

## *Parchment Valley Honors Veterans with Wounded Warrior Black Powder Event*

**RIPLEY** - One of the most memorable events of 2013 at Parchment Valley Conference Center was the Wounded Warrior “Black Powder” hunt, held in December.

The outpouring of donations from community leaders



*Wounded warrior Purple Heart recipients with Woody Williams (red coat), 92-year-old World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.*

North Carolina and West Virginia, many of whom were Purple Heart recipients.

The group was grateful and appreciative to Parchment Valley Conference Center and Jackson County. One soldier told me when he first arrived he didn’t want to be here. At home, he doesn’t even speak with his neighbors, but upon departing



was overwhelming; financial donations as well as food, and even all-terrain vehicles were provided. Parchment Valley Conference Center accommodated 18 young soldiers from Florida, Kentucky,

he said, “I am glad I came.”

The men’s hearts were touched through the rugged outdoors and the abundance of food

and entertainment in the Greenlee Activities Center. Woody Williams, a 92-year-old World War II Congressional Medal of Honor recipient drew a standing ovation with his challenging speech. Worship was conducted by Herman Robinson, retired pastor; Rob Ely, director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth, West Virginia Baptist Convention and Bob Keen, pastor, Mill Creek Baptist Church (Good Hope).



*Staff Sargent Omar Cox (c) presents Karen Hargett (l) and Frank Miller (r) of Parchment Valley Conference Center with an I Support Our Troops sign made in North Carolina out of tobacco harvest sticks.*

The phenomenal blessings we experience at Parchment Valley Conference Center are due, in part to God’s people, who give so much of their time volunteering and giving financially.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of Parchment Valley Conference Center. Your friendship is key to maintaining a beautiful setting where heart, soul and mind are touched by the love Jesus gives through you.

*Be Blessed,  
 Frank Miller  
 Director of  
 Operations,  
 Parchment  
 Valley  
 Conference  
 Center*





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# HOPE

## Tell the Story



Dr. David Carrico

We live in a dark season of Biblical illiteracy. It is not that people do not have Bibles in all shapes and sizes or that the Bible isn't available on many platforms in this technological world.

People just don't read what is available to them. In a culture that screams there is no truth and that nothing is absolute, we find a world hungry for the word of God and its eternal truth. What can we do to deal with Bible illiteracy?

In your worship, Sunday school classes, Bible studies, small groups and every other opportunity for gathering, tell the stories from the Bible! In the "dark ages" when I was in seminary, Christian education was about telling the stories of the Bible. Discipleship enabled believers to live out their faith. Many folks pronounce Sunday school dead and when questioned, their response includes the need for better resources. **The Bible is the best resource there is!**

The most successful Sunday school experience I observed as a pastor was the rotation Sunday school plan that told the stories of the Bible in many creative ways. It did not overwork the leaders as responsibility only lasted four or five weeks. It was found on the internet and it worked. The other resource I used for decades was the international Sunday school lesson. It was a great resource for personal devotions and teaching for all age groups. Now I look to the Bible study lessons presented in *The Baptist Today* news journal. Those are just some of my personal preferences.

And now the West Virginia Baptist Convention offers a wonderful discipleship resource in **Challenge 52**. Challenge 52 has touched a nerve of those hungry to know and preserve to

memory the word of God. You might want to gain more insight about this program by visiting Challenge 52 on Facebook or by calling the West Virginia Baptist Convention office. Like any powerful life-changing presentation, it takes work and commitment. In the past, our state family has developed focused programs such as Caravan Club, which is still in use in our state. The Bethel Bible Series was used in several churches, which impacted many lives with the power of the Bible and its truth, teaching scripture memorization to adults.

As was noted, these programs must be prayerfully accomplished through the "C" word ... **commitment**. Leaders dismiss programs and projects they believe will not be successful because people are not committed. In our culture, people are committed to things outside the church and to issues in which they find value. *Church leaders must enable folks to find value in the word of God.* Leaders must direct people to the Bible, and when they seek truth, show them the truth of the love of God and His grace. All of this is necessary work for the kingdom.

Lauren Bethell, keynote speaker at our 2013 annual meeting, challenged all of us to make a difference in the world. All we have to do is "**just show up!**" **Show up** where people need to hear the word of God and tell them the story of Christ and His love. This brings **HOPE** to a world looking for affection, direction and truth.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."  
Psalm 119:105

*Blessings*

## Executive Committee Report

In its regular December meeting, the Executive Committee called Rev. Mark McCloy as the Northwest Area Minister. Rev. McCloy comes to the Convention staff having served as the senior pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for 16 years. In addition to serving the churches in his assigned area, Mark will be responsible for leading the School of Christian Studies. He begins his service on February 1, 2014.

In other matters, the Executive Committee accepted the resignation of Rev. Craig Coster, Southwest Area Minister effective December 19, 2013. Rev. Coster resigned for personal reasons and to pursue other opportunities.

In considering staffing options for 2014, the Executive Committee met on January 11, 2014. They received the recommendation from Rev. Dr. David Carrico, Executive Minister to staff area ministry with the four area ministers currently on staff and to realign the areas. The Executive Committee discussed the proposal and reviewed the ministry plan.

The Executive Committee approved the staff plan and assigned the following staff to the following areas and associations effective immediately (see map):

- **Northwest - Rev.**

**Mark McCloy:** Good Hope, Harmony, Harrisville, Little Kanawha, Panhandle and Parkersburg.

- **Northeast - Rev. Dr.**

**Victor Shields:** Broad Run, Eastern, Fairmont, Goshen, Judson and Union.

- **Southwest - Rev. Dr.**

**Max Hill:** Coal River, Guyandotte, Kanawha Valley, Logan-Mingo, Teays Valley, and Twelve Pole.

- **Southeast - Rev. James**

**Anderson:** Elk Valley, Fayette, Greenbrier-Raleigh, Hopewell and Rockcastle.

## West Virginia Baptist Convention Association Map

### Northwest Area MARK MCCLOY

**Address:**  
PO Box 1019,  
Parkersburg, WV 26102  
**Toll Free:**  
800.879.9822  
**Home Number:**  
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mccloy@wvbc.org



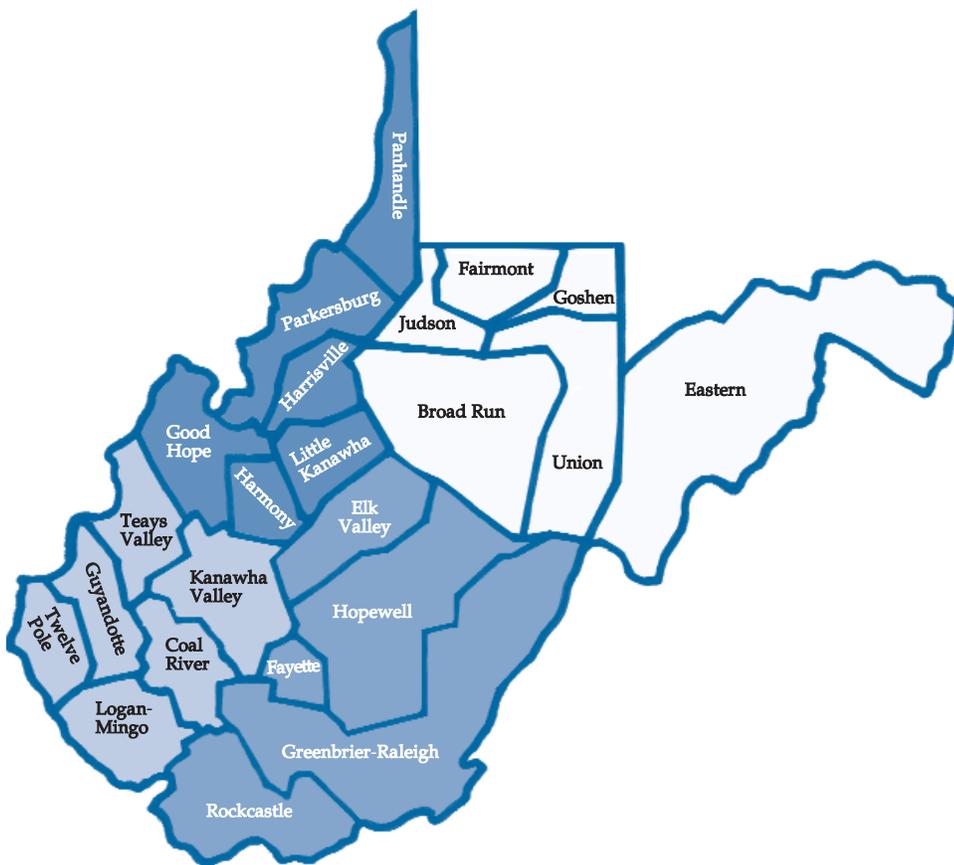
Good Hope,  
Harmony,  
Harrisville,  
Little  
Kanawha,  
Panhandle and  
Parkersburg

### Northeast Area VICTOR SHIELDS

**Address:**  
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Fairmont, WV 26554  
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304.389.2215  
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Broad Run,  
Eastern,  
Fairmont,  
Goshen,  
Judson and  
Union



### Southwest Area MAXWELL HILL

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Coal River,  
Guyandotte,  
Kanawha  
Valley, Logan-  
Mingo, Teays  
Valley and  
Twelve Pole

### Southeast Area JAMES ANDERSON

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anderson@wvbc.org



Elk Valley,  
Fayette,  
Greenbrier-  
Raleigh,  
Hopewell and  
Rockcastle

## ***Finding Peace and Purpose - Encontrar la paz y Propósito***

More than a decade ago, Rigoberto from Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico; Ana from San Juan Teita, Oaxaca, Mexico; and Trinidad from Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, Mexico journeyed to the town of Moorefield, West Virginia searching for a better life and work at the Pilgrim's Pride chicken processing plant. Rigoberto arrived in Moorefield in 2002, as did Ana and Trinidad came in 2003. Like most Latino immigrants, they came to the United States hoping through their sacrifice and hard work they would make real the vision of a better life for their families and children. Their whole-hearted devotion to family and work, their will to survive and live with dignity led them to go through the radical experience of separation from the ones they love. In an unfamiliar land, fear and loneliness would be a new normal.

When Trinidad came to the United States, she left behind her 8-year-old son and her 4-year-old daughter. She says about this experience, **"I felt very sad for leaving them, but there was nothing else for me to do. I had to leave them to come and seek work."** Away from all that was customary - family, language, customs - Trinidad experienced the sting of loneliness. She relates, **"I didn't know anybody here. Lonely, I felt lonely. Everybody was a stranger to me. I did not have family here. I missed my family very much."** Loneliness is one of the many burdens in the lives of immigrants, but they know in the United States they can ensure a future that might not be possible in their homeland. **Psalm 68:6a** says, **"God places the lonely in families ..."** Trinidad became part of God's family through the ministry of *Comunidad Luz y Vida*.

Ana came full of dreams and a desire to work hard, have a better life and support her family back in Oaxaca. She is a

Christian and clung to God in her moments of despair. She met Rigoberto in Moorefield and they got married. Rigoberto worked his way up from line worker to be the Human Resources (HR) Recruiter. He took pride in his achievements, but still longed for peace and purpose. A health crisis struck his life and he was forced to reconsider his priorities. While facing this, he called longtime friend Gilberto Valentin from *Comunidad Luz y Vida* in Moorefield for encouragement and strength. Gilberto provided support and encouragement, but he also shared the gospel. God was at work in Rigoberto's heart and he attentively listened to the message.

Gilberto Valentin and John Vetter from *Comunidad Luz y Vida* visited Rigoberto and Ana in their home to share Jesus Christ with them. The Spirit was moving in their lives. Ana was ready to recommit her life to Christ, but hesitated as she waited for her husband to make the decision. Gilberto and John faithfully visited them for several weeks, until one day Rigoberto welcomed them and said he was ready. They asked, "Ready for what?" He replied, "I am ready to give my life to Christ." That night, Rigoberto and Ana confessed Jesus as Lord of their lives. Rigoberto said, **"Six months ago, I would not have wanted**

**you in my house. I would have run you away. But now I want you to come to my house and share the message of Christ with me."**

On November 30, 2013, Trinidad, Ana and Rigoberto, along with two American women were baptized at Petersburg. It was a night of great joy as a Puerto Rican, two Mexicans and two Americans were baptized into the family of God, into the kingdom of God.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support as we bring the hope found in Christ to the Hispanic immigrants in West Virginia.

*Blessings*



*(l to r): Mary Bergdoll and Sherri LaPlinte, Ana, Gilberto and Trinidad*

 **Golden'eers**

May 5-7, 2014

**Bible Study Leader:**  
**Mark Stump** 

For more information, contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).



## An Inconvenient Gift

*"For God so loved the world  
that He gave ..."*

Why do you give? Do you give because your church needs the money? Do you give because you want to support a particular program or activity in the church? Or do you give as an act of worship? People give or don't give to the church for many different reasons. There are several kinds of givers - which one best describes you?

- *Lamenting givers* - give out of guilt or obligation
- *Legalist givers* - give the tithe and judge those who do not
- *Latent givers* - have great undeveloped potential
- *Lazy givers* - give when they get around to it and usually don't
- *Leftover givers* - give to God from the leftovers
- *Logical givers* - give to get prosperity
- *Lavish givers* - often give big amounts for recognition
- *Loving givers* - give from their hearts out of God's abundant blessings

John 3:16 clearly shows us God gave His son out of His deep love for us. Was it convenient for God to send Jesus to die for our sins? I think not! Think about the love, the sacrifice, the generous inconvenient gift God gave us. Then think about your giving.

Do you only give when it is convenient or do you give generously and consistently? Do you give as an act of joyous worship and thanksgiving or when you have the urge? Do you give your first fruits to God or does God only get what is left over?

Each of us has been blessed with abundance from God. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:11 we have all been blessed with enough to be generous on every occasion.

We should give freely because of God's gifts to us. We can only stop giving when God stops giving to us. Our giving is a true reflection of our relationship with God.

*Committed to Missions*

## ***A Season of Transformation: Free Congregational Change Event to be Held March 8 at Parchment Valley Conference Center***

It is common knowledge church attendance and membership in the United States has been declining for a number of years. In fact, some estimate as much as 80% of North American churches are on a plateau or in decline.

Plateau or decline may well express the reality of your church. If it does, then you no doubt have wondered and prayed about what to do and how to help. If it does not, then your church is blessed beyond measure. But you also want to help your church continue to do good ministry in your community and bring others to Christ.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention works constantly to serve you by enabling your church to fulfill its mission. We are embarking on "A Season of Transformation" to help you and your church do the hard work of ministry and growth.



*Mike Bonem*

We will begin this important time with a special event at Parchment Valley Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on March 8, 2014. Mike Bonem, an author and church consultant, from Houston, Texas will be leading us in a study of church transformation based on his book, Leading Congregational Change.

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. As an additional incentive, a free copy of Mike's book, Leading Congregational Change will be made available to the first 100 registrants.

**To register, contact Donna at [snyder@wvbc.org](mailto:snyder@wvbc.org) or 800.879.9822 with your name, address and church. Please join us for this important event.**

by **Kim Weaver**, Executive Director,  
Weirton Christian Center

## Thoughts from our Staff

**Kim Weaver - Executive Director**



Weirton Christian Center is looking forward to 2014 as a year for growth. We have continued to grow in numbers and we praise God all needs for our children have been met through the amazing partnerships we have in our Baptist family. We have grown our relationships with many American Baptist Women and their circles, who provide our quarters for grades fund, White Cross supplies, camp and school supplies and constant encouragement and prayer. We have developed relationships with numerous churches across the state, bringing more visitors and mission groups to the center. These churches have also included Weirton Christian Center in their mission budgets and Vacation Bible School offerings and have shown interest in how they can partner with us in this ministry. We are so blessed by your support and prayers. As we move forward in growth, we are looking for this year to be the one for our new facility. We see God working and we ask you to continue in prayer with us for His will to be done in our expansion. He has the power to move mountains!

As our numbers have grown, my prayer for the past few years was for God to provide the right people to carry out our ministry to the children and families we serve. He has heard our prayers and we continue to build a qualified staff. As my year has started with back surgery and a need to recuperate, Rose Marie Durig, West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries coordinator of Resources and editor of Seasons, suggested having the staff help me out with the Seasons' newsletter article - due just after this one. That is such a great idea. I thought everyone should hear from a few members of our staff. What better way to see how our children are being served by our ministry than to share the hearts of those serving.

**Deronda Bruich, Assistant Director**



I have been at Weirton Christian Center for five years now. I started as an Americorps VISTA parent advocate recruiter for two years. This job was exhausting trying to get parents to do or attend anything. I wanted to be more involved with the center; seeing that parent participation was challenging and I knew Weirton Christian Center was the place for me to be. My childhood was like so many of the children at the center. I could see children starving for attention, whether good or bad. I wanted to give back.

Now, I am the assistant director, involved in all aspects of the center. The White Cross donations are like Christmas: I know some child or family who will benefit from the items inside. To see the generosity of churches and people is truly a blessing. I have children in my office all the time, to show me a grade on a paper, play a game of Mancula, talk about problems in their lives or just hang with me. I feel at times I am the parent

they can trust to guide them in life and not judge them for who or where they come from ... and to remind them God has a plan for them. I truly believe this is God's plan for me to be at the Weirton Christian Center and touch the lives of the children.

**Joan Andrews, Program Director**



What I have come to realize is we need more mentors for the children at Weirton Christian Center. I read this powerful statement from the book The Tipping Point, "Some see possibilities, and while most of us are busily choosing whom we would like to know, and rejecting the people who don't look right or who live out near the airport, or whom we haven't seen in sixty-five years, some like them all." We need more people who see possibilities and know little things can make a BIG difference. It could be a hug, giving a compliment, providing an afterschool snack, helping with homework, providing an ear to listen, meeting children at the bus stop and/or tying a shoe. Matthew 9:37-38, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'" I am looking forward to 2014 and pray others will realize the importance of Weirton Christian Center in the lives of these children. I am looking forward to starting a free vitamin program for the children and we will also be taking them for free dental care.

**Stu Jones, Youth Ministry**



Weirton Christian Center is of utmost importance to West Virginia and the northern panhandle because of what it represents, offers and finally, who and how it serves. The Christian center represents the Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of His Almighty Spirit by having a numerous amount of leaders who have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, and move according to how He communicates with them. As a staff, we are a network of people who exist to promote a true and real teaching of salvation in a fun and innovative way! We offer Christ Jesus in a safe environment that serves the whole and total person. There is no comparison to the level of service to the needy in the area. Similar to Christ's, our ministry helps to promote a sound mind, body and spirit. Children are fed, as are their minds and spirit, by tutors who promote strong study habits. Not only are feeding and tutoring accomplished, but fitness is also promoted at a high level. I was blessed to be a three-time all-American in track and cross country, and to obtain a vast amount of understanding in fitness and athletics. This has carried over into the ministry, and we now have a running program (during days the weather permits it). Overall, the center is a great place to be for kids of all ages. God is the focus, whether in the classroom, field of play, the new recording studio or just simply hanging out with friends. God rules!

## Let's Build a Cob House!

On November 1, 2013, a mission work team consisting of four men: Greg O'Neal and Mike Nelson of Page Baptist Church (Fayette); Bryan Knight, pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette); and Jim Anderson, group leader and Southeast Area Minister traveled to Cochabamba, Bolivia to begin work on the first *Let's Go Build a Cob House* project with American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary, Mario Morales and the House of Hope.



Front row: (l-r) Bryan Knight, Fidel Alave  
Back row: (l-r) Mike Nelson, Jim Anderson, Greg O'Neal, Mario Morales, Nicanor Alave and Richard Flores

Mario's vision and part of his new vocational description is to begin building cob houses for pastors and their families throughout Bolivia, Latin America and the Caribbean working alongside other American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionaries.

A cob house, an old English term that means round house, is made out of dirt, sand, straw and water. The difference between a cob house and a house made out of adobe is no sand is used for adobe. Water is added to two parts dirt and one part sand with straw added, and then is formed into round balls (cobs). The cobs are then used to build walls on a rock foundation.

During the eight actual work days available, over 3,500 cobs were mixed and formed into what we called the Rockcastle Baptist Association Cob House. The Rockcastle Association furnished funds for all materials needed, including sand, windows, doors and tin. Since water and electricity were available, the entire project cost was approximately \$1,800. This provides affordable housing for pastors who have faithfully

served, but do not own their own homes. If they can buy their own property and get the foundation ready, we will help them build their own cob house. If we have to add solar panels for electricity and a tank and filter for a water system, we still will be able to build a completed home for \$2,500. That is Mario's vision, and after this trip with a mission team working at least eight days alongside of the pastor and his family, it can be done, bringing hope and dignity to those pastors and their families who have faithfully accepted the call to preach the gospel.

This cob house was built for Pastor Nicanor Alave, his wife Julia and their four daughters. They had just moved from the village of Carponi deep in the Andean Mountains into the southern region of Cochabamba, so their girls can have better educational opportunities. Pastor Nicanor, while beginning new ministries in this portion of Cochabamba, will continue to travel back into the mountains to oversee the ministries and churches we have worked with over the last eight years as a part of *Send the Light*.

Alongside Pastor Nicanor and his family and Mario, our mission team completed what will be the ministry center of the house, which included an outdoor oven. An attached two-story cob house will be the family's residence.

Two future trips endorsed by the West Virginia Baptist Convention to be led by Jim Anderson are planned for 2014. In late April or early May, a cob house will be built in either Honduras or Guatemala, and in early November there will be another trip to Cochabamba to build a cob house for a ministry called Goretty's *Children with a Future*. Both trips are limited to seven people each with each trip cost estimated to be \$2,000.

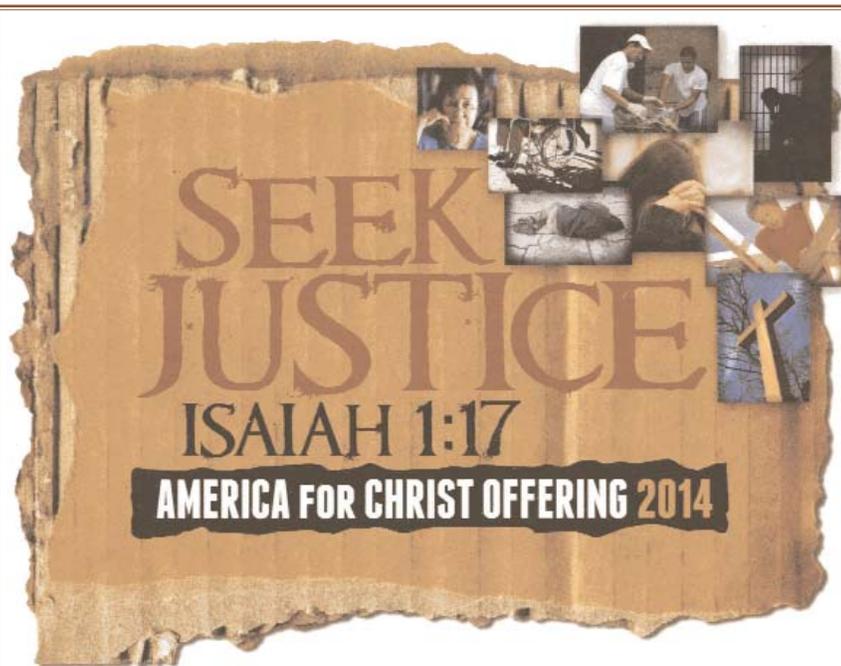
If you would like to help fund a future cob house and would like for Jim to come to your church and give a presentation, please contact him at [anderson@wvbc.org](mailto:anderson@wvbc.org) to set up a Wednesday or Sunday evening time.

If you enjoy hard work with your hands, don't mind getting dirty, and most importantly, want to have your life forever changed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, here is the three part process: PRAY - where the Lord is leading you, get a PASSPORT and CONTACT Jim by e-mail or at 304.667.5111.



(l to r) Greg O'Neal and Jim Anderson form cobs for the walls of the home.





**WEST VIRGINIA GOAL: \$130,000**

[WWW.ABHMS.ORG](http://WWW.ABHMS.ORG)



*"Seek Justice,"* based on Isaiah 1:17 - is a biblical reminder Jesus' public ministry was all about advocacy, engagement and compassion for people in need. Through the work of American Baptist Home Mission Societies, which is supported by the **America for Christ Offering**, we can participate with our Lord in seeking justice for those in our churches and neighborhoods.

We realize our mission and ministry are needed now more than ever. The **America for Christ Offering** 2014 supports our churches, neighborhood action programs, advocacy, training and community in part by facilitating leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press and providing opportunities for churches, individuals and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

Please give generously to the **America for Christ Offering** 2014 and help us reach our goal. Together, we can change lives as we "seek justice" as followers of Jesus Christ. Together, we can make a difference. "Learn to do good: seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." Isaiah 1:17

## Spring Children's Rally

*For children entering grades K-5th, 6th grade is optional.*

*Theme: Parables - using people such as a rich farmer, a tower builder and a persistent widow*

**March 15, 2014**

at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
in the Greenlee Activities Center

**Cost: \$12.00**, if postmarked by March 3, 2014.  
**\$25.00**, if postmarked after March 3 or at the door.

*"Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.'"*

For more information and a registration form, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).



## Junior High Convention

2013-14 Youth Theme: Proverbs 3:5-6

*For grades 6-9*

**February 28 - March 2, 2014**

Pine Grove Baptist Church,  
Parkersburg

**Cost: \$30.00**, (including adults) if postmarked by February 21, 2014.  
\$35.00, if postmarked after February 21 or at the door.

**Housing Deadline: February 21, 2014**

**Speaker: Justin Lookadoo**



**Band: Our Hearts Hero**



For more information and a registration form, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).

## **Baptist Campus Ministries - West Virginia University: Love Walked Among Us**

This semester, in I-teams we focused on the book of James and accepted the challenge to “be doers of the word and not hearers only.” (1:22) Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that caring for the needy, oppressed, orphaned and widowed is not an option, it is a command.



Luke 14 tells us when we throw a party, to invite the “poor, maimed, lame and blind.” (14:12) We decided to take Him at His word and do just this! Nearly 50 students came together to spoil the homeless in our community for a night. We decorated with linens, offered several choices of food within a three course meal, took coats at the door and served our guests as if they were at a five-star restaurant. In addition to dinner, we offered haircuts, new clothes, manicures and most importantly, our friendship. Our goal in all of this was to proclaim the name of Jesus, but explaining His love to someone who isn't loved by society is hard to do. Through extravagantly loving on them ourselves, we were able to point to our Father who has an even greater feast for them in heaven. By making them our favorites, we were able to show them they are His favorites.

During the main course, several students stood up and shared the gospel as well as their testimonies. Because we spent several hours with our guests, making it clear we were there to sit beside them, and not just reach down to them, they understood we were offering them hope. During this hour, over a dozen students took it upon themselves to slip into the next room and pray for the hearts being poured into in that moment. Others were mingled in the seats between our guests with their arms around them. You could practically feel the heartbeat of God pulsing through the air. Instead of leaving immediately after, which is typical for the homeless, our guests stayed and shared their lives with us. Many asked to be prayed over. Some even helped clean up.

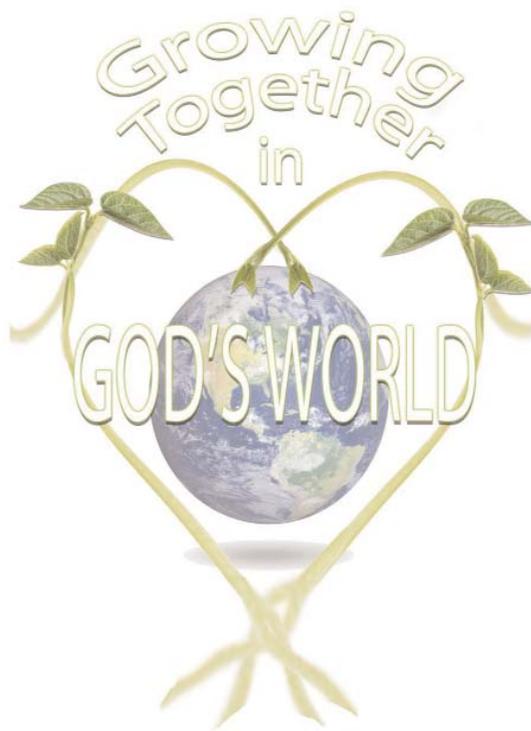


That night, we learned it is not nameless masses of the poor on the other side of the gate, it is Christ Himself. The hurting and the poor, the oppressed and the ignored, that is Jesus. And if you love Him, you have to make your life about tearing down the gates.

*Tim Gray  
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director,  
West Virginia University Campus*

In God's World  
**Mountain State**  
Mission Offering

2014



**2014 materials have  
been mailed to  
churches.**

*If you have any questions, please contact  
Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.*

### **Leadership Updates**

**Rev. Duane Eastman** to New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as adult discipleship pastor on October 15, 2013

**Mr. Brad Krigbaum** to New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as youth pastor on January 1, 2013

**Rev. Timothy Skaggs** to Faith Baptist Tabernacle (Elk Valley) as pastor on August 24, 2013

## Local Church News

### Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Receives Items from Green Valley Baptist Church



A pew from Green Valley Baptist Church is loaded into a rental van on its way to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.

On December 5, 2013, six members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church (Goshen) brought a rental truck to receive the pews, a communion table, pulpit and piano from Green Valley Baptist Church (Hopewell).

Florence Walton, clerk and one of three existing members of Green Valley Baptist

Church, which closed in 2009, had seen a small article in the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter saying Pleasant Grove Baptist Church was looking for pews and contacted them.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, met both groups at Green Valley Baptist Church and oversaw the exchange. Anderson said he "was blessed the ministry of Green Valley Baptist Church will live on physically with a sister church in our convention. This is an outward example of our mission statement that we can do more together than alone!"

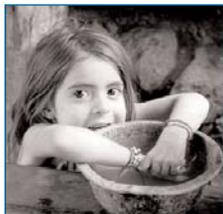
### Flint Chapel Baptist Church American Baptist Women's Ministries Bring Christmas Ministry to Springfield Nursing Home

On December 10, 2013, the Flint Chapel Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) American Baptist Women's Ministries provided an afternoon Christmas snack for the residents of Springfield Nursing Home in Lindside (Monroe County) as well as personal need items and several baskets of fruit, candy and snacks. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, and interim pastor for Flint Chapel Baptist Church, brought his guitar and everyone sang old favorite secular and sacred Christmas songs and hymns.

Providing needed items for the residents of the Springfield facility is an ongoing ministry for the Flint Chapel American Baptist Women's Ministries, and each year this Christmas ministry brings the true meaning of Emmanuel to all who participate and to those served.



Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, with members of Flint Chapel American Baptist Women's Ministries' group



### Adult Discipleship: A Failure to Thrive

Recently I was privileged to hear a short children's message by Sue Cross of Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope). During the message, Sue referred to a concept called *Failure to Thrive*. Most of us have heard of this condition. A medical definition: *Failure to thrive* refers to children whose current weight or rate of weight gain is significantly lower than that of other children of similar age and gender. We often hear about this condition when we hear about abuse or neglect cases, and sometimes when we hear of extremely small children who are having extreme difficulties of one kind or another.

*Failure to thrive* can be caused by medical problems such as thyroid deficiency, growth hormone deficiency, chromosomal problems, gastrointestinal and absorption problems, metabolic disorders and the list goes on. Non-medical conditions can occur which result in *failure to thrive* too. These can include emotional deprivation as a result of neglect and hostility by parents or caregivers, poor eating habits, infections, parasites or toxins and poverty.

Many of our communities of faith have a large percentage of members suffering from spiritual *failure to thrive*. These people are not gaining "spiritual weight" and because of this condition they are delayed in their spiritual abilities. Their

maturation process is slowed down and for many, has stopped. Here are some questions to ponder:

- *What is causing this condition in your church?*
- *Is your church providing a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth?*
- *Are you providing spiritual food for baby Christians and continuing to bottle feed them?*
- *In what ways is your church moving the spiritual diet from milk to solid food?*
- *Does your church teach, encourage and model a balanced, healthy, spiritual diet for each person. What is a balanced, healthy spiritual diet?*
- *Does your church need to take the role of spiritual parent or caretaker seriously?*
- *Is the community of faith allowing spiritual parasites, infections and toxins to take over?*

This year, let's focus on thriving. What does this mean and how do we help members of our communities of faith do this? If you would like to chat further, or are looking for more help in this area, please contact Lisa Simmons, Adult Discipleship Specialist at [lsimmons@wvbc.org](mailto:lsimmons@wvbc.org). She is available for church consultations, local church events and resourcing for adult discipleship.

Lisa Simmons  
Associate in Mission Support and Adult Discipleship



## CHALLENGE 52

### Scripture Verses for February and March

#### February 2014

NIV	KJV
<p><b>February 2</b> Mark 12:30-31 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.</p> <p><b>February 9</b> 1 John 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.</p> <p><b>February 16</b> Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.</p> <p><b>February 23</b> Psalm 136:1 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.</p>	<p><b>February 2</b> Mark 12:30-31 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.</p> <p><b>February 9</b> 1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth.</p> <p><b>February 16</b> Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.</p> <p><b>February 23</b> Psalm 136:1 O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.</p>

### “How - To” Hints for Scripture Memorization

**Always pray first.** Ask God to help you in this new endeavor; ask that He illuminate the passage for you and give you understanding into the verse.

**Use the verse in your prayers for the next week.** Include elements of the verse in your words to God. Pray God will help you apply the verse to your life. Pray God’s help in fixing the verse in your heart and mind.

**Read the context around the verse** to see what it is teaching, and consider how this verse speaks to something in your life.

**Start small** by breaking the verse into shorter pieces. (The first five words and so on.)

**Write it down or type it.** Do this many times a week. Physically writing it will provide a tactile memory aid. This goes for texting too! Memorize and meditate on the verse at the same time.

#### March 2014

NIV	KJV
<p><b>March 2</b> John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”</p> <p><b>March 9</b> John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”</p> <p><b>March 16</b> John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”</p> <p><b>March 23</b> John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”</p> <p><b>March 30</b> John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”</p>	<p><b>March 2</b> John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.</p> <p><b>March 9</b> John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.</p> <p><b>March 16</b> John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.</p> <p><b>March 23</b> John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.</p> <p><b>March 30</b> John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?</p>

**Say it out loud.** This burns the verse into memory. Turn off the radio or iPod when driving and repeat your verse.

**Sing it or use music.** Many people remember song lyrics quickly. Put the verse to a familiar tune, repurposing a song you already know well. Many famous hymns and worship songs use Biblical verses as lyrics.

**Make a scripture memorization a game.**

- Make and use flashcards.
- Make and fill in the blank cards.
- Ask friends and family to quiz you.
- Write the verse on a black or white board, erase various words in the verse and try to replace them with the correct word.
- Write down the first letter of each word as a memory aid.

**Put the verse everywhere.** Place verse cards on the bathroom mirror, on the fridge, on the car dashboard, on your computer screen, on your favorite chair, on the TV remote, on your home gym equipment or set the first letter of each word as your computer password.

**GLORIA FAYE ASBURY**, 75, of Bancroft, died December 30, 2013. She was an active member of Poca Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she sang soprano in the church choir and participated in many activities, including Bible school and the home Bible study group.

**ARNOLD ALVIN CASTO**, 89, of Wayne, died November 30, 2013. He was a member of Wayne Baptist Church (Twelve Pole), where he served as a teacher and deacon. He was a United States Army World War II Veteran.

**PAUL O. COSTER**, 92, of Huntington, died, January 7, 2014. He was a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte). He was the father of Craig Coster.

**MABEL LOWE CURRY**, 99, of Saint Albans, died December 7, 2013. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) for more than 50 years. She served on various boards and committees and taught a Sunday school class and Vacation Bible School for many years.

**PAUL EDWIN ELLIS**, 96, of Hurricane, died November 17, 2013. He was a member of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served as deacon, chair of the trustee board and sang in the choir. He served his country in the United State Army Air Corps during World War II in the South Pacific Theatre.

**JOHN ALLEN FLOWERS**, 63, of Charleston, died December 13, 2013. He was a member of Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he sang in the choir and served as a trustee and all-around handyman for the church.

**JACQUELYN "JACKIE" FORTNEY**, 83, of Stollings, died January 1, 2014. She was involved in Christian leadership roles in Lumberport Baptist Church (Judson) and Logan First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo). She participated in church related activities such as the Buffalo Creek Disaster Clean-Up, children's Bible school, Sunday school teacher and was a staple of the church choir up until she was no longer able to attend church.

**BONNIE BELLE (ERVIN) HAWKINS**, 97, of Nutter Fort, died November 18, 2013. She was a lifelong member of Nutter Fort First Baptist Church (Judson). She was the

founder of Bonnie Belle's Pastries.

**ELAINE RECTOR HEAL**, 76, of Clarksburg, died December 18, 2013. She was a member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), where she was organist. She also served as organist for Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson) as well as playing at Central Christian Church in Fairmont and for Lenten Services at Clarksburg First Presbyterian Church.

**DOROTHY MARGARET HOLLIDAY**, 91, died November 22, 2013. A former member of Layland Baptist Church (Hopewell) and a current member of Lansing Baptist Church (Hopewell), she taught youth groups, children's Sunday school classes, directed plays and served in several positions, including president of the ladies' mission circle. She taught the ladies adult Sunday school class at Lansing Baptist Church until ill health forced her to resign at the age of 81.

**DOROTHY KINCAID HONAKER**, 89, of Fayetteville, died November 19, 2013. She was a member of Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette), where she taught Sunday school, served as circle chairman for the local circles as well as the Fayette Association American Baptist Women, the scholarship committee and the food committee.

**JOHN MELVIN JORDAN**, 89, died November 8, 2013. He was an active member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he served as a deacon for many years. He served in the 8th Army Air Force in England during the Second World War.

**DANIEL NELSON "DANNY" MOORE**, 80, of Grafton, died November 13, 2013. He was a member of Grafton First Baptist Church (Union), where he was a deacon and head usher. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict.

**SARAH DELORES CARPER PETERS**, 80, of Kincaid, died December 25, 2013. She was a member of Page Baptist Church (Fayette). She taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and took on many other active roles for the church.

**MARY KATRINE (BROWN) ROY**, of Racine, died December 7, 2013. She was a member of Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River), where she served in many

capacities over the years as: choir director and the church's only organist, Sunday school teacher of the Pioneer Class, president of American Baptist Women and Leota Campbell Circle and was president of the Coal River Baptist Association of American Baptist Women.

**FRANK SMITH**, of Dunbar, died November 14, 2013. He was a member of South Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served on the board of deacons as a deacon emeritus and on the board of trustees. He was a faithful member of the B.Y.K.O.T.A. Sunday School class.

**VIOLET IRENE "VI" ALDERMAN SNOODGRASS**, died November 28, 2013. She was a 53-year member of Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River), where she served as church secretary for 18 years.

**MARGUERITE J. (FETTY) VINCENT**, 91, died December 9, 2013. She was a member of Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont) for 56 years, where she taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and was active in American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**MARY E. WOLFORD**, 93, of Romney, died November 23, 2013. She was a member of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern).

### Trading Post



**FREE: 11 COMMUNION TRAYS FOR CUPS AND 8 BREAD PLATES, SILVERTONE.** Contact Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) at 304.842.3589 or [church@simpsoncreekbaptist.org](mailto:church@simpsoncreekbaptist.org).

**FREE: VHS TAPES.** Includes discipleship lessons, youth lessons, etc. Contact Valma at the West Virginia Baptist Convention Parkersburg office at 800.879.9822 or [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).

## February 2014

- February 1** - Gary Bolyard, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
- February 2** - Anita Lusk, clerk/treasurer, Rockcastle Association
- February 3** - The ministry of Minden Baptist Church; Ronald Richard, pastor (Fayette)
- February 4** - The ministry of New Antioch Baptist Church; Gary Walker, pastor (Elk Valley)
- February 5** - The ministry of Sand Fork Missionary Baptist Church; David Vickers, pastor (Coal River)
- February 6** - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; John Vetter, pastor (Eastern)
- February 7** - Howard Clark, vice-moderator, Fairmont Association
- February 8** - Victor Shields, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- February 9** - The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; Sam Morris, pastor (Guyandotte)
- February 10** - Linda Carpenter, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and president, West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries
- February 11** - The ministry of Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run)
- February 12** - The ministry of Diamond Baptist Church; Richard Pursley, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
- February 13** - The ministry of Good Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
- February 14** - The ministry of Willow Tree Baptist Church; David Knotts, pastor (Fairmont)
- February 15** - The ministry of Albright Baptist Church; Joe Lamm, pastor (Goshen)
- February 16** - Tan Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- February 17** - Nancy James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
- February 18** - The ministry of Antioch Baptist Church; Larry Peck, interim pastor (Hopewell)
- February 19** - Evan Arkell, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
- February 20** - The ministry of Beckley First Baptist Church; Donald "Doc" Adkins, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
- February 21** - The ministry of Auburn Baptist Church; Harry Drake, pastor (Harrisville)
- February 22** - Jerry Riddle, moderator, Harrisville Association
- February 23** - Mario Morales, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia
- February 24** - The ministry of Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope)
- February 25** - Boyden Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Mexico
- February 26** - Debbie Higginbotham, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
- February 27** - Rebecca Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- February 28** - Barbara Bolick, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Chile

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

## March 2014

- March 1** - Junior High Convention at Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
- March 2** - Annie Dieselberg, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- March 3** - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
- March 4** - Joanna Turley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Japan
- March 5** - The ministry of Sistersville First Baptist Church (Panhandle)
- March 6** - Doris Toothman, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
- March 7** - Duane Binkley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary with United States Burmese refugees
- March 8** - Connie Stewart, moderator, Little Kanawha Association
- March 9** - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; David Radcliff, pastor (Teays Valley)
- March 10** - Nathan Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia
- March 11** - Joan Hall, assistant, Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- March 12** - Colleen Bumgarner, clerk, Parkersburg Association
- March 13** - The ministry of Glenville First Baptist Church; Kenny Fisher, pastor (Little Kanawha)
- March 14** - Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- March 15** - Spring Children's Rally at Parchment Valley Conference Center
- March 16** - Daniel Unger, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
- March 17** - Karen Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- March 18** - Tim Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
- March 19** - Kristy Engel, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
- March 20** - Mayra Giovanetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
- March 21** - Steve McCartney, Site Maintenance manager, Camp Cowen
- March 22** - The ministry of Welch First Baptist Church; Fred VanDyke, pastor (Rockcastle)
- March 23** - Jim Mike Ward, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission; chair, Parchment Valley Conference Center Board; and pastor, Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
- March 24** - Donna Snyder, assistant, Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- March 25** - The ministry of Pond Creek Baptist Church; Lester Morgan, pastor (Parkersburg)
- March 26** - The ministry of Oakwood Baptist Church; David Moutz, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
- March 27** - The ministry of Old Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church; Dennis Romans, pastor (Twelve Pole)
- March 28** - Catherine Teubert, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
- March 29** - The ministry of Summersville Baptist Church; Dana Gatewood, pastor (Hopewell)
- March 30** - The ministry of Glen Falls Baptist Church; Bryant Bailey, pastor (Judson)
- March 31** - The ministry of Valley Bend Baptist Church; Joseph Bowen, pastor (Union)

# Coming Events

## February 2014

February 1

*School of Christian Studies  
ADVANCED Book of Jeremiah  
One-Day Class*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 8

*Church Officers' Training Event*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 10-14

*Palmer Theological Seminary at West  
Virginia Program Class - M. Div.  
Program*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 17

*Presidents' Day Holiday*

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

February 25

*School of Christian Studies Theology  
II (T-02) six-week class begins*

Various Locations

February 28-March 2

*Junior High Convention*

Pine Grove Baptist Church,  
Parkersburg

## March 2014

March 7-8

*West Virginia Baptist Convention*

*Pastoral Continuing Education*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 8

*A Season of Transformation:*

*Congregational Change Event*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 15

*Spring Children's Rally*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 17-21

*Palmer Theological Seminary at West*

*Virginia Program - M. Div Program*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: [thewobaptist@wvbc.org](mailto:thewobaptist@wvbc.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.*

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## Plan Now to Attend the 2014 American Baptist Men ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFASTS

### February 22, 2014

Check for a location near you at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).



The American Baptist Men will host **Prayer Breakfasts** at locations throughout the state. These events will be held on Saturday,

February 22, 2014. This is a time for our West Virginia Baptist Convention men to gather together for a time of concentrated prayer and biblical teaching in conjunction with a fellowship breakfast. The sites will be publicized via mail and e-mail.

If your church is planning, or is interested in hosting a prayer breakfast, please notify Frank Miller, West Virginia Baptist prayer breakfast coordinator at [miller@wvbc.org](mailto:miller@wvbc.org). If you need assistance with speakers and/or material for the event, you may also contact Frank at 304.372.3675.

Offerings received will support the American Baptist Men's mission work. Please send your offering, along with your church name, city, association, contact person, telephone and number attending to Frank at the e-mail or phone number listed above or to 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, West Virginia 25271.

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