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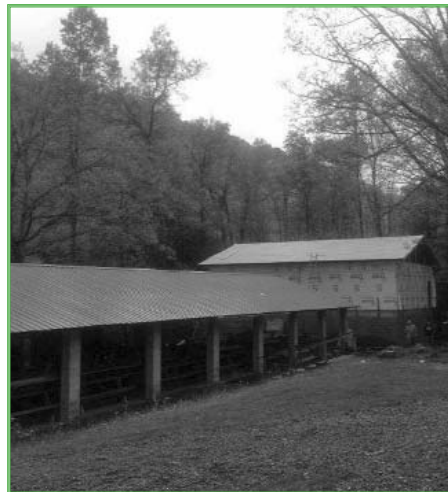
*Coming Events/Worship and
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CHANGING PEOPLE
FOR THE KINGDOM

Volunteers Prepare Cowen for 2012

The new bath house at the Eber Bowles Pavilion is currently under construction and prayerfully, will be functioning by June 8, 2012, the opening of the 2012 camping season and Younger Midler Camp. This bath house is a great addition to the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen with 18 new showers and sleeping space for 30-36 people.



The bath house at the Eber Bowles Pavilion nears completion.

This construction has been made possible by many volunteers donating their time and talents. The American Baptist Men's work party of 2012 on May 4-5 was a great addition to the volunteer hours. During the rainy days at Camp Cowen, the volunteers helped construct a new rose garden at Hylbert Hall, built porches for the



A new rose garden has been constructed at Hylbert Hall.



A porch has been added to the Broad Run (above) Association cabin.

Broad Run and Kanawha Valley Association cabins, installed new flooring in the Crouch Retreat Center, added bleachers at the campfire, put up ceiling fans on the Alice Randall Dining Hall porch and removed many dangerous trees to make things safer for the campers. Camp Cowen has once again been blessed by the service of the West Virginia Baptist Convention coming together to serve our God!

Please pray for the campers, counselors and staff as they are on "The Great Pursuit" in the summer of 2012!

*Camp Cowen...where people meet
Jesus and grow as His disciples in
a community of faith.*



The Kanawha Valley (above) Association cabin has also received a new porch.

*Rob Ely
Director of Camping, Discipleship
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.

Summer Beginnings...



Dr. David L.
Carrico

On the edge of summer, our thinking shifts from inside to outside. During the winter season, we stay inside our homes, our work places, our worship places or our places of education. Although our winter was mild, still we stayed where we were warm and safe. With the coming of the warmer weather we begin to brave the great outdoors. Churches plan events that call us out to the world. Vacation Bible school, church picnics, church camps and conferences all remind us we need to be a “going out” people. Jesus told us best, “Go ye into all the world.” (Matthew 28:19-20) Yes, we go and do missions with the purpose of transformation. This summer, the Holy Spirit might just manifest itself in some wondrous ways. Each summer, we see the Holy Spirit changing lives at Camp Cowen and at the Parchment Valley Conference Center. We see that same Spirit calling folks into full-time mission service through special emphasis retreats. Camp Global has made a positive impact on those called by the Spirit and larger national events reinforce missions in our churches. The World Mission Conference during May 2012 at Green Lake, Wisconsin calls us to celebrate the activity of the Spirit among us.

The Holy Spirit is about even greater beginnings this summer as we embark on a journey called *Transformed by the Spirit*. This will be a genuine process of discernment inviting us to seek out the fresh ways of the Spirit...fresh ways of doing missions and ministry and empowering our churches to face their local challenges for which we might not presently have answers...holy answers and directions that will address God’s future for us. This is not just a program, it is a process that will be a time to discover our challenges and new skills to deal with these challenges.

What is *Transformed by the Spirit*? It is about mission and ministry in the midst of change. While our churches are experiencing change from all types of forces in our culture, Baptists have deep Biblical and theological convictions which can address the new realities of our day. *Transformed by the Spirit* is about discerning the Spirit as it is

at work and as we join together to learn from one another to address our challenges. It is an ongoing process that will inform the ABC Mission Summit at the Biennial gathering in 2013 where the skills that are learned will empower churches to address future challenges together.

This two year process will follow a series of steps in our region:

- naming ministry challenges in the local church and at the association and regional level;
- addressing these challenges by learning and using the process of adaptive change;
- forming learning teams to provide support to those who request it.

A survey format will be used in our region to focus on problems and challenges and teams will be developed to discover solutions.

Why is the West Virginia Baptist Convention involved in *Transformed by the Spirit*? At the April meeting, the Executive Board voted to share in this experience after exploring this process from December 2011 until now. Why not be involved in a process that allows the local church to inform the national body of its hopes, dreams and values? Why not be involved in a

process that calls all of God’s people to greater transparency and accountability? As more details of this adventure are available they will be shared with our Baptist family. And being the Baptists that we are, we must ask... HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST? At this time there is no cost to the region. The costs are being offset by private gifts to the American Baptist Churches. There is an investment of time of our executive leadership as well as staff time in the future, but nothing that is beyond our capacity.

As summer begins may our prayer be that we are ready, willing and able to be *Transformed by the Spirit*.

Blessings,
Dr. David L. Carrico
Executive Minister





Please Give to
One Great Hour
of Sharing

**SHARING
BRINGS JOY**

TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.
SHARING RESOURCES.
CHANGING LIVES.

"GOD IS ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH EVERY BLESSING IN ABUNDANCE, SO THAT BY ALWAYS HAVING ENOUGH OF EVERYTHING, YOU MAY SHARE ABUNDANTLY IN EVERY GOOD WORK."
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

**State
Goal:
\$125,000**

www.abc-oghs.org
American Baptist Churches
World Relief Office
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Faithful Givers Reap Blessings in Minot, North Dakota

The people of Immanuel Baptist Church, Minot, North Dakota, have always been faithful givers to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. In summer 2011, 27 families from the church became OGHS recipients, when flooding in the Souris River Valley region displaced them from their homes. In addition to money provided directly to families, funds were used by volunteers who bought food and prepared meals for the Pennsylvania and West Virginia disaster relief teams of American Baptist (AB) Men. OGHS also financially supported American Baptist Men's disaster relief efforts.

Floodwaters remained for more than three weeks—and longer in some areas—displacing nearly 11,000 residents in a city of 40,000. According to online news sources, 4,100 homes were flooded.

This natural disaster brought out the best in people. Owners of horse and cattle trailers helped families to relocate before flooding began. Those whose homes were spared either opened their homes to others or offered their driveways to families living in motor homes. In addition to offering food and shelter, people helped in every other way imaginable. American Baptist Men visited twice to provide relief. When they departed after the second visit, it was as if part of the church family had moved away. In the midst of tragedy, there was—and is—great blessing. Skeptics of OGHS need simply ask for testimony from Immanuel Baptist's members, whose lives were forever changed. As its theme states, *One Great Hour of Sharing truly does bring joy to others.*

2012 Association Meeting Schedule

- **JULY 26, 2012**
ROCKCASTLE
Saulsville Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.
- **AUGUST 2, 2012**
LITTLE KANAWHA
Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, 5:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 5, 2012**
GREENBRIER-RALEIGH
Breckenridge Baptist Church, 3:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 7, 2012**
HARRISVILLE
Auburn Baptist Church, 10:00 a.m.
- **AUGUST 16, 2012**
BROAD RUN
Broad Run Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m.
- **AUGUST 19, 2012**
GOOD HOPE
Gilboa Baptist Church, 2:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 19, 2012**
GOSHEN
Kingwood Baptist Church, 3:00 p.m.
- **AUGUST 25, 2012**
ELK VALLEY
Sutton Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m.
- **AUGUST 26, 2012**
EASTERN
Petersburg First Baptist Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 9, 2012**
FAIRMONT
Fairmont Baptist Temple, 4:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 15, 2012**
TWELVE POLE
Macedonia Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 15, 2012**
HOPEWELL
Olive Branch Baptist Church, 9:30 a.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**
KANAWHA VALLEY
Bethel Baptist Church, 2:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**
PANHANDLE
Dallas Pike Baptist Church, 4:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**
JUDSON
Wallace First Baptist Church, 2:30 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 18, 2012**
PARKERSBURG
Parkersburg Baptist Temple, 5:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**
FAYETTE
Page Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**
TEAYS VALLEY
Harmony Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 22, 2012**
COAL RIVER
Morrisvale Missionary Baptist Church,
9:30 a.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 27, 2012**
GUYANDOTTE
New Baptist Church, 6:30 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**
LOGAN-MINGO
Connolly Memorial Baptist Church,
3:00 p.m.
- **SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**
UNION
Elkins First Baptist Church,
4:00 p.m.

Revelation 5 depicts a beautiful picture as it describes a diverse multitude of people gathering to worship around the throne of God. This crowd of people with their distinct sounds and rhythms and colors and smells from across the globe worships the living God in unison! This is a futuristic preview of what is to come. But, what do we do between now and the time when this scene arrives?

The Bible encourages us to work together as a body. We are encouraged to partner with other sisters and brothers from across the world to join God in His mission!

When we partner with others to change lives, God is glorified. In April, Rev. Lydia Rivas-Balado, Associate Executive Minister of New Churches and Evangelism and Rev. Laura Ayala-Alvarez, Associate Executive Minister of Christian Education and Leadership Development from ABC-Puerto Rico visited West Virginia. Their tremendous joy, energy and passion for Jesus Christ and His mission is contagious. Their vision trip aimed to explore partnership opportunities which will allow us to continue to share God's love with the growing Hispanic population in the Mountain state. Rev. Lydia observed, "We know God is calling us to do missions in the United States of America. We came willing and opened to what He wants to show us." Rev. Laura noticed Puerto Rican Baptists are a fruit of American mission endeavors that began in 1899, and now God is challenging and calling them to bless others as they have been blessed.

Their time in West Virginia was very laborious: they

Weirton Christian Center Prepares for Summer Program

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

We are ending the school year with 130 children enrolled. Our scripture contest will send all those who earn at least 50 points (five points per verse) to Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh for the day.

Summer Program for Children 5-18

- Free lunch program through CHANGE, plus a daily snack.
- Weekly Bible studies continue for all age groups.
- Fitness - the theme for this summer. The children will set their own goals for eight weeks, with the ultimate goal to be better fit by the end of summer.
- Weekly themes
- Remodeling the park and adding a staff person to work with the children on Christian crafts and activities as well as providing free snacks and drinks to all. There will be a block party for neighborhood recruitment and outreach on June 16. The new basketball court may lead to a downtown street league. We are hoping to hold a week-long basketball clinic.
- Throughout the summer, we will have Christian Fellowship Foundation Funding to send up to 125 children for a week of summer church camp at Elkhorn Valley as well as scholarships for overnight retreats, concerts, field trips and life-changing activities.
- Hancock County Schools will be lending us licenses for Lexia Learning for our computers at the center. Two years ago, we were able to bring some children's reading skills up as much as

participated in the Executive Board meeting, met with pastors who are involved in reaching out to Latinos, traveled long hours to the Eastern Panhandle to encounter members of Comunidad Luz y Vida in Moorefield and also met with members of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza in Ravenswood. West Virginians and Latinos alike, offered an outpouring of hospitality to our visitors and they were deeply touched and blessed by it. By the end of their visit, needless to say, they did not want to depart!

Rev. Laura summed up their vision trip with the following illustration: "When you boil water, you put it in a pot and the water sits there very still. But after it has been in the fire for a few minutes, it starts boiling - bubbling more and more. Our hearts are boiling like that water after we have been here and seen what God is doing in West Virginia. We know we must do something about it."

Please continue to pray for the Hispanic ministries as we continue to develop and seek opportunities to embody and proclaim the Good News to the Hispanics living among us. Pray as we continue to explore this partnership, we discern what God is calling to do together.

Dios les bendiga!

*Juan Aragón
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

four levels. These licenses will also be available through the summer at the library, so we can take 10 children at a time and work with all grades, focusing on K-4 and 5-6. We have been awarded a Summer VISTA to work along side our current AmeriCorps VISTA.

- With our new educational JOURNEY Project, the goal is to help bring our children and their parents to a point of independence. Providing knowledge with financial literacy programs to help families with the struggles along life's journey. This will be held at First Choice America Credit Union.
- Our computer lab is set-up. With the help of the Hancock County Commission, we now have eight good computers in one room. Kids will learn basic Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs.

Summer Program for Kindergarten - First Grade

- Reading/phonics with Lexia Learning licenses from Hancock County Schools
- Number Talks: Proven math program for Kindergarten - 6th grade, brings visual hands-on math to life for better concept understanding. Kindergarten readiness will be taught as well as working with 2nd to 4th graders in the afternoon.

The Weirton Christian Center has had a wonderful beginning to 2012. Thanks go out to all of you who help us serve in the ways that we do! This ministry can only be effective through your prayers and support. We truly feel God has plans to work through the center to make a big difference in our depressed community. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the \$95 for 95 campaign and included us in your mission budgets. It makes such a difference to know you are all behind us and keeping us in prayer!!

Palmer Theological Seminary West Virginia Program Graduation

by Matt Lyons, Palmer Seminary Liaison to the West Virginia Baptist Convention

The 2011-2012 year has been a memorable one for Palmer Theological Seminary's West Virginia (WV) Program. In August we celebrated our 20th anniversary, and in February started the first cohort for the newly accredited Doctor of Ministry degree offered fully in West Virginia. Yet maybe the most important event of the year was the graduation banquet, held March 29, 2012 honoring Master of Divinity graduates Beverly Frank, Cheryl Grant, Lee Boso, Kevin Sions and Rick Garavaglia.



Palmer Theological Seminary WV Program 2012 Master of Divinity graduates: (l to r) Rick Garavaglia, Lee Boso, Cheryl Grant, Beverly Frank, and Kevin Sions

The West Virginia Baptist Convention is unique because of its strength, the vibrancy of its churches, and its call for qualified pastors. Twenty years ago, Palmer's WV Program was envisioned to be a place where West Virginia Baptist Convention pastors could pursue advanced education while maintaining their ministerial roles. Today, we strive to continue fulfilling that mission; it is the core of who we are.

The pastoral role is not easy. The sociopolitical and economic landscape of our day increases the demands on our people and therefore on our pastors. Because the work of a pastor is increasingly challenging, it requires the best educational preparation.

This year's graduates serve in unique contexts. Each one brings a unique skill set to his or her role. Yet the commonality is the love for Jesus Christ and the heart for ministry. Each graduate is an exemplary minister and exceptional student. It is Palmer Theological Seminary's privilege to have shared part of the journey with them. We wish each one the rich blessings that come through our Lord as they minister in the days ahead.

2012 Camp Cowen Schedule

Younger Midler
June 8-10 (grades 2-4*)

Junior High I
June 10-16 (grades 7-9*)

Junior I
June 17-23 (grades 5-6*)

Junior High II
June 24-30 (grades 7-9*)

Mid-High
July 1-7 (grades 9-11*)

Senior High
July 15-21 (grades 10-12*)

Junior II
July 22-28 (grades 5-6*)

Older Midler
August 4-7 (grades 3-4*)

Greenbrier-Raleigh, Rockcastle Association Camp
July 8-13

Hopewell Association Camp
July 13-15

Outpost Camp
July 29-August 4 (grades 9-12*)

Family Camp
July 29-August 4

AB Men's Camp
August 10-12

(* Age group is based on grade in fall of 2012.

All registrations begin at 3 p.m. on the day camp starts.

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



"The Great Pursuit"
2 Timothy 2:22

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN AND GIRLS' WEEKEND



"In the Potter's Hands: Shaped to Serve" For Women and Girls (grades 9-12)

JUNE 8-10, 2012
PARCLIMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER

Speakers:
Peggy, Sharon and Rachel Johnson - A family of three generations serving the Lord through Christian Drama.

Worship Leader:
Marsha Raker and the Oakwood Baptist Church Praise Team

Special activities are planned for the Young Women of Hope (grades 9-12). Program begins on June 8th at 7 p.m. and ends on June 10th at noon.

More details/registration information in the April issue of Seasons or online at www.wvbc.org.

THINKING MISSIONS

The Unchanging Mission



Keith and Debbie Myers

The mission of the church has not changed since its birth at Pentecost. Jesus commissioned the church to make disciples. He told them (us) to go into the world with the Gospel (Matthew 28:19) and to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world (Acts 1:8).

If you look at the history of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, you will find missions has always been at the core of our purpose:

- We have supported missions with our giving
- We have sent people from our churches
- We have gone into the world with the Gospel

Over the decades, the way missions have been funded has changed significantly. When the Judsons departed as the first American Baptist missionaries 200 years ago, they had no idea of how they would support themselves. God provided leadership to form a mission society that took for its purpose the raising of support for the Judsons. That society became what we now know as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (International Ministries).

Twenty years ago, a missionary being commissioned knew funding was secured through the denominational and World Mission Offerings. They knew the society was there to make sure they were cared for and could focus their energies on their work overseas. This model worked for many years, but began to falter and decline putting our very mission at risk. The society took a bold step to change the way we associate our funding of missionaries with individual missionary units instead of with the society. In many ways, it was going back to its founding principles and asking churches and individuals to directly support named missionaries. The society phased in this model over the past decade and it is now fully functional. We have seen a dramatic increase in missionary appointments and funding in the past three years and celebrate that we are once again able to send new people into the world with the Gospel.

Last year, we sent J.D. and Rhonda Reed. They are nearly finished with their language studies and will deploy to Bolivia in July 2012. The Turleys are serving in Japan. Debbie Mulnix continues to serve in India and Nepal. Keith and Debbie Myers have been endorsed and await full funding as they prepare to be commissioned for their service to Mexico. They are counting on us to partner with them as we have many others in the unchanging mission of the church - go into the world and make disciples.

Committed to Missions,
John Simmons
Associate Executive Minister
Missions and Administration

Baptist Campus Ministries: Changing the World with the Gospel

The end of the spring semester is always a bittersweet time on the college campus. It is sad to see students pack up and leave for the summer. But it is a joy to look back and celebrate what God has done in the past year with Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). This has been an incredible year! The gospel has been moving all over our campuses. Students have led their roommates to Christ. Young men and women have been getting up early to study scripture together and are staying up late to sing together and hear truth preached.

Baptist Campus Ministries exists to change lives that change the world. Baptist Campus Ministries is changing lives. And this summer, we have students going from Logan County to Lebanon, changing the world with the gospel. If you support Baptist Campus Ministries with prayers or financially, you are a huge part of what God is doing in this zealous generation of college students. I cannot thank you enough for your generous gifts of prayer and finances.

If you are not currently a Baptist Campus Ministries' supporter, we would love to have you on the team! Please pray for our students this summer as they literally go all over the world with the gospel. Pray for hearts to be ready in the fall to hear the truth of Jesus. You can also become a financial partner by giving monthly, making a one-time donation or by getting involved with the Baptist Campus Ministries Golf Scramble.

Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director

5th Annual Baptist Campus Ministries' GOLF SCRAMBLE



June 18, 2012
The Resort at Glade Springs

9:00-10:00 a.m. - Registration
11:00 a.m. - Ball in Air Shotgun Start

For more information, visit www.wvbc.org or contact Adam Goodwin at 304-550-8495 or www.wvbcm.com

PARCHMENT VALLEY NEWS

Brothers' Keeper 2012



Jackson County office of Community Resources, Inc. and the Brothers' Keeper leadership team. The project sites are qualified as being on one of three levels of priority: Those site owners who qualify in the first priority level will not be required to provide any funds nor materials for their project. Those who are qualified as second priority may be asked to provide some materials for their projects (based upon household financial basis). Owners of third priority projects will be asked to provide materials for their projects.

Following each day's work Monday- Thursday, work

crews will return to the Parchment Valley Conference Center for recreation followed by the evening meal, group activities and awesome and inspiring worship led by Rev. Matt Lyons and his leadership team. The event will include a closing ceremony on Thursday night at which time the Jackson County community will be invited to come and share in our celebration of the work accomplished.

In order to accomplish this task, our teams are seeking financial support from churches, individuals and local businesses in surrounding counties to help provide building materials, supplies and tools as well as funds for the programming and the purchase of BK '12 printed t-shirts.

Brothers' Keeper '12 hopes to be one of the most blessed times of work-fellowship-ministry. We appreciate your prayers and financial contributions toward our 178 youth and their crew leaders as they prepare to embark upon this spiritual and physical challenge in our community. They give 100 % of themselves to accomplish the mission work that truly "*changes people for the kingdom.*"

Thank You for supporting Brothers' Keeper 2012, *it is full!*

Kevin Hanna Leaving Parchment Valley

Fifteen years ago, Kevin Hanna joined the ranks of the Parchment Valley Conference Center. He developed a love for Parchment Valley beyond his scope of duty as a maintenance manager. His passion to serve and commitment in maintaining a Christian conference center is second to none. The relationships he built enables Parchment Valley to be a lighthouse in a dark world.

Kevin will leave his thumbprint on Parchment Valley, which will always be a reminder of his faithful service. He, along with many other individuals completed "Vision 2000," and his expertise with Brothers' Keeper is one that continues to be a tremendous blessing to all.

As Kevin embarks on a new career, we wish him well. The opportunity he pursues is a great step to share his skills and to be a blessing for the city of Ripley.

A few simple words cannot do him justice for the long hours and wonderful mission work he successfully accomplished at Parchment Valley.

Our prayers are with him and his beautiful family as they move forward. We are grateful for Kevin's loyal and trusted dedication to bless our Christian conference center, and that will be treasured for generations to come. We thank Kevin for always being there. He has *changed people for the kingdom.*

The entire convention family expresses their deep appreciation for Kevin's ministry.



Kevin Hanna

Donald Loudermilk Society



Thank you for the tremendous support you continue to give toward the Don Loudermilk Society. Through this blessed opportunity and your dedicated giving, you enable the Parchment Valley Conference Center to continue the mission work of "*changing people for the kingdom.*"

This year, we are tasked with raising \$20,000 for the Donald Loudermilk Society. I am honored to report we are at \$10,300. However, there are some minimal start-up costs we have incurred.

Don had such a servant's heart and left a wonderful, lasting impression on all who knew him and spent time with him. The Parchment Valley wagon ride is still requested by our groups. Recently, during the 31st Golden'eers spring retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center, I took Barbara Schramm and Arleen Pike on a "mule" ride to tour Winters' Lake, and we paused in a special time of memory at the Loudermilk Landing. From there we traveled out to the Grapevine Chapel. In

retrospect, I told the story of the missionaries who were martyred during World War II. As we traveled toward the chapel, the wind blew slightly, and the chimes in memory of those who gave all for the gospel, chimed gently. The Lord's presence was near and dear that day.

Each time I present the Don Loudermilk Society invitation, amazing stories unfold. Recently, while visiting with Genevieve Gillian Sowards and Rita Barker on a breathtaking mountain top view in Monroe County, it was as if Don's stories came to life. The connection between the mission field of Burma and the blessed soil of Parchment Valley made for a memorable visit, which I will never forget.

Many individuals joining the Donald Loudermilk Society send along personal notes about how Don touched their lives. It is such an absolute blessing to share his story, and even more importantly share the gospel with a world that searches for peace - a peace found at the Parchment Valley Conference Center.

For more information on joining the society, contact Frank Miller, Parchment Valley Director of Operations, at 800.489.8564 or miller@wvbc.org.

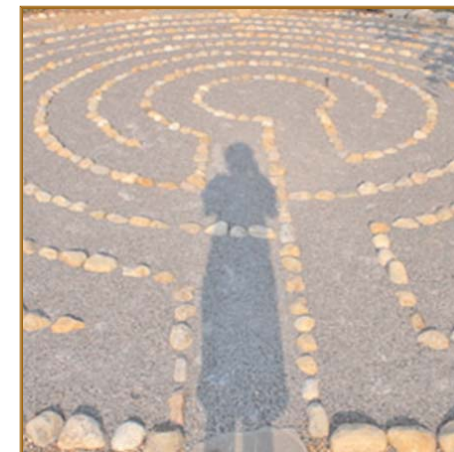
Labyrinth Added to Prayer Walk to Grapevine Chapel

The prayer labyrinth at the Parchment Valley Conference Center is now complete and is ready to be used for the spiritual enrichment of our guests. Thank you to the Twelve Pole Association, who provided the labor and the Parchment Valley staff, who supervised the site preparation.

The labyrinth has only one path to follow. There are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for the twists and turns we encounter in our lives. It touches our sorrows and releases our joys. Walk the labyrinth with an open heart and an open mind.

Guidelines for Walking the Labyrinth

Quiet your mind and become aware of your breathing. Allow yourself to find the pace your body wants to go. The path leads in and out. Those going to you and join in the song of the birds lifting praises to Him. In will meet those coming out. You may pass others or allow them to step around you. Do what feels natural to you.



The Three Stages of the Walk

Stage 1 - Releasing: Let go of the details of your life. This is the act of shedding thoughts and distractions. Move forward along the path, quiet your mind and open your heart to all God has to say to you. Go slow, feel the stones beneath your feet, feel the air around you, listen to the birds singing their praises to the King and listen for His still, small voice.

Stage 2 - Receiving: When you have reached the center, tarry there a while. This is the place of meditation and prayer. Think of God's attributes, rest in His presence and breathe His Spirit deeply.

Stage 3 - Returning: As you leave this sacred space to rejoin the world, take His Spirit with you. Feel His healing presence engulf all you are in Him. Seek His guidance to reenter the world armed with the knowledge of His will and work for your hands. Be energized by the revelations given to you and join in the song of the birds lifting praises to Him.

Joining Hands with the Ryazan Baptist Union

God's work continues through the churches of the Ryazan Baptist Union (Ryazan, Russia). Since 2002, church leaders and members of the West Virginia Baptist Convention have been joined in partnership for the gospel of Jesus Christ. During this time, God has moved in the planting of churches, in the establishment of Christ-centered relationships and in the overall response to the gospel. "What a joy to be in partnership with our brothers and sisters in Christ," stated Greg Creasy, chairman of the Russian Mission Partnership Team. "In the strengthening of relationships, we are able to share common practices, study the Word of God together and work side by side in ministry."

As the churches have come together in ministry, they are finding the strength of partnering with one another. For example, they collectively have supported a new missionary to join in the spread of the gospel in Ryazan. A new work is beginning in the city of Skopin, with the goal of planting a church in this city. The sacrificial giving and attitude of the churches in the Ryazan Baptist Union are overwhelming.

The partnership has also given us opportunities to be with the people of Ryazan. West Virginia Baptists have taken opportunities each year to lead seminars for pastors and laypersons. Russian Christians are hungry for the Word and new ideas in ministry. On March 1-10, 2012, representatives of five West Virginia Baptist churches led Biblical Peacemaking

seminars for three Baptist churches in Ryazan, Korablino and Shatsk. Material from "The Peacemaker" by Ken Sande was presented to congregational leaders and members. Members of this mission team were Greg Creasy (team leader - Pea Ridge Baptist Church, Guyandotte), David and Jeannie Bess (Nitro First Baptist Church, Teays Valley), Gloria Busch and Nancy Duckworth (South Parkersburg Baptist Church, Parkersburg), Betty Randolph



Representatives of five West Virginia Baptist churches led Biblical Peacemaking seminars for three churches in Russia.

(Oakwood Baptist Church, Kanawha Valley), and Martina Shull (Hopewell Baptist Church, Good Hope).

In addition to sharing the Peacemaking principles that have transformed so many West Virginia Baptist Convention churches, the team also ministered at an orphanage in Novominchurinsk. Gifts of fruit, towels and stuffed animals were distributed to the

children. The Gospel was also shared through a craft activity of making wordless bracelets. Later in the day, Pastor Valery Severin of the Novominchurinsk church spoke with the team about the challenges he faces in his ministry, including the loss of a facility in which his church could meet. Later in the week, Lena Bulgakova shared with the members of the team details of the Logov Girls' Prison ministry she leads. She draws upon her own experience in Biblical teaching as well as training received from Child Evangelism Fellowship. On March 9, the team participated in the Women's Day activities at Hope Church. The women present were treated to several dramatic presentations about various Bible stories.

It is always amazing how Russian Baptists do so much with so little resources, while we as West Virginia Baptists often do so little with so many resources. There are great needs present in the Ryazan area, but the devotion of these brothers and sisters in Christ is strong. This trip deepened and expanded partnership ties. God definitely was present and active among both Russian Baptists and West Virginia Baptists!

Our team would love to come and share with your church about the opportunities for your involvement in this exciting ministry. If you would like more information about the Russia Mission Partnership, please visit our website at www.wvbc-russia.org or contact Greg Creasy at gcreasy@pearidgebaptist.com or 304.736.5572.

by Rev. Greg Creasy
Chair, Russia Partnership Team

Leadership Updates

Rev. Adam Cheeseman to Murphytown Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as bivocational pastor on January 1, 2012
Rev. W. Keith Creasy to Union Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as interim pastor on March 25, 2012
Rev. Troy A. George to Meadow Grove Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on March 1, 2012
Rev. Steve Gibson to Beaver First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as pastor in March 2012
Rev. Warren L. Gilpen to Highland Avenue Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as interim pastor on March 11, 2012
Rev. Will McCall to Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as youth ministry and discipleship pastor on February 13, 2012
Rev. David H. Miller to Lauckport Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as bivocational pastor on March 20, 2012
Rev. Christopher P. Mullett to Union Baptist Church (Union) as pastor on April 1, 2012
Rev. Fred L. Patterson to Big Otter Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as pastor on January 1, 2012
Ms. Megan Ramsey to Bethesda Baptist Church (Fairmont) as youth pastor on March 1, 2012
Rev. George R. Terlizzi to Lacomia Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as interim pastor on April 1, 2012
Rev. Daniel Unger to Bethany Baptist Church (Union) as pastor on January 1, 2012
Rev. James Michael Ward to Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as senior pastor on February 1, 2012

Job Opening for Field Representative

The Board of Directors for the WVBC Foundation, Inc. is accepting resumes for persons interested in filling the quarter-time position of field representative for the Foundation. Applicants must have a pastor's heart and the ability to understand the various financial instruments and products of the Foundation.

Applicants may send resumes to the WVBC Foundation, Inc., Attn: John Simmons, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102, prior to June 30, 2012.

Wellsburg First Installs Wheelchair Lift

Wellsburg First Baptist Church (Panhandle) recently installed a wheelchair lift at their church. Now anyone with difficulty using the stairs can use the lift to access the sanctuary upstairs and the fellowship hall downstairs. Several members of the congregation used their skills as carpenters, electricians, painters and lunch servers to help prepare the area for the lift. "We are truly blessed to have this lift to assist anyone wishing to worship here," said Dan Gilchrist, member of the Wellsburg congregation.

Standard First Holds Spring Revival

Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) held its traveling spring revival from March 18-24, 2012. The theme was "Commitment to our God, our Church and our Christian Community." The seven sister churches involved in this revival were Judson Baptist Church, March 18th; Marmet First Baptist Church, March 19th; Chesapeake First Baptist Church, March 20th; Hampton Baptist Church, March 21st; Cedar Grove Baptist Church, March 22nd; Diamond Baptist Church, March 23rd and Standard First Baptist Church, March 24th, all of the Kanawha Valley association.

State Chaplain's Office of WV National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters Offers "Partners in Care" Initiative

"Partners in Care" is an initiative of the State Chaplain's Office of the West Virginia National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ-WV).

The purpose of this initiative is to coordinate support for West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) service members and families through partnerships with local faith communities.

All faith communities are welcome to participate as "Partners in Care" congregations. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by the JFHQ-WV Chaplain and a representative of the participating congregation formalizes the relationship. The MOU defines the purpose, scope and nature of the partnership. Support is offered by the participating congregation to all referred service members and families within the limits of the congregational resources and abilities and free of charge without regard to the recipient's religious affiliation.

Referrals of WVNG service members and families to "Partners in Care" congregations are made through the coordinated efforts of the commanders and units, WVNG Family Program Office, and the JFHQ-WV Chaplain's Office. Guards members and families are encouraged to participate in and access their own faith community, if affiliated.

Referral to a "Partners in Care" congregation by the WVNG in no way implies endorsement of a particular religion by the WVNG.

Participating congregations agree to provide the WVNG with a current list of supportive services offered as well as a congregational point of contact (POC) for coordination and communication of information, referrals and support. The WVNG agrees to provide training and information to congregations as appropriate to facilitate success of the partnership.

It is recognized and understood WVNG citizen soldiers and their families are integral parts of local communities across the state. These citizen soldiers and their families endure the stress incumbent upon those who sacrifice in service to the defense of liberty and the safety and security of both state and nation. It is further recognized and understood that within the communities are congregations uniquely equipped and able to provide faith-based support to West Virginia Guard members and families in times of crisis, stress and need. To that end – "Partners in Care" exists.

The types of services offered are: counseling for individuals, couples, marriages and families; child care; basic household and auto repair; child and teen education and mentoring; reunion support; single parent deployment support; group activities; emergency food, clothing and housing support; community needs' referrals; crisis and grief counseling; transportation; parenting classes; and financial counseling. (This list is not exhaustive and availability varies by congregation.)

For more information or to become a Partners in Care congregation, contact Chaplain (COL) Bruce Reed, JFHQ-WV Chaplain at 1703 Coonskin Drive, Charleston, WV 25311, 304.561.6328, bruce.reed1@us.army.mil or contact Chaplain (LTC) Gary Coffey, WVARNG Full-Time Support Chaplain, 111th EN BDE Chaplain at 304.561.6490 (JFHQ).

Trading Post

FOR SALE: 15-passenger Chrysler van with approximately 80,000 miles in very good condition - \$4,800.00. Contact Dan Forwood, pastor of Big Chimney Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) at 304.548.5205 or 304.206.5279.



Obituaries

F. LOIS ALFRED, 89, of Bridgeport, died April 6, 2012. She was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) for many years, where she was an active member of the

American Baptist Women.

MARGARET CLARE ALSEN, 89, of Saint Petersburg, Florida, died November 23, 2010. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary in Zaire.

RUTH FIELDS ALTARE, 87, of Alderson, died March 20, 2012. She was a member of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she was a member of the Friendship Sunday school class; served on the official board of the church; was a deaconess; and served as chairperson of the hospitality committee, greeting church members and visitors every Sunday morning for many years.

CORNELIA A. DEEM, 82, of the Pines in Marietta, Ohio, died March 24, 2012. She was a very active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for 78 years. She was one of the founders and charter members of the Harvesters' Sunday School Class, was one of the original members of the Bonnie White Circle, superintendent of the Primary Department of Emmanuel Baptist Church, financial secretary for 15 years, church clerk for three years, former member of the choir and served on the board of trustees, mission board and music board. She wrote a devotional column for the church for 15 years which she compiled and, along with other writings, put into book form called "Reflections," which was sold to bring to life the Parable of the Talents.

LACE DONALD "DONNIE" CURRY, 78, of Delbarton, died February 24, 2012. He was a longtime member of the Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), where he was a trustee and deacon.

MERRI NOEL PUCKETT FARLEY, 62, of Barboursville, died February 29, 2012. She was a member of New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she played the piano.

JAMES VIRGIL FARMER, died February 24, 2012. He was a member of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he served as a deacon, and for many years was a member of Mallory Baptist Church, where he served as song leader, adult Sunday school teacher and member of the deacon board. He sang bass in both choirs of Barboursville and Mallory Baptist churches. He served on the executive board of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and on the national board of American Baptist Churches. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the Army Corps of Engineers in Italy.

RICKY LANE FERRELL, 52, of Boomer, died February 29, 2012. He was a member

of Montgomery Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as deacon. He was also a United States Army veteran, having served in Korea.

DR. DAYTON C. FORD, 78, of Charleston, died April 12, 2012. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and shared his time as a Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) leader, and served on the board of deacons.

BETTY LEA HARDY, 85, of Oak Hill, died February 26, 2012. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette) for over 50 years, where she had sung in the choir and was a member of the Ladies' Bible Class in the past.

TERRY WOOD HOFMANN, 67, of Williamstown, died April 6, 2012.

He was a member of Boaz Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as deacon.

ROSCOE C. KEENEY JR., 89, died March 8, 2012. Following graduation from Alderson-Broaddus College in 1948, he became staff director of youth work for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Retiring early from teaching, he answered a long delayed call to ministry. In 1984 he was ordained as a Baptist minister by the Cedar Grove Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

The next year he was called to serve as pastor of Handley Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he remained until 1990. He also served as associate and interim pastor at Kanawha City Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). For six years he served as president, and for another five years as archivist for the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society. He authored a history of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society, a history of the West Virginia Baptist Camp in Cowen and an exhaustive history of the Kanawha Valley Association, including profiles of all the member churches and their ministers since 1873. He was also a substitute pastor and served as vice president of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society. He served in the United States Army and was assigned to the 99th Infantry Division. He was transferred into personnel shortly before the 99th was almost obliterated in the Battle of the Bulge.

MILDRED LOUISE KINDER, (known as Miggy to her friends and family), 88, formerly of Seth, died March 30, 2012.

She was a lifelong member of Healing Stream Baptist Church (Coal River), where she played the piano and also taught many children's classes.

DAVID MATTHEWS, 67, of Weirton, died January 18, 2012. He was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he served as deacon and was president of the American Baptist Men's Fellowship. He was also on the Weirton Christian Center board.

LOUISE HUTCHISON QUISENBERRY, 98, of South Charleston, died April 3, 2012. She was an active member of South

Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), having served many terms on the board of Christian Education. She was a Sunday school teacher and a leader of the Junior High Guilds. She was a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries and served in many offices, even a few on the Kanawha Valley Association Board. Missions were her love, and her favorite ministry was being a circle leader.

JUDY SCHILLACE, 68, of Lake Floyd, died April 17, 2012. She was an active member of Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run), where she served as Sunday school teacher, was on the program and youth committees, the board of Christian Education and was treasurer for the past four and a half years.

OCAL HELEN HORTON SHUMATE, 85, of Crab Orchard, died April 4, 2012.

She was a member of the Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) where she served as a Sunday school teacher, deaconess and served on many committees. **BETTY LOU BENTLEY SPRINKLE**, 78, of South Charleston, died April 16, 2012. She was an active member of Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as well as a member and officer of the American Baptist Women.

CLIFFORD CHRISTIAN STABELL, of Lancaster, California, died April 5, 2012. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOYCE "JUDY" STONE, 74, of Diamond, died April 21, 2012. She had been a member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) since November 1949. She was a long time teacher in the nursery and was formerly a youth leader, choir member and a member of the bereavement dinner committee.

DONALD CAMERON TULLY, 84, of Oak Hill, died April 23, 2012. He was a 40-year member of Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette), where he served on the board of deacons and various other boards and committees. He also served in the United States Navy and the West Virginia National Guard.

JACK WARDEN, 84, of Delbarton, died March 22, 2012. He was a faithful member of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo) for 58 years, serving as a Sunday school teacher, trustee, deacon and usher.

WILLIAM "BILL" WESTFALL, of Parkersburg, died March 1, 2012. He was a member of Lauckport Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He also served in the United States Army.

PRAYER CALENDARS

June 2012

June 1 - The ministry of Indian Fork Baptist Church (Broad Run)
June 2 - The ministry of Lumberport Baptist Church; Chad Hutson, pastor (Judson)
June 3 - The ministry of Sutton Baptist Church; Allan Copenhaver, pastor (Elk Valley)
June 4 - Wanda Clayton, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
June 5 - Clyde Robertson, moderator, Logan-Mingo Association
June 6 - The ministry of Gilboa Baptist Church; Larry Greathouse, pastor (Good Hope)
June 7 - The ministry of Danville First Baptist Church; Geoffrey Saunders, pastor (Coal River)
June 8 - Younger Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 9 - American Baptist Women's Ministries' Annual Conference happens this weekend at the Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 10 - Junior High I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 11 - Vicky Barr, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
June 12 - The ministry of North Parkersburg Baptist Church; Mike Towner, pastor (Parkersburg)
June 13 - The ministry of Albright Baptist Church; Joe Lamm, pastor (Goshen)
June 14 - The ministry of Calvary Baptist Church; Archie Snedegar, interim pastor (Kanawha Valley)
June 15 - Vital Pierre, ABC missionary to Nicaragua
June 16 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Worship Conference happens this weekend at the Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 17 - Junior I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 18 - Jan Martin, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
June 19 - Clark Mills, treasurer and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
June 20 - Katherine Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
June 21 - The ministry of Flint Chapel Baptist Church; Jim Anderson, interim pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
June 22 - Doris Toothman, treasurer, Fairmont Association
June 23 - Cyndy Hardwick, chair, Camp Cowen Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
June 24 - Junior High II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 25 - Valma Adams, West Virginia Baptist Convention office manager and administrative assistant for Discipleship Ministries
June 26 - Rita Chapman, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
June 27 - Roberta Stephens, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
June 28 - The ministry of McRoss Baptist Church (Hopewell)
June 29 - Adalia Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
June 30 - The ministry of Worthington Baptist Church; Everett Palmer, pastor (Fairmont)

July 2012

July 1 - Mid-High Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 2 - David Bess, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
July 3 - The ministry of Curtis Baptist Church; Danny Thomas, pastor (Rockcastle)
July 4 - America's right to Freedom of Religion
July 5 - Leigh Ann Hood, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
July 6 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Jeff Musgrave, pastor (Fairmont)
July 7 - The ministry of Sweet Springs Baptist Church; Kenneth Baker, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
July 8 - Brothers' Keeper begins today at the Parchment Valley Conference Center
July 9 - The ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church; Rick Colvin, pastor (Judson)
July 10 - The ministry of Meadow Grove Baptist Church (Hopewell)
July 11 - Madeline Flores-Lopez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
July 12 - The ministry of Leading Creek Baptist Church; Waitman Sandy, pastor (Little Kanawha)
July 13 - Mark Stauffer, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
July 14 - The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Alan Rosenberger, pastor (Union)
July 15 - Senior High Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 16 - Jean Hunt, treasurer, Hopewell Association
July 17 - The ministry of New Baptist Church; Trent Eastman, pastor (Guyandotte)
July 18 - The ministry of Williamson First Baptist Church; Jarrod Belcher, pastor (Logan Mingo)
July 19 - The ministry of Starcher Baptist Church; Thomas Moore, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
July 20 - The ministry of Pine Grove Baptist Church; Jim Mike Ward, pastor (Parkersburg)
July 21 - Gordon Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
July 22 - Junior II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 23 - The ministry of Zion Baptist Church (Teays Valley)
July 24 - The National Youth Gathering begins today at Washington, D.C.
July 25 - Ruth Mooney, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Costa Rica
July 26 - Rockcastle Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
July 27 - Tim Rice, moderator, Goshen Association
July 28 - The ministry of Long Run Baptist Church; Robey Godfrey, pastor (Elk Valley)
July 29 - Family Camp and Outpost Camp begin today at Camp Cowen
July 30 - Rob Ely, director of Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
July 31 - Donald "Doc" Adkins, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission

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

COMING EVENTS

JUNE 2012

June 2

School of Christian Studies
Baptist and Communion (E-06)
One-Day Class
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 8-10

Younger Midler Camp
Camp Cowen

June 8-10

American Baptist Women's
Ministries Women and GIRLS'
Weekend
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 10-16

Junior High I Camp
Camp Cowen

June 15-16

Worship and Music Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 17-23

Junior I Camp
Camp Cowen

June 18

Baptist Campus Ministries' Golf
Scramble
The Resort at Glade Springs, Daniels

June 24-30

Junior High II Camp
Camp Cowen

JULY 2012

July 1-7

Mid-High Camp
Camp Cowen

July 4

Independence Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

July 8-13

Brothers' Keeper
Parchment Valley Conference Center

July 14

Senior Day
Camp Cowen

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewvbaptist@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.

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

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WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION WORSHIP and MUSIC Conference

True worship is not about getting excited or about "feeling the Spirit." True worship is giving all of yourself to God.

June 15-16, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Guest Clinician: Joel Raney

Workshops include: *The Silent Conductor, Singing Shepherds, Little is Much, Avoiding "Groundhog Day" Worship, Children's Choirs: Beyond Cute!, Technical Worship and Choral Therapy*

Conference begins on June 15 at 8:45 a.m. and ends on June 16 at 3:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.wvbc.org or contact Ginny at prunty@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.

School of Christian Studies **ADVANCED** credit will be available.
A mailing will be sent to students in May.
Contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822 for more information.

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