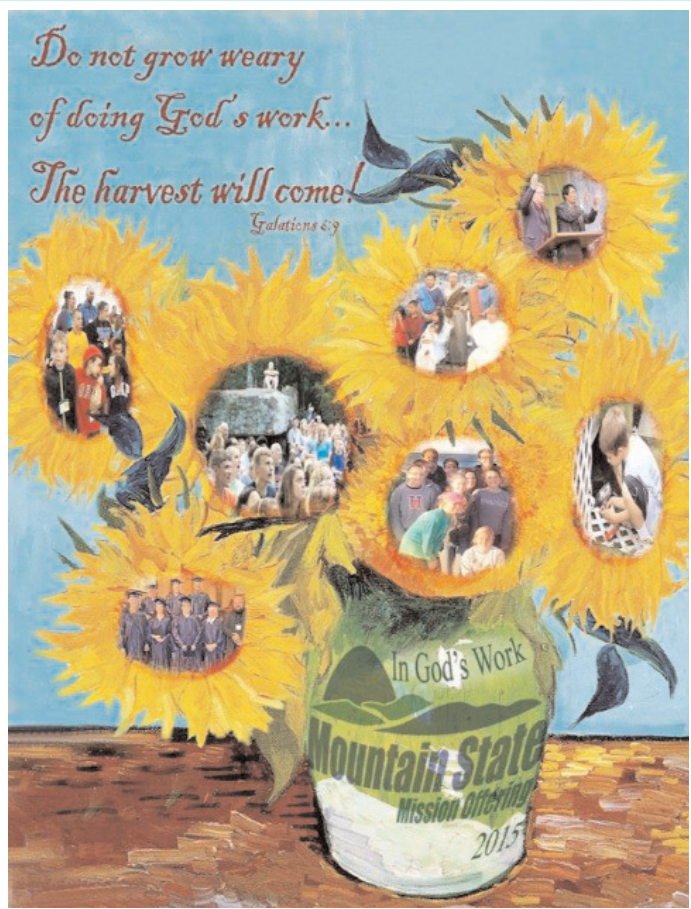
When I think about all we do in partnership across our region, I cannot imagine the West Virginia Baptist Convention without our Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen, Parchment Valley Conference Center, Area Ministry, Hispanic Ministries, School of Christian Studies, etc. I am thankful the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and their membership care enough about God's call to mission partnership to support the work we do together in prayer with generous giving.

On behalf of our staff, God has called to serve the churches of the Convention and on behalf of the thousands of people that grow closer to God because of our work together - THANK YOU for your support of the **Mountain State Mission Offering**.

*John Simmons,
Associate Executive Minister Missions and Administration*

**100% Supporting the Missions and Ministries of the
West Virginia Baptist Convention.**

Received to date: \$100,000



Weirton Christian Center: Life-Changing Times for the Summer

*by Kim Weaver,
director, Weirton Christian Center*

Weirton Christian Center has been blessed by the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte) mission team this summer! Many needed repairs and maintenance issues were handled and a beautification project included painting indoors and out as well as landscaping around the center. What a group of hardworking servants for the Lord - the teens and their leaders. They were truly a blessing to our programming and with the children also. We would love to have them back any time as well as any other groups willing to come share their talents and service. With 75 children here during the same week as the 21 on the mission team, it was quite a bustling place. We also have another team coming from Fairmont between programs to paint and help stuff 750 backpacks for the back to school bash. We are truly blessed.

At the center, we are also sending kids from first grade through high school to camp each week. In the first three weeks of camp, we sent 78 children to Elkhorn Valley Christian Camp on "Jesus Loves You" scholarships; 32 of those attended in one week. These are life-changing times for the summer.

Afterschool begins on August 19, 2015 and we are looking to building up our depleted quarters for grades fund. Keep those collections going - it means so much to our kids to be acknowledged for their schoolwork. We are still moving forward on the "**BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT**," and with more funds coming from foundations and grants, we are closer than ever.

We are counting on our Baptist family to complete the home-stretch so the building can go up with the 40% match and no debt. Please remember to designate any donations to the "**BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT**."

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and prayers, and giving us the ability to make a difference in the lives of all the children we serve. We could not do what we do without the ongoing support for our ministry from West Virginia Baptist churches and American Baptist Women's Ministries' circles.



Members of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church Mission Team arrive at Weirton Christian Center ready to serve.

Hispanic Ministries: Giving up Prejudices - Renunciar Prejuicios

Early followers of Jesus quickly discovered the Spirit was leading them beyond their religious, ethnic, social, economic and political limits to reach strangers with the gospel. They grasped that faithful participation in God's mission demands self-denial, relinquishment of prejudices and love of neighbor. Just like us, early disciples were slow to learn and often reluctant to act.

In Acts 10, Luke relates a key episode by which God challenges His church to dismantle ethnic, cultural and religious prejudices. Cornelius, a Roman citizen and a top official in the Roman army, lived in the seaport city of Caesarea. Caesarea was the center of the Roman administration for the province of Palestine and its culture and religion were pagan. Jews were not fond of Caesarea, in fact they despised it.

Cornelius was a devout, generous man of prayer who feared God. One day while praying, Cornelius clearly saw a vision in which an angel assures him his prayers and gifts to the poor had caught God's attention. Then the angel gives detailed instructions for Cornelius to contact Peter; he has a message he needs to hear. Cornelius does not hesitate to obey and immediately shares his vision with three trusted servants and sends them to look for Peter (Acts 10:1-8).

The following day as Cornelius' delegation journeys to fulfill its task, Peter receives an obscure and confusing vision. In his vision, Peter sees a large sheet containing all kinds of clean and unclean animals descending from heaven, and a voice directs him to "kill and eat." For Jews, dietary laws were no trivial matter; they were central to their identity. Their laws stated a clear distinction between what was holy and unholy, clean or unclean and pure and impure. What's more, these laws led them to reject other people and nations. Peter is scandalized and fiercely opposes the command, "By no means, Lord; I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." (Acts 10:13) Peter recognizes the voice giving the order is the Lord's, yet he refuses to obey.

The Lord, however, engages Peter and responds: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." (Acts 10:15) No doubt, God is calling Peter beyond his comfort zone to relinquish the ethnic, cultural and religious prejudices driving him to avoid contact with Gentiles; His call is so urgent He repeats it three times (Acts 10:16).

When Cornelius' messengers arrived at Peter's home, he was still pondering the meaning of his vision. And the Spirit instructs Peter to welcome them and go with them without hesitation. Peter opens up to God's activity and takes a bold step by welcoming and offering them hospitality (Acts 10:19-23). God

was about to reveal to Peter that he must not regard any group of people as profane or unclean.

The next day, Peter goes to Cornelius' home. As he arrives, he hurriedly makes sure Cornelius, his relatives and close friends understand the only reason he is there is because God sent him. If it were up to him, he would have nothing to do with them; they are uncircumcised, unholy and unclean. By then, Peter had grasped the meaning of his vision and declares, "God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean." (Acts 10:28)

As Cornelius retells his vision, Peter sees "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from - if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open." (Acts 10:34-35) Then, as Peter tells them the story of Jesus, the unexpected happens, the Holy Spirit is poured on them. Peter and his companions are astounded that the gift of the Spirit is given to those they viewed as unclean and impure. Grace reaches Cornelius and his household and they are baptized (Acts 10:45, 48).

We live in times of great debates and polarization. And today, like then, God's people still grapple with prejudice. Prejudices and cultural biases hinder our mission efforts. For instance, a recent survey by the Public Religion Research Institute reveals among religious groups there is, particularly white evangelical Protestants, a majority (53 percent) who view immigrants as a threat to traditional American customs, and only a minority (33 percent) say they are a strength to society. In other words, we see immigrants not as an opportunity to share God's love, but as a threat to our way of living.

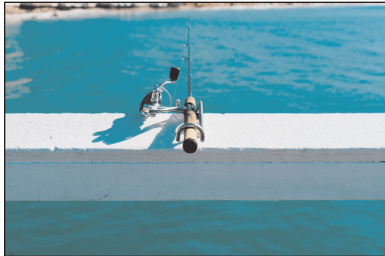
On the other hand, I know many others whose biases and negative views of immigrants were transformed once they personally met and learned the story of an immigrant. They have discovered that among immigrants we have sisters and brothers of incredible faith, courage and hope who dare coming to the United States because they trusted God was guiding them.

I realize giving up prejudices is a difficult task. Just like Peter and the early church, we need the work of the Spirit and God's grace in our lives. The good news is when Jesus promises the Spirit will empower us to be His witnesses across the globe, He implies the Spirit will challenge and shatter our prejudices - if we allow Him - so we can be the people God has sent us to be. A people bearing good news for everyone everywhere.

*Juan Aragon
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

by **John Simmons**, Associate Executive Minister
Missions and Administration

Gone Fishing



When I was a teenager I would go out at night after it had rained and collect night crawlers. My brothers and I would gather as many as we could and sell them to the local bait shop for a penny each.

When I was in high school, my grandfather, who was always looking for the next big deal, thought having a worm farm would be a great business opportunity. So we helped him convert his shop into what would become his worm house. He built worm boxes and filled them with bedding and his brood stock of worms.

To supplement the bedding, he decided to add composted cardboard. He got empty appliance boxes from Montgomery Ward and shredded them for compost. He would wet the cardboard pile and the decomposition process would begin. After the heat cycle, he added the material to the bedding. Grandpa did not know the composting process takes two heating cycles - so the first batch of worms died from the heat the composting cardboard emitted.

He was not deterred by the setback. He started over with a new batch of worms and was soon shipping Canadian Grey Night Crawlers to bait shops across the country. Business was good. However, when his heater failed in the winter months, his worm business was finished as the entire inventory was frozen.

Grandpa would be amazed at the bait business today. The worms I sold for a penny each are now selling for \$3.00 a dozen. Local worms are rare as the stores bring in their worms from large worm farms.

I recently bought a dozen night crawlers and was intrigued by the motto on the box: *"We will catch fish or die trying!"*

As I thought about this motto, I could not help but think about the church. When Jesus called His first disciples He told them they would become fishers of men. He then commissioned them to go into the world and make disciples of all nations.

As Christians, as the church, we should be so committed to making disciples (catching fish) that we are willing to risk everything to accomplish this purpose. We are to catch fish or die trying.

Committed to Missions

Camp Global 2015



Destination: World

Family Mission Camp

September 4-6, 2015
Camp Cowen

Cost: \$90 per person
\$350 maximum per household
\$40 Saturday only

Programming for children, youth and adults!

Camp begins Friday,
September 4 at 6:00 p.m.
and concludes Sunday,
September 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Schedule

Friday

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Opening, Music and Introductions
7:30 - 8:00 p.m. - Vespers - Mark and Lynne Stauffer
8:15 - 9:00 p.m. - Store and Evening Activities for All Ages

Saturday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Hands-On Activities
10:30 a.m. - Gathering Music in Hylibert Hall, Bible Study and Discussion Groups
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Gathering Music, Rick Gutierrez, South Africa
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Elective Options
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Conversations about Mission "Calling"
4:30 - 5:00 p.m. - "Arriba!"
5:30 p.m. - Dinner
6:30 p.m. - Intergenerational Games
7:15 p.m. - Vespers - Mark and Lynne Stauffer

8:00 p.m. - Store and Evening Activities for All Ages

Sunday

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 a.m. - Gathering Music, Adult Study, Youth Activity, Children's Activity
10:30 - 10:45 a.m. - Break
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Gathering for Worship, Sermon - Krickwin Marak
12:00 p.m. - Lunch



Bible Study Leader:
Ray Schooler,
International Ministries ABC-USA



Missionary Guest:
Rick Gutierrez,
Missionary to South Africa



International Guest:
Krickwin Marak,
Garó Baptist Convention, Northern India

Details and registration available online at www.wvbc.org. For more information, contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.

Adult Discipleship: Spiritual Formation - Active Repentance

The first facet of spiritual formation, reflective reading of God's Word, the Bible will lead a growing Christian's into facet number two, which is **active repentance**. Reflective reading helps us to know and understand who Christ is and what His nature is. As growing Christians, we want to intentionally become more Christlike. Becoming Christlike means realizing our humanness and sin each day and the need to confess each day. Repentance is more than a one-time event that happens when we accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. Confession and repentance are continuous, intentional acts of the growing Christian.

While there may be prayers of general confession and repentance during worship services, each Christian must come to God individually and acknowledge their sin and shortcomings during private prayer times as well. Confession comes out of an inward search of our souls, hearts and lives and the comparison to the standard of Jesus and His teachings. Confession comes from our realization we have missed the mark and need our sins to be forgiven. While we may live a "good" life, all of Jesus' followers are in need of forgiveness and grace.

Think about this story: *A Native American and a white man were deeply moved by the same sermon. That very night the Native American received Jesus as his Savior, but for days the white man refused to accept Christ. At last he, too, repented and enjoyed the sweet peace of having his sins forgiven. Later, he asked his Native American friend, "Why did it take me so long, while you responded right away?"*

"My brother," he replied, "I can best explain it by this little story: At one time a rich prince wished to give each of us a new coat. You shook your head and replied, 'I don't think so; mine looks good enough.' When he made the same offer to me, I looked at my old blan-

ket and said, 'This is good for nothing,' and gratefully accepted the beautiful garment. You wouldn't give up your own righteousness. But knowing I had no goodness of my own, I immediately received the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness."

Psalm 32:1-8 says: "Happy are those whose **transgression is forgiven**, whose **sin is covered**. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long**. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; **my strength was dried up** as by the heat of summer. Then **I acknowledged my sin to you** and I did not hide my iniquity; I said **"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord and you forgave the guilt of my sin."**

Sin and unrepentance in the soul of the believer will destroy both body and soul. God provides each follower with a way to be clean, fresh, strong and blameless each and every day. We have the opportunity to confess to our Heavenly Father and He in turn promises forgiveness.

Active repentance allows God to work in and through us. Cleansed of the burden of sin, we are then able to be filled with the power and wisdom of God through the work of the Holy Spirit and will become more useful instruments for serving Christ.

Think and Talk about it!

How does it feel to have a good shower or bath after a day of working outside?

How could this feeling be compared to allowing God to cleanse you?

Why is it hard to confess our sins after we become Christians?

What do you need to do now to get in the habit of active repentance?

*Lisa Simmons
Associate in Mission Support*

Gray Resigns from West Virginia Baptist Convention as Baptist Campus Minister at West Virginia University



Rev. Tim Gray

Rev. Tim Gray, Baptist Campus Minister at West Virginia University, has resigned to become the executive director of a new campus ministry in Morgantown. His resignation will become effective July 31, 2015.

Tim has been a valuable and valued member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention's professional ministry team for nearly 13 years. Tim has done an outstanding job of leading our campus ministry at West Virginia University. The West Virginia Baptist Convention has been blessed to have had Tim as part of our staff and we pray God's continued blessing for this new phase of his ministry.

Baptist Campus Ministries: Transitions

It has been a tremendous honor to work with **Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM)** for the last decade, first at University of Charleston as an associate, then at Marshall University as the state director.

I, like countless other college students, grew in my faith while attending **BCM** as a student. Jerry Losh was and remains a spiritual father for me. **Baptist Campus Ministries** is where I first began to sew roots as a new believer, so I cannot express in words the joy it has been to work with the fertile soil of the college campus. Over the years, I have had the blessing of journeying alongside amazing students who have had an inspiring passion to grow in scripture and share faith with their peers while in college.

As I transition into pastoring

Marshall Community Fellowship in Huntington, I look forward to continuing the journey as students transition into life after college. **Baptist Campus Ministries** will always have a special place in my heart. I am in awe of how God continues to move in this ministry. I am so excited for Rob Ely to join us in Huntington and for the ministry he will have as he takes on **BCM**.

Thank you so much for the privilege of allowing me to minister to college students for the last ten years. Thank you to all the churches and individuals who financially and prayerfully support **BCM**. Without you, this ministry, which is changing lives that change the world, could not happen.

*Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*

Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of West Virginia Baptists



150th ANNUAL MEETING of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Thursday, October 15 - Friday, October 16, 2015

Hurricane First Baptist Church

2635 Main Street,
Hurricane, WV
25526

Scripture Verse:

Philippians 3:13b-14

“But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



Guest Speaker:

John Upton

Executive Director, Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Virginia Baptist Mission Board in the United States and President, Baptist World Alliance



Annual Sermon Speaker:

Maxwell Hill, Jr.

West Virginia Baptist Convention



Executive Minister:

David Carrico

West Virginia Baptist Convention



Worship Leader:

Marsha Raker

Music Ministry Director, Oakwood Baptist Church, Charleston

Annual Meeting Insert

A	Worship Leaders
B	Schedule
B	Letter from Host Pastor
C	Fellowship Opportunities
D	Pre-Convention Activities
D	Delegate Registration

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to *empower* local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and to help them to fulfill their mission by *enabling* them to do together what they cannot do alone.

SCHEDULE:

Thursday, October 15

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Convention Activities

2:45 p.m. Session 1 - Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Clark Swepstun

Ward Hibbs Award - Richard Creehan

Annual Sermon - Max Hill

Business Meeting 1 - Clark Swepstun

5:00 p.m. - Dinner Break

Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet

6:30 p.m. Session 2 - Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer -

Sandy Phares

School of Christian Studies'

Graduation

Keynote Speaker - John Upton

8:30 p.m.

*Alderson Broaddus University
Reception*

Friday, October 16

8:30 a.m. Session 3 - Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Mark Wood

Executive Minister Address - David Carrico

9:45 a.m. - Workshops and Front Porch Discussions

9:45 a.m. - Workshop Session I

10:30 a.m. - Break

10:45 a.m. - Workshop Session II

12:00 noon - Lunch Break

*Luncheon Opportunities
West Virginia Baptist
Historical Society
Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon
Palmer Theological Seminary
Luncheon*

1:45 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Meet and Greet

2:45 p.m. Session 4 - Sanctuary

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Clark Swepstun

Business Meeting 2 - Clark Swepstun

James Anderson, Sr. Pastoral Ministry Award

Installation of Officers

Keynote Speaker - John Upton

Communion



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF HURRICANE
*Connecting People
to Jesus Christ*

2635 Main Street • Hurricane, WV 25526
PH: 304.562.9281 • FAX: 304.562.2061
www.firstbaptisthurricane.com

To the Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention:



On behalf of the congregation of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), I invite you to come participate with us in the 150th annual meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. This is truly an historic occasion. On Thursday and Friday, October 15-16, 2015, we celebrate the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the churches for the past 150 years as we look forward to service God still has for us to do.

I cannot help but wonder how many men, women and children were influenced by our congregations to receive forgiveness of sin and eternal life through Jesus Christ over those 150 years. Only God knows the full impact these believers have made and are still making to the glory of God in West Virginia and throughout the world. I know many who now live and serve God throughout the United States and around the world whose spiritual birthplace is West Virginia.

The Apostle Paul reminds us of the profound responsibility that is ours today as he uses the images of growing a crop and constructing a building to charge us to be faithful to the Great Commission and to be careful to build on the one and only true foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."
I Corinthians 3:7-12 (NIV)*

We thank God for the privilege of being "planters and waterers" with you. What a privilege it is for all of us to see God make things grow!

Come celebrate with us what God has done, what God is doing today and what He shall do until Christ returns. Always remember when Jesus returns in glory, we will experience new heights of what it means to celebrate for all eternity.

Warmly inviting you,

Ronald L. Stoner, Interim Pastor
Hurricane First Baptist Church

Local Arrangements Committee



(Left to right) front row - Melissa Vickers, Jenny Tincher, Ginny Hart, Carl Callison; middle row - Mattie Clay, Debbie Hubbard, Joyce Moore, Phil Bradley; top row - Ron Stoner, Debbie Wertz, Doug Phillips, Bob Hubbard

LODGING OPTIONS:

Teays Valley Exit:

Hampton Inn
511 West Virginia 34,
Hurricane, WV 25526
304.760.7292

Holiday Inn Express
Winfield
4218 State Road Route 34,
Hurricane, WV 25526
304.757.7177

Cross Lanes
Comfort Inn
102 Racer Drive,
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
304.776.8070

Holiday Inn Express Hotel
and Suites
410 New Goff Road,
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
304.769.5818

Holiday Inn Hotel and
Suites
3551 Route 60 E,
Cross Lanes, WV 25504
304.733.3338

Sleep Inn and Suites
15 Goff Crossing Drive,
Cross Lanes, WV 25313
304.776.7711

Barboursville

Best Western Huntington
Mall Inn
3441 US Route 60 E
Barboursville, WV 25504
304.736.9772

Hampton Inn
1 Cracker Barrel Drive,
Barboursville, WV 25504
304.733.5300

DIRECTIONS: Hurricane First Baptist Church, 2635 Main Street, Hurricane, WV 25526

From the East:

Take I-64 W to exit 34 (Hurricane). Take a left to RR 34. Take a right and go to the second light. Take a right and the church is on the left past the fire department.

From the West:

Take I-64 E to exit 34 (Hurricane). Take a right to RR 34. Take a right and go to the second light. Take a right and the church is on the left past the fire department.

From the North:

Take I-77 or I-79 S to I-64. Take I-64 W to exit 34 (Hurricane). Take a left to RR 34. Take a right and go to the second light. Take a right and the church is on the left past the fire department.

From the South:

Take I-77 N to I-64. Take I-64 W to exit 34 (Hurricane). Take a left to RR 34. Take a right and go to the second light. Take a right and the church is on the left past the fire department.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, October 15

Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet

Location: Forest Burdette Methodist Church,
2548 Putnam Avenue,
Hurricane, WV 25526
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10.00

Purchase tickets in the registration area or contact Tracie at 800.879.9822 or temerick@wvbc.org to R.S.V.P.
Contact: Rob Ely - 304.532.3166 or ely@wvbc.org
Shuttle provided.

Alderson Broaddus University Reception

Location: Hurricane First Baptist Church -
Hospitality Area
Time: 8:30 p.m. (Following the end of the evening session.)

Cost: Free
Refreshments will be served.
Special music by The West Virginians.
Contact: Judy Barnard - 304.457.6321 or barnardjh@ab.edu

Friday, October 16

West Virginia Baptist Education Society

Location: Mount Vernon Baptist Church
2150 Mount Vernon Road,
Hurricane, WV 25526
Time: 7:30 a.m.
For members only.

West Virginia Baptist Historical Society

Location: Milton Baptist Church
1123 Church Street, Milton, WV 25541
Time: 12:15 p.m.
Cost: \$10.00
Shuttle provided.

For information and reservations, contact Sally Cyrus at 304.522.1030 or sllcrs10@gmail.com.

Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon

Location: The Greenhouse,
3554 Teays Valley Road #105,
Hurricane, WV 25526
Time: 12:00 noon
Cost: \$10.00
Shuttle provided.

Contact: Lynne Stauffer at lestuff2@suddenlink.net
Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting registration form.

Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon

Location: Hurricane First Baptist Church -
Fellowship Hall
Time: 12:00 noon
Cost: \$10.00

Contact Person: Allan Copenhaver -
304.765.5442, 304.765.5811 or allancopenhaver@yahoo.com

Delegate Registration

Registration Fee:

Please use a separate form for each person. (Copy as needed.)

Name:	
Name on Tag:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
E-mail:	Phone:
Church:	
Association:	

Delegates **MUST** have this form signed by church clerk or pastor.
Clerk or Pastor signature:

(Please check the meal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with your total registration. Registration packet and meal ticket(s) will be available for pickup at the annual meeting registration area.)

	\$20.00 Delegate and Visitor Fee (REQUIRED)
	\$30.00 - Members Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$35.00 - Non-Members Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$10.00 - Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon
	Total Enclosed Make checks payable to WVBC and mail to: Annual Meeting Registrar, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Child Care:

Please check appropriate box(es). List names and ages of children.

Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 15



Women's Day - American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

Theme: Faith in Motion

Speaker: Rhonda Reed and

Debbie Myers

Location: Hurricane First Baptist Church

Registration: 9:00 a.m. - program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Lunch: Will be provided for \$6.00.

Nursery provided for preschool children.

Contact: Kathy Hudson - kathykayhudson@gmail.com



Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council

Location: Milton Baptist Church, 1123 Church Street, Milton, WV 25541

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Anthony Headley

Topic: Emotional Health for Leading Effectively

Cost: Members - \$30.00,

Non-Members - \$35.00, includes lunch

Contact: Dr. Mark Stauffer - markstauf@suddenlink.net

Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting registration form.



American Baptist Men

Location: Tour of Putnam Toyota Plant

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shuttle departs from Hurricane First Baptist Church at 9:00 a.m.

Cost: \$10.00

Contact/R.S.V.P.: Frank Miller at miller@wvbc.org or 304.372.3675

Giving Flowers as a Sign of Life in Christ

by Casey Dawson,
pastor, Sunrise Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

As an outreach and American Baptist Women's Ministries marriage opportunity, Sunrise Baptist Church planted and delivered over 100 flower boxes to local mothers. I use the word "marriage" as a play on the relationship of the two whose idea and leadership brought about this wonderful ministry opportunity. Our outreach pastor, Scott Shawver, and his wife, Cindy, our American Baptist Women's Ministries' leader, married their ministries for a wonderful outreach to our community.

The week before Mother's Day 2015, 20 volunteers transformed flower pots, planting soil, rocks and flowers into beautiful displays of Christ's love. Then, on the Saturday preceding Mother's Day, 17 volunteers delivered the flower pots to mothers in our local community. With each flower pot was a note saying we wanted to share God's love and appreciation for the mothers in our community. We also invited them to inform us of any small projects our church could take on and help them with.

This ministry is an example of how serious we are about being the hands and feet of Jesus, fulfilling our mission of "Creating new beginnings in our community by loving God, serving others and transforming lives in Jesus' name!"

Third Season of Transformation Event to be held on November 14, 2015



Tom Mercer,
pastor, High
Desert Church,
Victorville,
California

The West Virginia Baptist Convention has been engaged in a series of events called "A Season of Transformation" over the last two years. This has been one of the convention's efforts to help our churches, large and small, to find ways to fulfill their mission, renew their ministry and reach their full potential.

These events have been held at Parchment Valley Conference Center and have centered on the theme of congregational transformation. They have been led by church consultant, Mike Bonem of Houston, Texas, and denominational executive, Tim Brown of Growing Healthy Churches (formerly ABC of the West).

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 at Parchment Valley Conference Center, we will celebrate the third and final event of the series. Tom Mercer, pastor of High Desert Church, Victorville, California, will be our guest speaker for the day. Tom has been a successful pastor and High Desert Church has grown rapidly under his leadership and continues to be a leader in its region.

Tom's teaching will be centered on the "Oikos Principle," which he describes in his book, 8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think. That book will be available for free to our first 100 registrants. (Registration details will be published later.)

Pastors, deacons and other church leaders are invited to join us for this important time together. As a special incentive, we are offering this event at a special price - FREE! That's right, because we believe it is that important, we are offering this conference at no cost to you or your church. Mark your calendar now for this special time of learning.

Ministers' Wives' Retreat

November 13-15, 2015
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Six Simple Steps:

Find Contentment and Joy as a Ministry Wife

by Diana Davis



The weekend will be led by some of our own ministry wives who will guide us through each chapter of Six Simple Steps. It is recommended that you purchase a copy (paperback or Kindle) at www.lifeway.com or www.amazon.com. We will also enjoy extracurricular activities. Join us for an inspirational weekend of learning, sharing and fellowship.

2015 Ministers' Wives' Retreat Registration Form

ONE FORM PER PERSON.

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Church/Organization: _____

Roommate(s): _____

COST: Please check the appropriate box below:

_____ \$105.00/Single occupancy - includes lodging, meals and program

_____ \$75.00/Double occupancy - includes lodging, meals and program

_____ **TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED**

Mail registration form with check enclosed and payable to: The Ministers' Wives' Fellowship, no later than October 26, 2015 to:
Lynne Stauffer, 2606 E. Parkview Dr.,
Saint Albans, WV 25177.

Cottle Ordained as Deacon

On June 7, 2015, at Fairview Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Mr. George Cottle was ordained as a deacon with Rev. Mike McCoy, pastor, delivering the charge to the candidate, Mr. Ted Rogers, fellow deacon, delivering the charge to the church and Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, conducting the laying on of hands ceremony.



Pictured left to right are: (first row) Brian Mitchell, Sandra Cottle, George Cottle; (second row) Jeff Young, Jim Anderson and Mike McCoy

Ninth Annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble Held

The 9th Annual West Virginia Baptist Churches for Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble was held May 2, 2015 at Greenbrier Hills Golf Course in Rainelle to support the ministries of the House of Hope in Cochabamba, Bolivia. On a beautiful day, nine teams, including the following churches were represented: Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), two teams from Millbrook Baptist Church (Hopewell), Page Baptist Church (Fayette), Send the Light Fellowship (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Tonedá Baptist Church (Rockcastle) and a couple of local independent churches. First place was claimed by Crab Orchard Baptist Church, second place by Page Baptist Church and third place by Sewell Valley Church. A first for our tournament: Mike Nelson from Page Baptist Church, who has been on many mission trips to Bolivia, recorded a hole in one!

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, and director of the tournament, stated that over \$1,700 was raised including hole sponsorships by Page Baptist Church, Days of Nehemiah Ministry and Great Lakes LLC in Ashland, Kentucky.

Trading Post

FREE: HAMMOND ORGAN. Must be picked up in Leon. For more information, please call 304.419.0644.

WANTED: MAPS OF THE WORLD, UNITED STATES AND STATE FOR CAMP GLOBAL 2015. Please mail your map(s) to West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn: Joan Hall, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.

2015 Association Meeting Schedule

- **Broad Run Association** on August 20, 2015 at Fisher Baptist Camp
- **Coal River Association** on September 26, 2015 at Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church
- **Eastern Association** on August 23, 2015 at Little Capon Baptist Church
- **Elk Valley Association** on August 22, 2015 at Stump Chapel Baptist Church
- **Fairmont Association** on September 13, 2015 at West Warren Baptist Church
- **Fayette Association** on September 23, 2015 at Page Baptist Church
- **Good Hope Association** on August 16, 2015 at Mill Creek Baptist Church
- **Goshen Association** on August 16, 2015 at Independence Baptist Church
- **Greenbrier-Raleigh Association** on August 4, 2015 at Fairview Baptist Church
- **Guyandotte Association** on September 24, 2015 at Camp Ona
- **Harrisville Association** on August 4, 2015 at Auburn Baptist Church
- **Hopewell Association** on September 12, 2015 at Quinwood First Baptist Church
- **Judson Association** on September 20, 2015 at Shinnston First Baptist Church
- **Kanawha Valley Association** on September 24, 2015 at Starcher Baptist Church
- **Little Kanawha Association** on August 6, 2015 at Grantsville First Baptist Church
- **Logan Mingo Association** on September 27, 2015 at Williamson First Baptist Church
- **Panhandle Association** on September 20, 2015 at Agape Baptist Church
- **Parkersburg Association** on September 15, 2015 at Sunrise Baptist Church
- **Teays Valley Association** on August 17, 2015 at Highlawn Baptist Church
- **Twelve Pole Association** on September 19, 2015 at Ebenezer Baptist Church
- **Union Association** on September 27, 2015 at Philippi Baptist Church

Leadership Updates

DR. JAMES ASH to Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette) as pastor on June 28, 2015

REV. DWIGHT BROHARD to Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as minister of Administration and Finance on May 25, 2015

REV. CHARLES LEISURE to Smithville Baptist Church (Harrisville) as interim pastor on June 1, 2015

REV. JANA RAINES to Two Runs Baptist Church (Good Hope) as interim pastor on May 17, 2015

DR. MICHAEL C. STEPHENS to Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg) as interim pastor on April 1, 2015

MR. PATRICK VINCENT to Plum Run Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on June 1, 2015

Fall Golden'eers Conference

Theme: Fall Kick-off

September 14-16, 2015
Parchment Valley Conference Center

\$10.00 discount for First-Timers!

Bible Study Leader:
Dr. Lloyd Hamblin

Entertainment:
Southern Gospel Quartet

Highlights: Southern Gospel Music - Madison Group Quartet, Sports Tailgate Party, Firepit/Campfire

The conference will begin on Monday with registration at noon in the Santrock Building and end on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

For more information, visit www.wvbc.org.
If you have questions, please contact Valma at adams@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.

The conference is planned for those who are at least 55 years of age.

Brothers' Keeper 2015: Building a Sense of Community

Another year, another amazing week of service at **Brothers' Keeper** 2015! During the last week of June and the first few days of July, a massive crew of youth and adults traveled to Parchment Valley Conference Center to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Each day, over 150 campers from West Virginia and Ohio spread out like a small army across Jackson County. Work included painting, constructing wheelchair ramps, weeding, tearing down and rebuilding decks, tarring roofs, pressure washing walls and so much more.

One can't help but be reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 20:28, when He says "... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." How often do you see a group of young people devoted to serving others, the smiles on faces when passersby notice the **Brothers' Keeper** logo on the work shirts and vacations sacrificed to work in unpredictable and often uncomfortable conditions?

Brothers' Keeper builds a sense of community among those served, those serving and in the local community. Community is more than just a concept: it is lived out in every aspect of the **Brothers' Keeper** ministry.

The impact on the local community is obvious when



Retired Ministers & Mates' Fall Meeting

October 6, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center
in Hill Hall at 11:30 a.m.

A complimentary luncheon will be served. Sponsored by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

Please reserve your space by contacting
Mrs. Linda Carpenter at 304.863.8890 or
llecgrandma@yahoo.com.

traveling around the region. One night during the week as things were winding down, some of the youth were a little rambunctious at the local grocery store. A concerned senior citizen asked with a stern look, "Where are these kids from?" "**Brothers' Keeper!**" they answered. A big smile broke out on her face, "Oh, let them go. They deserve a chance to let loose with all the good they do in this area."

The effect on those served is apparent as the teenage repair crews help maintain homes for those who are unable to due to physical or financial hardships. A bond develops between the youth and the homeowners, who are always surprised to see such a young, enterprising and servant-focused group accomplish so much in a week of work. The tears shed at the end of the project are in recognition of a job well done.

It is easy to miss another important element of the **Brothers' Keeper** community experience: the youth and adults who are brought together from all over West Virginia and Ohio. They develop deep and lasting bonds as they work together to accomplish the work of Christ together. Through service, worship and fellowship those bonds bring them back year after year. Why? To serve. They truly learn what it means to be our "**Brothers' Keeper.**"

Frank Miller
Director of Operations,
Parchment Valley Conference Center

ELEANOR P. ANDERSON, formerly of Erie and North East, Pennsylvania, died June 19, 2015. She and her husband, Andrew, served churches as pastor and wife in Hazeltown, Pennsylvania; Oxford, New York; Freehold, New Jersey; Houlton, Maine; Madison; Beckley; and Levittown, Pennsylvania. Retiring to North East, Pennsylvania, Eleanor and Andy continued to serve churches in the area and helped to found Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Erie. She was active in American Baptist Women's Ministries in several states and played piano and organ and led choirs at many churches. She was a member of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania First Baptist Church and founded a women's group, now called the Marys and Marthas.

ROBERT EARL BROWN, 65, of Mineral Wells, died May 12, 2015. He was a member of Sam's Creek First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was church treasurer.

CHARLES RANDALL CARTER, 61, died June 18, 2015. He was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), where he was choir director. Previously, he shared the gospel and the ministry of music for over 20 years in Texas. He served in the United States Air Force at the end of the Vietnam War.

RUSSELL WAYNE DANIELS, 69, died June 18, 2015. He was a member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he served as a deacon.

RICHARD HAROLD DOTSON, 86, of Parkersburg, died June 19, 2015. He was a longtime member of Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and served as a deacon, trustee, Sunday school superintendent and devoted Sunday school teacher until shortly before his passing. One of his favorite activities at church was serving pizza to the Wirt County High School students on G.A.P. (God Answers Prayers) Thursdays. He served in the United States Navy from 1951-55 aboard the USS Aircraft Carrier Valley Forge.

DELORIS JEAN "TUMP" BOHRER EMCH, 79, of New Martinsville, died May 7, 2015. She was a member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle), where she taught Sunday school classes and was a member of the board of directors for Helping Hand.

JAMES H. FERGUSON, 85, of Summersville, died June 4, 2015. He was a member of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell).

DAVID LEE FISH, of Morgantown, North Carolina, died June 13, 2015. He founded the Diamond Hills Baptist Church in Mansfield, Ohio, and pastored the Hillcrest Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio, Red Bank, New Jersey First Baptist

Church and Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley). He served as president of the Ohio Baptist Convention (ABC-USA), worked with four wonderful congregations, led study groups in Israel, participated in preaching missions in El Salvador and Nicaragua and organized and led several Christian medical missions in the Dominican Republic.

CARRIE GAY, 99, of Diamond, died June 21, 2015. She was a charter and active member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for 68 years. She faithfully served as Love Gift coordinator.

RALPH EUGENE GREATHOUSE, JR., 43, of Wolf Summit, died June 6, 2015. He was a member of Reynoldsville Baptist Church (Judson), where he held the position of trustee.

LOIS JUANITA ARTHUR HALL, 95, of Oak Hill, died May 23, 2015. She was a charter member of Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette).

META EVA TENNEY HARRISON, 89, of Renick, died June 30, 2015. She was a member of Mount Hermon United Methodist Church. She was the mother-in-law of Southeast Area Minister James Anderson.

RUBY I. HAYNES, 93, of Charleston, died May 23, 2015. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 80 years. She and her husband, Austin, were charter members of the Christian Couples' Sunday School Class. She was a member of the Chancel Choir, the American Baptist Women's Ministries, was leader of several ladies' circles and was chair of the Deaconess Board. She was presented the "Honored Mother of the Year" at Emmanuel Baptist Church in 1986.

HERBERT NELSON "HERB" JACOBS, 76, of Morgantown, died May 9, 2015. He was an active member of Goshen Baptist Church (Goshen), serving as a deacon for several years. He was a United States Army Vietnam Veteran.

ELVEN LEE JONES, 73, of Vienna, died June 23, 2015. He was a member of Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg), where he served on various boards. He shared his beautiful singing voice with the congregation at Baptist Temple through solos, choral presentations and men's ensemble groups.

CLYDE EMERSON MCCLUNG, 92, of Reedy, died May 19, 2015. He was the eldest member of Reedy Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he served as superintendent and trustee and on the building committee for the new church. A veteran of the United States Army, he proudly served his country in France during World War II, where he was wounded and became a recipient of the Purple Heart. He also received the Good Conduct Medal,

the World War II Victory Medal, and the European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon.

BERA H. MILLER, 88, of Griffithsville, died June 17, 2015. She was a faithful member of Amy Baptist Church (Coal River) for over 67 years.

TED G. PENNINGTON, 86, of Big Chimney, died May 21, 2015. He was a lifelong member of Big Chimney Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he was a 60-year deacon. He served our country proudly and retired from the United States Navy with 30 years of service.

SHERMAN LEON RIFFLE, 75, of Wadestown, died April 24, 2015. He was a member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), where he had been a member for eight years. He took a very active role in all church activities.

BETTY JO SIX, 82, of Wadestown, died May 29, 2015. She was a member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she was very involved in all church activities, prior to her illness and an active member of the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

ELNORA BRAY TAYLOR, 87, of Marmet, died June 17, 2015. She was a lifelong member of Marmet First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she played piano and organ for over 50 years. She served on the music and decorating committees for many years.

PATSY ELLEN WATKINS, 77, of Kingwood, died May 1, 2015. She was a longtime, active member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen), having served as Sunday school superintendent, deacon and choir member.

JORETTA COCHRAN WESTFALL, died May 19, 2015. She was a member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) since her early teens, helping with the children's choir and Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, the Finance Board and American Baptist Women's Ministries, serving as secretary and treasurer for several years.

JOSEPHINE ANN "JO" WHITE, 83, of Hurricane, died, May 5, 2015. She was a member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley). She was very active in various ministries of the church, including children's ministries, mission circles, ladies aide and adult choirs.

MILDRED WICKLAND, 91, of Weston, died June 12, 2015. She was a member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where she was a Sunday school teacher, a deacon and member of the prayer group.

FLORELLA JUNE PERRY WORKMAN, 98, of Madison, died June 5, 2015. She was a lifelong member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River), where she was American Baptist Women's Ministries' circle leader, participating for over sixty years.

August 2015

AUGUST 1 - Max Hill, associate executive minister, Missions and Ministry, West Virginia Baptist Convention
AUGUST 2 - The ministry of Rock Grove Baptist Church; Benjamin Hall, pastor (Broad Run)
AUGUST 3 - Bill Morningstar, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
AUGUST 4 - Greenbrier-Raleigh and Harrisville Association as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 5 - The ministry of South Charleston First Baptist Church; Jody Pistore, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
AUGUST 6 - Little Kanawha Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 7 - The ministry of Beulah Baptist Church; Richard McDonald, pastor (Union)
AUGUST 8 - American Baptist Men's Camp this week at Camp Cowen
AUGUST 9 - Michael Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
AUGUST 10 - The ministry of Central Big Creek Baptist Church; Clifford Wilcoxon, pastor (Guyandotte)
AUGUST 11 - The ministry of Riverside Baptist Church; Michael Hanna, pastor (Teays Valley)
AUGUST 12 - Eric Hayslett, Baptist Campus Ministries' chair and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
AUGUST 13 - The ministry of Sutton Baptist Church; Allen Copenhaver, pastor (Elk Valley)
AUGUST 14 - The ministry of Elizabeth Baptist Church; Leary Vanhorn, pastor (Parkersburg)
JULY 15 - The ministry of Glen Falls Baptist Church; Bryant Bailey, pastor (Judson)
AUGUST 16 - Good Hope and Goshen Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
AUGUST 17 - David Carrico, executive minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
AUGUST 18 - The ministry of Open Arms Baptist Church; John Tinnel, pastor (Hopewell)
AUGUST 19 - Kathy Rice, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
AUGUST 20 - Broad Run Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 21 - Deliris Carrion-Rosa, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
AUGUST 22 - Elk Valley Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 23 - Eastern Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
AUGUST 24 - John Vetter, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
AUGUST 25 - The ministry of Helen Baptist Church; Danny Lusk, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
AUGUST 26 - The ministry of New Hill Community Church; Stephen Dodrill, pastor (Goshen)
AUGUST 27 - Butch Sheppard, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
AUGUST 28 - The ministry of Two Runs Baptist Church; Jana Raines, pastor (Good Hope)
AUGUST 29 - The ministry of Spruce Grove Baptist Church; Grover Morris, pastor (Rockcastle)
AUGUST 30 - Jorge Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to United Kingdom
AUGUST 31 - The ministry of Boothsville Baptist Church; Gerald Nuzum, pastor (Fairmont)

September 2015

SEPTEMBER 1 - Rhonda Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia
SEPTEMBER 2 - The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church (Union)
SEPTEMBER 3 - The ministry of Crany Missionary Baptist Church; James Walker, pastor (Rockcastle)
SEPTEMBER 4 - Camp Global this weekend at Camp Cowen
SEPTEMBER 5 - Cheryl Jones, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
SEPTEMBER 6 - Evan Arkell, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
SEPTEMBER 7 - Carole Sydnor, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nepal
SEPTEMBER 8 - The ministry of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church; Michael Wamsley, pastor (Broad Run)
SEPTEMBER 9 - Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
SEPTEMBER 10 - Debbie Higginbotham, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
SEPTEMBER 11 - Miriam Noyes, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
SEPTEMBER 12 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board Meeting today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
SEPTEMBER 13 - Fairmont Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 14 - Fall Golden'eers' Conference at Parchment Valley Conference Center
SEPTEMBER 15 - Parkersburg Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 16 - Zola Miller, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
SEPTEMBER 17 - Teays Valley Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 18 - The Fall Youth Rally this weekend at Camp Cowen
SEPTEMBER 19 - Hopewell and Twelve Pole Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
SEPTEMBER 20 - Judson and Panhandle Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
SEPTEMBER 21 - The ministry of Dunbar First Baptist Church; Jason Quintrelle, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
SEPTEMBER 22 - The ministry of Sand Fork Baptist Church; Philip Wilson, pastor (Little Kanawha)
SEPTEMBER 23 - Fayette Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 24 - Guyandotte and Kanawha Valley Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
SEPTEMBER 25 - The West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries' Spiritual Growth Retreat this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
SEPTEMBER 26 - Coal River Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
SEPTEMBER 27 - Logan-Mingo and Union Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings
SEPTEMBER 28 - Mylinda Baits, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean
SEPTEMBER 29 - The ministry of Macedonia Baptist Church; Terry Thompson, pastor (Twelve Pole)
SEPTEMBER 30 - Doris Toothman, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission

West Virginia Baptist Convention staff and missionaries listed are on the occasion of their birthday.

Coming Events

AUGUST

August 4

*Greenbrier-Raleigh Association
Annual Meeting*

Fairview Baptist Church

August 4

Harrisville Association Annual Meeting
Auburn Baptist Church

August 4

*Little Kanawha Association
Annual Meeting*
Grantsville First Baptist Church

August 7-9

American Baptist Men's Camp
Camp Cowen

August 8

*School of Christian Studies ADVANCED
Book of Genesis One-Day Class*
Parchment Valley Conference Center

August 8

Rally in the Valley (Free Youth Event)
Parchment Valley Conference Center

August 15

*School of Christian Studies Evangelism
(Mod-6) One-Day Class*
Parchment Valley Conference Center

August 16

*Good Hope Association
Annual Meeting*
Mill Creek Baptist Church

August 16

*Goshen Association
Annual Meeting*
Independence Baptist Church

August 17-21

*Palmer Theological Seminary: West
Virginia Program - M. Div. Program*
Parchment Valley Conference Center

August 20

*Broad Run Association
Annual Meeting*
Fisher Baptist Camp

August 21-25

*Palmer Theological Seminary: West
Virginia Program - M. Div. Program*
Parchment Valley Conference Center

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewobaptist@wobc.org or mail submissions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attention: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102. If you are submitting text, send typed copy only. We no longer accept handwritten text. We also accept hard copy and digital photos of 300 dpi (dots per inch). Please include a caption for your photo and your name and address if you want your photo returned.

Deadline for submission is the 3rd of odd numbered months.

The **West Virginia Baptist** is a newsletter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, associated with the American Baptist Churches, USA,

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102;
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Layout: Mrs. Donna Snyder

West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019



American Baptist Women's
Ministries

37th Annual

Spiritual Growth Retreat

September 25-27, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Living
Jeremiah 29:11-13

Speaker: Valerie Gittings

Music Leader: Doris Toothman

A registration form is available at www.avbc.org
and in the August issue of SEASONS.

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