

Hylbert Hall Renovations Made at Camp Cowen

These pictures provide a glimpse of the beauty uncovered in Hylbert Hall. With the removal of the loft, bathrooms and storage rooms, we have created a great space for teaching, worship and many other activities.

The addition of a 40 foot wide, 12 foot deep stage also created a great place for speakers and bands to share their God-given talents. This new space will allow for 350 people to be in chairs on the same level. The Camp Cowen Board also believes it would be a great place for weddings!

This project went extremely well, with many volunteer hours and Pray Construction, who worked very hard. Carpet was installed on the stage in October to complete the final parts of the construction contracts.

Now it is time for the West Virginia Baptist Convention to step in with volunteer labor and other necessary pieces to

complete the project. David Withers has already begun replacing and moving the electrical work, but will need some physical help. Shirley Layne is making curtains. A completely new paint scheme that resembles the inside of the Alice Randall Dining Hall has added to the beauty of the facility.



The Camp Cowen Board would like for you and your church to take inventory of stage lighting and sound equipment that might be used in Hylbert Hall. The plan is to install new video projectors, screens and other necessary equipment to create a great teaching and worship center for the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. If you have quality lights or sound equipment, please send your suggestions to ely@wvbc.org and I will contact you soon.

Rob Ely
Director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth



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

by David L. Carrico, Executive Minister



Vol. LXXXI, Issue 07 December 2014-January 2015

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Transition



Dr. David Carrico

America is in a period of rapid transition. Those of us who hold traditional values are living in what sometimes feels to be a hostile land. It is no longer easy to be a faithful Christian and have a strong witness to the truth of the gospel. Society has allowed history to be rewritten and values to be redefined. Pastors, with the support of their congregations, need to address controversial spiritual issues. We become confused as spiritual issues become politicized. The judgment call should be about those things that are spiritually correct rather than the popular topic of the day. Many folks have become frightened and are unsure how to behave as a believer. Intimidation and legal confusion cloud the truth surrounding our values. A good example is the annual holiday debate over the public display of a nativity scene. You have the right to display a nativity scene on your city, town or village public property. In a world that is at times scary, it becomes easy to pull back, hunker down and hide out to avoid criticism of our beliefs. We are called to engage our culture with the message of salvation. These days of transition help us sharpen and hold fast to what we believe and why we believe it.

A piece of junk mail arrived a few days ago. On the front of the envelope was printed in bold type, **Your Prompt Attention is Requested**. It contained an urgent request for a financial gift. What drew my attention was the **prompt request for action**. The sense of urgency drove the appeal. For many believers and churches, the sense of urgency for lost souls has passed and there is no concept of purpose and vision. For a new day of evangelism, our communities of faith should provide an

authentic alternative to the consumer mindset that has infected our society. Peter Drucker wrote, "Management is doing things right, leadership is doing the right things." The church needs to be in the leadership role as its primary reason is to worship God and to point people to Christ. Many times the church manages sin, but forgets to proclaim the message of redemption. Change is not a story in the Bible, it is the Bible! We are redeemed by Christ - He paid the price for our sin!

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention was a time of celebration of mission and ministry in the mountain state. It was a place of tool-giving and vision-casting, a place of relationship-building and resource-sharing and a place of empowerment by the Holy Spirit to be the people of God and transition from surviving to thriving. It was a good place to be!

Now, we are in a season of the celebration of the Incarnation of Christ and a new year filled with opportunities of looking in two directions - saying farewell to 2014 and welcoming 2015. As we have trusted God in the past, we can continue to trust His care in the new year. Of course, we do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future during these days of transition.

Remember the message of the angels at the birth of our Lord ... "*Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*" (Luke 2:10-11)

May you have a blessed season of Advent and a joyous New Year

West Virginia Baptist Convention News

Radcliff to Retire After 39 Years



Karen Radcliff

PARKERSBURG - Karen Radcliff has announced her retirement from the West Virginia Baptist Convention effective December 31, 2014. Karen leaves the convention support staff having worked in the office for over 39 years. She began her time with the convention as the administrative assistant for Mission Support June 1, 1975.

Karen has worked in various roles in the office over her long career.

From Mission Support, she filled in as bookkeeper before becoming the administrative assistant to executive minister, Doug Hill. She returned to the position of bookkeeper after a stint as office manager some years later. She has been bookkeeper for the past 15 years.

Karen has served four executive ministers and has witnessed countless changes in the office. She began working in the pre-computer age as the office did not get computers until the early 90s. She learned the craft of stenography at Parkersburg South High School, along with taking accounting classes at West Virginia University at Parkersburg.

Karen is married to Carl Radcliff and they have three adult children. They currently have two grandchildren and will

have a third before the year ends. Karen looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren after retirement.

Karen is a familiar face at our Annual Meeting as she has served as registrar for 35 years, only missing two meetings in that time. "It will be next to impossible to replace 39 years of corporate memory," said treasurer John Simmons about her retirement.

Karen is known for her willingness to do whatever is needed to help people. She is a dedicated employee who has served the convention faithfully. She is honest, hardworking and helpful.

When asked about her fondest memories she instantly replied, "The people." She expressed deep appreciation for the training she has received over the years and for the privilege to work with the churches of the convention.

Karen's last day in the office will be December 18. If you would like to send cards of congratulations, you may send them to: P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019. E-mails may be sent to her through the end of the year at radcliff@wobc.org.

"I took this job thinking that I would stay until I found something better," she said. We have been blessed that nothing better came along.

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering



The Importance of the Retired Ministers and Mates Offering

Following God's call does not come without sacrifice. Retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses often have limited options for adequately planning for the future. Medical problems, moves or the death of a spouse can also cause these leaders to find themselves far from the church family that once supported them.

The assistance you provide through a contribution to the **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** restores that lifeline and maintains an ongoing connection to the American Baptist Churches (ABC) family. Like anyone else, retired

ministers and missionaries experience stress and worry when faced with unexpected expenses. The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** exists to alleviate that stress, worry and the hardship - and also to say "Thank you for ..." the sacrifices our retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have made in order to serve us and God.

Join us to say "Thank you for ..." the countless ways ABC's retired ministers, missionaries and their widowed spouses have contributed to our congregations.

STATE GOAL: \$120,000

Parchment Valley Conference Center

by **Frank Miller**, Director of Operations,
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Parchment Valley Loves Its Volunteers!

Parchment Valley Conference Center loves its volunteers! The Parchment Valley experience is enriched by the hours of service our trusted volunteers provide each year. Volunteers come and spend anywhere from a few hours to several days helping to maintain the grounds, working special projects, remodeling, answering the phones, helping in the kitchen and providing office coverage for our staff. Volunteers come from near and far to invest themselves in the place “*where lives are changed*” so it will be available for years to come.

Twelve Pole Association Church Camp

The Twelve Pole Association church camp has adopted and maintains the Labyrinth project. They spend countless hours building, improving and maintaining the area, making it a lovely place for prayer and reflection across the seasons here at the valley.

Fairmont Association Work Crew

Work crews from the Fairmont Association have supplied skilled labor to complete projects that have remodeled and maintained our facilities. They are planning to return before year’s end to begin another project from our wish list. We thank the West Virginia Baptist Convention Area Ministers who send these wonderful and blessed groups to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Parkersburg Association Work Crew

A work crew from the Parkersburg Association cleaned and painted at the pool house, helping us to get ready for another busy summer. Another group from that association spent the day pulling weeds from around Hill Hall, a much needed project.

American Baptist Women

Our American Baptist Women not only provide funds for projects, but members regularly share wonderful photographs of the grounds as well as participating in group activities with us. They have also provided decorating skills to make the missionary house a beautiful, accommodating and comfortable place for our missionaries to stay while on furlough.

American Baptist Men

Volunteers from American Baptist Men have painted and installed new flooring in house #2 as well as responding to numerous emergency requests for assistance with projects including the bunkhouse and broken water lines.

We have a trained group of faithful office volunteers who come and spend scheduled weekends during the year taking care of guests, answering the phones and helping across the facility as needed.

There are many ways to get involved and support Parchment Valley Conference Center ministries. We are always open to hearing from those who love and appreciate this beautiful place and seek to help us provide outstanding service for our customers, who are a gift from God. Are you a volunteer? We would love to hear from you. We will be glad to tell you how you can connect with our volunteer group. We can schedule a time for you to come and go through our training and become a part of the Parchment Valley volunteer crew. Visit www.parchmentvalley.org or call 800.489.8564 and learn how you can be part of these mission opportunities.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10



South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) volunteer, Marty Hamilton (l) pulls weeds outside of Hill Hall.



Adam Paff, South Parkersburg Baptist Church works on bunkhouse beds.



Tom Dale, Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope) in the bunkhouse.



Greg Ramey (l), volunteer from the Twelve Pole Association work party.

Missions: It is Personal

I have just received official word that our friend Mario Morales has resigned his position with International Ministries (IM) for personal reasons. In his last post on the IM website, he expressed deep appreciation for the support he has received and for International Ministries. We have partnered with Mario and his work in Bolivia for over a decade and his resignation shocks us. It causes us to grieve.

You may be asking: "Did he get fired?" "Is he alright?" "What can we do?" You ask those questions because you care. You ask because of a personal stake in the work in Bolivia because of a relationship with Mario. Let me assure you, IM was just as surprised at the resignation as we were. So, you can know he was not fired. While Mario did not give details about his current situation, he did ask that we keep his family in our prayers during his transition. It is obvious that what we need to do is to support Mario with our prayers and to respect his privacy.

The House of Hope and other ministries we have supported will continue. These ministries will continue to need

our financial support and visits. While Mario helped build these ministries, they have always belonged to God and God continues to be in control.

The financial support we have been giving to keep Mario on the field is no longer needed for Mario. However, that should not give us an excuse to stop giving or to reduce our missionary support. There are many other missionaries and endorsements that need our financial support. Lisa and I would love to share suggestions with you as you build your 2015 budget.

I can think of no better way to honor our friendship with Mario than to continue to support the projects and to begin a relationship with a new missionary.

God's mission does not stop when there is a personnel change. God's call to us to get involved and support missions is personal.

Committed to Missions

Pastor Frank,

Just a note to thank you for the wonderful ministry of Brothers' Keeper who continues to minister to and bless our city of Ravenswood and her surrounding communities.

Last Thursday, July 10, 2014, a group of Ravenswood's pastors were gathered at Riverfront Park for a noon prayer. All at once, we heard young people joyfully shouting in unison, "We love Jesus - Jesus, Do you love Jesus - Jesus, We love Jesus - Jesus, Do you love Jesus - Jesus ..." These praises were coming from teams of Brothers' Keeper youth who were enjoying a lunch break in the park. We were thrilled and joined in with them.

We wanted to let you know how thankful we are for the ongoing Brothers' Keeper ministry. Also, I was blessed to notice the church name, Ravenswood Freewill Baptist Church, was listed on the back of the t-shirts as a sponsor.

Pastor Chris Skeens
Ravenswood Freewill Baptist Church

Your church can also be recognized as a sponsor with a \$500 donation. Brothers' Keeper 2015 will be June 28 - July 3rd. Join us for work, worship, fellowship and sharing the gospel of Christ.

Frank Miller
Director of Operations
Parchment Valley Conference Center

The West Virginia Baptist/December-January 5

Brothers' Keeper 2014 Blessings Continue

Brothers' Keeper 2014 proved to be another blessed year of successful kingdom work in Jackson County. Our missional camp work week, compiled of many volunteers, skilled adult leaders, ministers and dedicated and faithful youth worked together to complete nearly 50 projects. This ministry program always brings the church and community together through caring and sharing resources God continues to bless us with. Each year, we give back on average 4,000 volunteer work hours to the community not to mention \$35,000 of building materials we purchase. This year, an amazing God moment happened. While a crew was building a wheelchair ramp, the crew leader shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with the homeowner and two individuals gave their hearts to Jesus.

We were also blessed to receive a \$7,500 grant from the Community Foundation to purchase tools for BK 2015.

Brothers' Keeper is recognized in Jackson County as a main line of viable ministry *where lives are changed*. I received an e-mail from a church in Ravenswood and following is a portion of that message.



Church Officers' Training

Join Us at Parchment Valley Conference Center on February 7 for the 2015 Church Officers' Training Event

God is moving amongst His people. He desires for us to move beyond "*survive to thrive*." Paul told Timothy to "study to show yourself approved." With this thought in mind, the West Virginia Baptist Convention staff have planned the annual Church Officers' Training Event for Saturday, February 7, 2015 at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Several new classes are being offered this year as well as many old favorites. There is also opportunity for School of Christian Studies ADVANCED credit for those who desire it (please see the bottom of this page). Join us that day as we give you more tools to help take your church from "*Survive to Thrive*."

Each participant will select one workshop for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. **The cost will be \$15 per person for the day, including lunch. If you bring eight from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost.**

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 - 11:45 a.m.	Workshop Session #1
12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session #2
2:30 p.m.	Head home

Workshops Include:	Session #1	Session #2
• Associational Leadership		P.M. ONLY
• Children	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Clerks		P.M. ONLY
• Deacons	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Discipleship	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Exploring a Call (NEW)		P.M. ONLY
• Finance	A.M. ONLY	
• Missions	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Pastoral Relations Committee (NEW)	A.M. SESSION	
• Pulpit Committee	A.M. ONLY	
• SCS ADVANCED - Transformational Leadership in Your Current Context (NEW)	PART A	PART B
• Senior Adults	A.M. ONLY	
• Technology	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Trustees		P.M. ONLY
• Worship and Music	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Young Adults	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Youth	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT

PLEASE NOTE: ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

February 2015 Church Officers' Training REGISTRATION FORM

- Please complete the following information:

I am registering as (Please check all that apply.)

an individual/couple or part of a church group

I am the contact person for the church group.

My church has met the requirements. I am a free participant.

Name: _____

(One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Preferred way to contact: telephone or e-mail

Phone or e-mail address: _____

- Please check the appropriate fee box(es).

\$15.00 Leadership Conference Fee (Required)

\$25.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Fee

\$35.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Fee
(One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)

Total Enclosed (Please write in blank at left.)

- Please list the title of the workshop(s) in the spaces below.

1.) List choice for a.m. workshop: _____

2.) List choice for p.m. workshop: _____

- SCS ADVANCED Students only:

Please select one program you want this credit applied to.

New Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program
You must choose Part A and Part B of the SCS ADVANCED Transformational Leadership in Your Current Context workshop.

Original Two-Year Program - one credit
You may choose any combination of workshops.

Attention: Church Group Contact Person.

A contact person must be chosen for all church groups.

Please send all church group registrations in one envelope.

One check may be written for all registrations. If you plan to use the pay for eight and bring two free rule, please make sure the free participant(s) check the box on the left side of this form. After the first 10, the "pay for eight bring two free" begins again.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015.

After February 2, the fee is the same, but lunch is not included. It will be on your own.

Please make checks payable to and mail to: West Virginia Baptist Convention Church Officers' Training, Attn: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

School of Christian Studies (SCS) ADVANCED Information: The ADVANCED class, Transformational Leadership in Your Current Context held during this event is part of the new **SCS ADVANCED Congregational Transformation** three-year program of study. This event will give you the opportunity to complete one of the classes in this new program. A mailing will be sent to all students regarding this new ADVANCED program. This event may also be attended by ADVANCED students to fulfill one class requirement for the original two-year program.

Hispanic Ministries: Partnering in a Mission to Change Lives - La Asociación en la Misión de Cambiar Vidas

In John 17:21 Jesus prayed, "I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one - as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." Through the partnership between the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico and the West Virginia Baptist Convention, we have seen Jesus' prayer becoming a reality. West Virginians and Puerto Ricans together on mission are changing lives. During the last week of July 2014, a young adult mission team from Puerto Rico partnered with *Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Luz y Vida* (Eastern) to bring the gospel to Hispanic immigrants in Moorefield.

The team started their time in West Virginia with James Ash, pastor, Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern) who gave the young missionaries an overview of the Appalachian culture and values. Our drive and inspiration to cross-cultural barriers comes from the Holy Spirit. Learning about cultural similarities and differences is key for fruitful missionary endeavors and for nurturing cross-cultural friendships and partnerships. This presentation enhanced the experience as the team connected with local residents from Petersburg and Moorefield.

The group was under the leadership of Wilfredo Mercado Reyes, who led the team to successfully complete several outreach projects through the week. The celebration of a worship service at a local elderly care home where Duke Thorne, pastor North Mill Creek Baptist Church (Eastern) leads a ministry was very unique. The team members prayed for every elder attending the service. The residents were very grateful that Spanish speaking missionaries came to brighten their day with love and prayers.

Many of us have tasted the juicy peaches from the Eastern Panhandle and most orchards in the area hire Hispanic farmworkers to pick the fruit. Hispanic farmworkers are often ignored and overlooked. The team shared Christ's love with the workers at a peach orchard by providing lunch, New Testaments and a time of prayer. Valerie Motta from Puerto Rico says, "Many of these farmworkers go through a lot of hardships. It was a blessing to be able to pray for them and they also blessed us because they shared with us the food they had brought. They did not have to do it, but they did it. I felt in family." Luis Diaz, another team member, shared the message of the gospel with two farmworkers, a Mexican and Honduran. They were deeply touched and with tears in their

eyes gave their lives to Christ. After sharing a reflection and presenting a New Testament to every worker, we held hands in a circle to pray for their needs and families in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Puerto Rico.

Every evening, the mission team and volunteers from *Comunidad Luz y Vida* welcomed the many children and adults attending Vacation Bible School. There were people from Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and the United States. The Vacation Bible School theme was Agency D3: Discover, Decide, Defend based on 1 Peter 3:15, "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it." The Vacation Bible School mission project was to raise enough money to buy a goat for a family in North East India. The kids and adults were so excited with this project that by the end of the week they had raised enough money to buy three goats and bless three families in North East India. They even named the three

goats Luisa, Natalie and Juanita. By the last day of Vacation Bible School, nine people had surrendered their lives to Christ.

In the Bible, we find stories where the people of God worked together in partnership to accomplish God's purposes. There are also stories in which God calls and sends His people beyond their horizons and comfort zones to be a blessing to other nations. As we follow Jesus and seek to make a difference in the world, the Spirit of God will prompt us to move into the unknown. Surely, it is there where we know God more profoundly.

Lillian Caballero says about her experience in West Virginia, "Truly, God led me out of my comfort zone to learn how to serve with my best. In West Virginia I learned there are no barriers to God and, therefore, we have no reason to create them. When we serve the King of kings there is no need to impose obstacles. I realized when we are faithful to God and His work, He allows us to see His power and glory. And that is precisely what I experienced in West Virginia. I encourage anyone with a passion for missions to allow God to use them as He did with me."

We are the answer to Jesus' prayer when we join hearts and hands together in mission to share His love with our families, neighborhoods and across the world. I once read an African proverb that says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." I believe when we go together in mission we not only go far, but we also thrive and our light shines brighter (Matthew 5:14).

*Juan Aragon
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*



The young adult mission team from Puerto Rico and volunteers from Comunidad Luz y Vida welcomed the many children and adults attending Vacation Bible School.



Gary McIntosh, president of the Church Growth Network and professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology at Biola University, was the guest speaker (l) at the 149th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. He was also the speaker (r) at the Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council Pre-Convention Event.



William Thomas, transitional pastor, Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope) was the annual sermon speaker for the Annual Meeting.



David Carrico, executive minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention



Frank Miller, director of operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center



Brown Receives 2014 James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry



Denny Brown (l) along with Jim Anderson, Jr. and Mary Jo Slater, Jim's sister.

The ministry of Rev. Stephen "Denny" Brown has been lived out almost exclusively in the context of Tabor's Creek Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) and the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Denny was saved and baptized at Tabor's Creek Baptist Church in November 1984 and January 1985, respectively. Following his call to ministry in 1988, the church called him as assistant pastor (1989). Brown then served as pastor of Tabor's Creek Baptist Church from February 1990 - April 1998. Following a brief hiatus, he returned to Tabor's Creek Baptist Church as pastor in November 2000 and continues to serve that church today.

He has served the Twelve Pole Association in many capacities, currently as moderator. His service has included, among other things, camp director and director of the Association Singspiration.

Brown and his wife, Josephine, are the parents of two adult children, son, Stephen Jr., and Stephanie. They have one grandson, Aaron.

For the last 30 years, Denny has been employed by the Apogee Coal Company in Logan County as a heavy equipment mechanic. In addition, he works as a substitute bus driver for Wayne County Schools.

The Rev. James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry was established in 2013 in his memory. It is an annual award given to celebrate the contributions of a West Virginia Baptist Convention bivocational pastor who also exhibits the same love of serving Jesus Christ through the small church.



American Baptist Women's Ministries' Women's Day honors four important women in American Baptist History. **Bonnie Smith (l)** represents the Hopi Women, **Liz Scott (c)** depicted Leota Campbell and **Kathy Hudson (r)** played Elizabeth Carter. Not pictured is **Carol Parker** who portrayed Ann Judson.



The Alderson Broaddus University Men's Quartet performs special music at the Annual Meeting.

149th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

October 16-17, 2014 • Vienna Baptist Church

From Survive to Thrive

Scripture Verse: *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.* John 10:10



Brad Krigbaum, youth minister and interim praise band director, New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg) was the worship leader for the Annual Meeting.



The Vienna Baptist Church Praise Team leads worship at the Annual Meeting.



Max Hill, Southwest area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, recognizes new pastors. **George Chandler** is pictured in the background.

Alderson Broaddus University Names Vetter 2014 Ward Hibbs Ministerial Award Winner

PHILIPPI – Alderson Broaddus University is proud to honor John Vetter, Sr., pastor of Bethel Baptist Church (Eastern) and co-pastor of Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Luz y Vida (Eastern) with the 2014 Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award. Alderson Broaddus University president, Richard Creehan presented the award at the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention held at Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna on October 16, 2014.

This award is given annually by Alderson Broaddus University in memory of the ministry of Ward W. Hibbs. This award is presented to an American Baptist minister who has made outstanding contributions to the ministry of town and country churches.

“Honoring the memory of Ward W. Hibbs, Alderson Broaddus University desires to strengthen the work of our town and country churches by recognizing the effective, hard-working pastors who serve small town and open country churches,” said Creehan. “This year’s recipient served our country in the Army and has worked in the trades.”

Vetter accepted Christ as his savior in 1976 in the North Mill Creek Baptist Church (Eastern), where he fulfilled many roles the community needed. After taking his first mission trip in 1997 with the team from Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), he was licensed to preach in 1999 by North Mill Creek Baptist Church and graduated from the School of Christian Studies that same year.

He served Forks of Cheat (Goshen) and Bethel Baptist Churches, which ordained him in 2002. He accepted the call to become a bivocational pastor there. His skills in building community have been tested in his other vocation; that being a school bus driver.

He has served the West Virginia Baptist Convention on the executive board, the Leadership Commission and the Committee of Ministerial Standing, and presently serves on the Stewardship Commission.

In 2009, he embraced a new challenge to building community. That year, he started work with Juan Aragon in establishing an Hispanic church in Moorefield. His involvement there now extends to being co-pastor.

“It is a challenge to start a new church if the people speak your language, but John has loved the people so much that they communicate in that love language that goes beyond words,” said Victor Shields, Northeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention.

One of the most important criteria for an individual to receive the high honor of being the recipient of the Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award is to be involved in the formation of and improvement of community.

“In today’s world, where some try to find community through postings on Facebook, videos on YouTube or pictures on Instagram, it is truly refreshing to make a presentation to a man who has worked his whole life to form true communities with a Christ-centered focus,” said President Creehan. “Relationships are the heart of community, and serving one another is the foundation that holds community together. John Vetter, Sr. builds community even where language is a barrier.”

His family community includes his wife of 41 years, Donna, and their two children, John and Jason. They have three grandchildren: Cody, Katie and Blake.



Richard Creehan (l), president, Alderson Broaddus University presents the 2014 Ward Hibbs Ministerial Award to John Vetter, Sr.

Ten Graduate from the School of Christian Studies



in Pastoral Ministry and Joyce J. Taylor, certificate in General Studies.

The School of Christian Studies held its annual graduation ceremony at the Thursday, October 16 evening session of the 149th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Those present to participate in the ceremony are pictured at right and are as follows (l to r): bottom row - Denise K. Humphries, diploma in Advanced Studies; Rosa Jane Thorne, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Donna Lea Goldman, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Karen Sue Hamric, diploma in Advanced Studies and Mark McCloy, director, School of Christian Studies. Top row: Anthony Dewaine Lucas, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Raymond Earl Revill, Jr., diploma in Pastoral Ministry and diploma in Advanced Studies; Darrell Glenn Farley, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; and A. Dwight Brohard, diploma in Pastoral Ministry. Those not pictured are Reginald E. Clauze, diploma

West Virginia Baptist Convention 2014-2015 Officers

The newly elected officers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention for the 2014-2015 term are (l-r): president, Mr. Clark Swepston, Beckley; first vice-president, Mrs. Sandra Phares, Morgantown; second vice-president, Rev. Mark Wood, Oak Hill; secretary, Mrs. Lois Merritt, Huntington; and treasurer, Rev. John Simmons, Sandyville.



Baptist Campus Ministries' 2014 Fall Retreat

by Marc DeLong

Baptist Campus Ministries' Member, West Virginia University

During the first weekend of October 2014, students from across the state flocked from their college campuses to Camp Cowen for the Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) Fall Retreat. After getting everyone checked in and accounted for, we had 168 students gathered together from nine different campuses. We even had two campuses represented where there is no BCM! The beginning of the retreat felt like a family reunion as many of the students immediately got reconnected with longtime friends, while others made new friendships with people from other campuses. Knowing the weekend would go by very quickly, we wanted to make the most of our time together.

Our praise band for the week was headed up by Tim and Crystal Gray, accompanied by Cody McCallister and Mike Graham of West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministries. Our speaker for the weekend was Michael White, a good friend of Adam Goodwin from his time at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, who is on staff at Gainsville Baptist Church in Lincolnton, North Carolina. During our sessions, Michael walked us through Romans 8. After a time of singing and going through the word, we broke into small groups to further unpack what we were talking about and what was having

the biggest impact on us. We also got the opportunity to hear from Janna Salyers and Jeni Pedzinski. Jeni is a missionary with International Ministries and she shared her testimony of getting into missions. She was available all weekend in case anyone wanted to speak with her more. Janna is a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is a recent graduate of Marshall University. She came back to help with behind the scenes stuff for the retreat. She shared parts of her testimony and talked about life at seminary.

Downtime between sessions was spent in several different ways. Students were spread all throughout camp taking part in various activities, from ultimate frisbee in the lower fields, to four square and gaga in front of the dining hall, to sitting down in the rocking chairs to have a good conversation. Some students also spent time playing with the children of the BCM directors or just talking with the directors themselves. Other students spent time exploring camp and taking in the beautiful fall scenery. Regardless of what was going on, there was a lot of encouraging and building one another up. On Sunday, we took our family picture and had one last chance to spend time together. We gave our final encouragements to one another and departed Cowen to return back to our respective campuses to continue the work God has begun.





Andrea "Andy" Fling

Fling Hired as Bookkeeper

PARKERSBURG - The West Virginia Baptist Convention welcomes Andrea "Andy" Fling to its support staff. Andrea began her role as bookkeeper on October 6, where she will replace the retiring Karen Radcliff. Andrea has served as a public accountant for 25 years and has an accounting degree from Mountain State College. Her e-mail address is fling@wvbc.org.

Help to Build for Generations at Parchment Valley Conference Center

We need your help! It is estimated that Parchment Valley Conference Center's (PV) critical infrastructure upgrades will cost \$300,000 or more. We hope you will join us in *Building for Generations* at Parchment Valley. Your gift of \$50 or more will help us continue the legacy of generations who dared to dream and make Parchment Valley a place *where lives are changed* for generations to come.

During the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Fall Retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center, Doris Toothman asked me about *Building for Generations*. I shared with her how this gift enables us to complete maintenance repair on our aging buildings. She then said, "Last year you made room for my mother and I to attend the American Baptist Women's Ministries' event, but we had to stay in the dorms." While they were there her mother said, "These rooms

could use some attention." Doris then shared her mother had recently passed away, and from an inheritance Doris wrote a check to *Building for Generations* in the amount of \$1,000. Excitedly I asked, "Can I share this great story?" She agreed and was quick to inform me she hadn't informed Ron, her husband, of the donation. When he reads this article, he will know how thankful we are to receive such a heartfelt donation from the Toothman family. The Lord blesses others through your faithful giving.

To find out more information on making a tax-deductible contribution to *Building for Generations*, please visit parchmentvalley.org or contact me at 304.372.3675.

Frank Miller
Director of Operations
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Amy Missionary Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On September 21, 2014, Amy Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River) celebrated its 100th anniversary.

During the celebration, a book of church history including photos, recipes and special occasions from 1914-2014, prepared by Sandra Miller and the anniversary committee was presented to the church. Max Hill, Southwest area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, presented the church a plaque from the convention and a certificate of recognition from the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society for 100 successful years. Hill led the worship service and afterward everyone enjoyed a covered dish lunch. Special music was presented by *Steadfast*, a group from Hamlin.

Leadership Updates

REV. GARY CARPENTER to Richwood First Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on June 14, 2014

REV. JEROME LEWIS to Union Baptist Church (Union) as pastor in October 2014

REV. SCOTT SMITH to Marshville Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor in September 1, 2014

Camp Cowen 2015 Schedule

Due to changing school schedules, the Camp Cowen Board has approved a revised schedule for the 2015 West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen summer program. Please mark these dates on your calendar as you plan your agenda for the coming year.

MAY
American Baptist Men's Work Weekend
May 1-2

Youth Work Party
May 15-16

JUNE
Hopewell
June 5-7

Older Midler
(grades 3-4)
June 10-12

Younger Midler
(grades 2-4)
June 12-14

Junior I
(grades 5-6)
June 14-20

Junior High I
(grades 7-9)
June 21-27

Junior II
(grades 5-6)
June 28-July 4

JULY
High School I
(grades 9-12)
July 5-11

Junior High II
(grades 7-9)
July 12-18

Senior Night
2015 High School Graduates
July 18

High School II
(grades 9-12)
July 19-25

Raleigh/Rockcastle Teays Valley
July 26-31

Family Camp
July 31-August 2

SEPTEMBER
Camp Global
September 4-6

"Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."

Trading Post

FREE: SOUND SYSTEM. Includes four microphones, two speakers and one control system. Contact George Chandler, pastor, Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope) at 304.927.1338 or Margaret Mellon at 304.273.4920 or Debbie Anderson at 304.273.4240.

WANTED: ACCOMPANIMENT CASSETTE OR SPLIT-TRACK ACCOMPANIMENT CASSETTE FOR THE STORY BY DAVID T. CLYDESDALE AND KARLA WORLEY, Royal Tapestry Music, copyright 1990, now a part of Brentwood Benson Music (- they do not have this). I can convert to CD if you have the old accompaniment tape. Will pay reasonable charge. Please contact Koneda Devrick, choir director, Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) at 304.675.6743 or kldevrick@aol.com.

KATIE BURNSTWORTH, of Barboursville, died September 13, 2014. She was a member of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte). She was the wife of Ronald Burnsworth.

MARY MAGDALENE CAMPBELL, 82, of Charleston, died October 14, 2014. She was a devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she served on the deaconess board and as secretary of the Seeker's Sunday school class.

GLADYS CARTER, 74, of Fairdale, died October 4, 2014. She was faithful member of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). She was also a veteran of the United States Army.

RONNIE WAYNE CASH, SR., 77, of Beverly, died September 28, 2014. He was a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Union), where he was a devoted member of the choir.

TERESA RENEE CONLEY, 43, of Washington, died September 4, 2014. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she assisted with the youth.

ANN LOWE CONNER, died September 9, 2014. She was member of Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette) 60 plus years, where she served as choir director, music committee member and chair, Sunday school teacher, Awana coach and financial secretary.

HAROLD S. "DEACON" DUVALL, 97, of Rock Lake, died October 16, 2014. He was a lifelong member of Fairmont First Baptist Church (Fairmont), where he served on the deacon board for over four terms and taught youth Sunday school. He was active in the building drive for the present church edifice. He served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Air Force serving as a Convalescent Officer during World War II.

MARJORIE MAY GIPSON, 97, died September 8, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumna to the Telegu people of South India for 36 years between 1947-1960 and 1965-1981.

ARTHUR "DENVER" HALL, 80, of Vienna, died October 19, 2014. He was a 50 plus year member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he also volunteered. He also served in the United States Army.

BERTHA MAE MEREDITH HUDKINS, 89, of Harrisville, died September 30, 2014. She was a member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville), where she had been secretary of Sunday school for several years, deaconess for a three-year term

and clerk of Harrisville Baptist Association for several years.

DAVID "LEE" JOHNSON, 64, died October 17, 2014. He was the pastor of Healing Stream Baptist Church (Coal River). His service to the Lord included several pastoral positions in West Virginia, Ohio and New York. He was also a gifted singer.

ROBERT VIRGIL KEATON, 79, died October 21, 2014. He served as pastor of several West Virginia churches during his career: Stanaford Missionary Baptist Church; Hollywood Missionary Baptist Church, MacArthur; Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern); Central Baptist Church, Hinton; and Ansted Missionary Baptist Church. He returned to Petersburg First Baptist Church, from which he retired. During his retirement he served as interim pastor of several area churches. He also served in the United States Air Force.

EMILY LOUISE KEYES, 88, of New York, died October 19, 2014. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumna who served in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

NORMAN FRANK KITTS, 80, of Fort Gay, died September 22, 2014. He was a member and minister of Old Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole).

PETTER REIDAR (RAY) LINDLAND, 90, died September 22, 2014. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumnus.

MARTHA PRICE LONDEREE, died October 15, 2014. She was an active member of Fort Spring Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she was very involved in the music ministry.

JUANITA BELLE PITMAN KIPP MORRISON, of Parkersburg, died September 21, 2014. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 44 years. She taught Sunday school for over 40 years, served as a church pianist and Bible school teacher.

SHIRLEY ROSE PIKE, 76, of Athens, died September 16, 2014. Shirley was a member of Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for more than 65 years, where she taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School.

CHARLES E. "DICK" RAY, 64, of Gallipolis, Ohio, formerly of Spring Hill, died October 19, 2014. He was the brother of Kenna "Lucky" Ray.

DANNY EUGENE SANDERS, 69 of Peterstown, died November 1, 2014. He was a member of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh),

where he was a deacon. He was also a United States Army Veteran.

JOHN MARK SCOHY, 50, of Charleston, died October 5, 2014. He was a very active member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he was the chairman of the deacon board. He also taught middle school Sunday school class and sang in the choir.

PATRICIA MOORE SHAFER, of Saint Albans, died, September 15, 2014. She was an active member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she played the piano.

TERRY LEE SIERS, 66, of Normantown, died October 13, 2014. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

MARIE NANNIE SIFERS, died October 16, 2014. She was a devoted member of Spring Dale First Baptist Church (Hopewell), where she served as recording secretary.

HELEN HOPE (HOPIE) SNUFFER, 83, of Surveyor, died October 7, 2014. She was a member of Beckenridge Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she taught Sunday school.

DAPHNE TAYLOR TURNER, 84, of Ripley, died October 21, 2014. She was a charter member of Heritage Baptist Church, Pinch, and in later years was active with her church in Union Grove, North Carolina and Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she served with the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

DALE E. "BREEZE" UNDERWOOD, 92, of Webster Springs, died September 9, 2014. He was a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell), where he also served as deacon. He was also a United States Army veteran, serving in World War II, where he was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart.

DELPHIA MAE VANNOY, 98, of Grantsville, died October 11, 2014. She was a member Mount Pisgah Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) and was custodian there for many years. She was a former chairman of American Baptist Women's Ministries' White Cross.

JAMES CARROLL WHEELER, 81 of Huntington, died September 21, 2014. He was a faithful member of Kenova First Baptist Church (Twelve Pole), where he had served as a deacon.

GEORGIANNA MARIE YOUNG, 92, of Elkins, died October 6, 2014. She was a member of Elkins First Baptist Church (Union) for over 70 years. She sang in the choir, made floral arrangements, worked as church secretary, was a member of the visitation team and served meals.

December 2014

DECEMBER 1 - The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; James Murphy, pastor (Elk Valley)
DECEMBER 2 - Ray Schellinger, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
DECEMBER 3 - The ministry of Goshen Baptist Church; Dan Meadows, pastor (Goshen)
DECEMBER 4 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Rick Watson, pastor (Guyandotte)
DECEMBER 5 - The ministry of Madison Baptist Church; Jim Butcher, pastor (Coal River)
DECEMBER 6 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee and Executive Board this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
DECEMBER 7 - The ministry of Saint Paul Baptist Church; Larry Harker, pastor (Fairmont)
DECEMBER 8 - The ministry of Meadow Grove Baptist Church; Vincent Deeds, pastor (Hopewell)
DECEMBER 9 - The ministry of Belleville Baptist Church; Randy Dornon, pastor (Parkersburg)
DECEMBER 10 - Ivy Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Macau
DECEMBER 11 - John Simmons, associate executive minister of Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 12 - Myra White, vice moderator, Eastern Association
DECEMBER 13 - The ministry of Big Chimney Baptist Church; Dan Forwood, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
DECEMBER 14 - The ministry of Dallas Pike Baptist Church; Ben Nobile, pastor (Panhandle)
DECEMBER 15 - Bill Clemmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Sudan
DECEMBER 16 - The ministry of Grass Lick Baptist Church; Jimmie Compton, pastor (Good Hope)
DECEMBER 17 - Sarah Chetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Lebanon
DECEMBER 18 - Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 19 - The ministry of Bridgeport Baptist Church; Thomas Edgell, pastor (Judson)
DECEMBER 20 - Mike Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 21 - J.D. Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia
DECEMBER 22 - The ministry of Goose Creek Baptist Church; Wanda Hartley Butts, pastor (Harrisville)
DECEMBER 23 - The ministry of Page Baptist Church; Delmas Wolfe, pastor (Fayette)
DECEMBER 24 - Our families as we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior
DECEMBER 25 - Prayer of thanksgiving for a Savior born to save the world
DECEMBER 26 - The ministry of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church; Jonathan Turner, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
DECEMBER 27 - Koreen Villers, director, Children's Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 28 - The ministry Davis Baptist Church; Leroy Shook, pastor (Eastern)
DECEMBER 29 - The ministry of Buckhannon First Baptist Church; Jay Teodoro, pastor (Broad Run)
DECEMBER 30 - Lori Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
DECEMBER 31 - Coleen Bumgarner, clerk, Parkersburg Association

January 2015

JANUARY 1 - Prayer for a blessed New Year
JANUARY 2 - Jarrod Belcher, moderator, Logan-Mingo Association and pastor, Williamson First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo)
JANUARY 3 - The ministry of Belington First Baptist Church; Herbert Bledsoe, pastor (Union)
JANUARY 4 - The ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church; David Vickers, pastor (Coal River)
JANUARY 5 - Ingrid Rold'an-Rom'an, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Panama
JANUARY 6 - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; Roland Ramsey, pastor (Elk Valley)
JANUARY 7 - The ministry of Barnes Memorial Baptist Church; Gary Martin, pastor (Judson)
JANUARY 8 - The ministry of Calvary Baptist Church; Mark Wood, pastor (Fayette)
JANUARY 9 - The ministry of Wolf Run Baptist Church; Jim Higginson, pastor (Panhandle)
JANUARY 10 - Kyle Witmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JANUARY 11 - Ann Borquist, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil
JANUARY 12 - The ministry of Huntington Baptist Temple; J. Andrew Magnusson, pastor (Guyandotte)
JANUARY 13 - The ministry of Troy Baptist Church (Little Kanawha)
JANUARY 14 - Alice Romick, vice moderator, Panhandle Association
JANUARY 15 - The ministry of Tonedata Baptist Church; Jim Hamrick, pastor (Rockcastle)
JANUARY 16 - The ministry of Big Clear Creek Baptist Church; Glen Kuhn, pastor (Hopewell)
JANUARY 17 - The ministry of Wayne Baptist Church; Fred Ferguson, pastor (Twelve Pole)
JANUARY 18 - The ministry of Sabraton Baptist Church; Scott Whetzel, pastor (Goshen)
JANUARY 19 - The ministry of North Fork Baptist Church; Darrell Farley, pastor (Harrisville)
JANUARY 20 - Andrea Fling, bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 21 - The ministry of Reedy Baptist Church; Greg Swisher, pastor (Good Hope)
JANUARY 22 - The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Raymond Bevan, pastor (Teays Valley)
JANUARY 23 - The ministry of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont Association)
JANUARY 24 - The Guyandotte Association as they celebrate their Annual Meeting
JANUARY 25 - Chris Layfield, treasurer, Harrisville Association
JANUARY 26 - The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Charles Grays, pastor (Parkersburg)
JANUARY 27 - The ministry of Athens Baptist Church; Charles Drake, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JANUARY 28 - Karen Hargett, guest services manager, Parchment Valley Conference Center
JANUARY 29 - The ministry of Romney First Baptist Church; Steven Wilson, pastor (Eastern)
JANUARY 30 - The ministry of Weston First Baptist Church; Kenneth Miller, pastor (Broad Run)
JANUARY 31 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Randy Bratka, pastor (Kanawha Valley)

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

Coming Events

December 2014

December 6

West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center

December 6

Young Adults Exploring Missions
(Free Event)
Parchment Valley Conference Center

December 24-26

Christmas Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office CLOSED

January 2015

January 1-2

New Year's Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office CLOSED

January 5-9

Palmer Theological West Virginia Program Class - M. Div. Program, PRMN630 Introduction To Christian Education, Instructor - Rev. Jana Purkis-Brash
Parchment Valley Conference Center

January 24

Guyandotte Association Annual Meeting
Camp Ona

February

February 7

West Virginia Baptist Convention Church Officers' Training
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 9-13

Palmer Theological West Virginia Program Class - M. Div. Program, PRMN523 Pastoral Leadership, Instructor - Dr. Lloyd Hamblin
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 16

President's Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office CLOSED

February 27-March 1

Junior High Convention
To Be Announced

March

March 14

Spring Children's Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 17-21

Palmer Theological West Virginia Program Class - M. Div. Program, BIBL511 Old Testament Historical Books, Instructor - Dr. Stephen Kim
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April

April 3

Good Friday Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office CLOSED

April 11

West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 13-24

Palmer Theological West Virginia Program Class - D. Min. Program
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 25

OMEGA
To Be Announced

May

May 1-2

American Baptist Men's Work Weekend
Camp Cowen

May 1-3

Ministers' Wives' Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Challenge 52 Wrap Up



Thanks to all who participated in the *Challenge 52* scripture memorization challenge. It was not only a year of learning God's word, but a year of learning more and more about God and His love for each person. Over 2,000 verses were reported memorized before the Annual Meeting in October. Individuals and whole churches joined the group. Through *Challenge 52*, members strengthened their relationship with God, became more Christlike, learned that God's word helps us triumph over sin and Satan, gives us comfort and counsel and communicates about God.

Congratulations to all who participated!

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;
1.800.879.9822. US Postage Paid at
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

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And suddenly
there was
with the angel
a multitude of the
heavenly host
praising God,
and saying,
Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace, good will
toward men.

Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)

In this time of uncertainty and turmoil,
we wish you the true peace that only Christ can give,
West Virginia Baptist Convention Staff

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