

October-November 2015

## Cowen Celebrates a “Rock Solid” Summer and Announces New Campaign for the Sunny Day Leadership Center

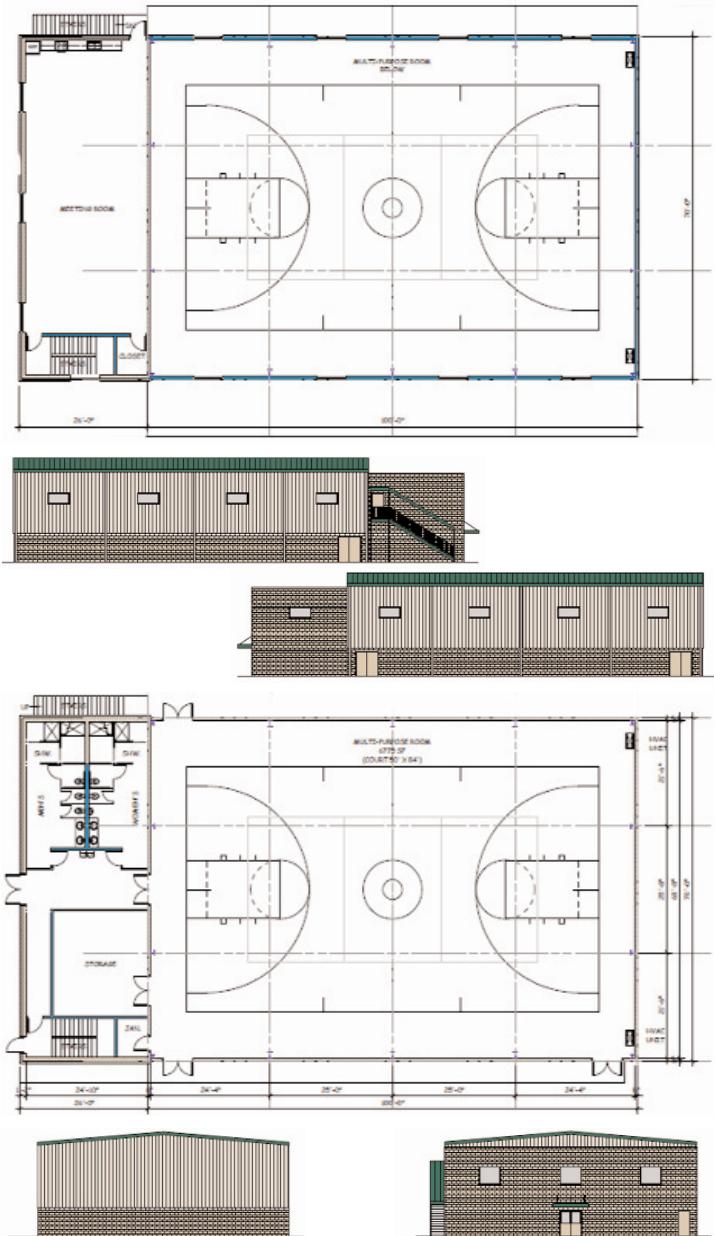
The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen had a “Rock Solid” summer! With 1,896 campers, along with 264 volunteer counselors and 80 staff, God was glorified. The Spirit of the Lord was present as 65 campers gave their lives to Christ as Lord and Savior. Please continue to pray for those campers as they get involved in a local church and continue to build on the foundation established as they studied Matthew 7: “<sup>24</sup>*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* <sup>25</sup>*The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*”

Another group we are excited about helping with their foundation are the 15 students who have committed to serve God in full-time Christian service. We pray this will impact the West Virginia Baptist Convention for many years as our own students answer the call to serve God.

Ministry is continuing to grow and expand at Cowen to reach as many campers as possible. The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen Board of Directors continues to plan for the Sunny Day Leadership Center. Prayerfully, as of this publication, there are bulldozers making the ground level for the building. Our hope is by August 2016 we can begin construction. Preliminary numbers of the project cost will be \$1.5 million. At right, you can see renderings of the outside and floor plans that will include showers. Notice we have expanded the plans by ten feet to accommodate more seating, showers and areas for ministry in the gymnasium.

The campaign is beginning now! Please consider adding this project to your personal and church budgets. These improvements will add more space to reach more campers and continue to be the place “*Where people meet Jesus and grow as his disciples in a community of faith.*”

*Rob Ely  
Director of Student Ministries*



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

by David L. Carrico, Executive Minister



Vol. LXXXIII, Issue 06 October-November 2015

## Table of Contents

- Commentary: Don't Get Lost! **2**  
Executive Committee Report/Executive Board Proposed Bylaw Changes, West Virginia Baptist Convention **3**  
Hispanic Ministries: Díaz to Serve as Missionary/Pastor to Community Baptist Church of Light and Life - Díaz Para Servir Como Misionero/Pastor de la Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Luz y Vida **4**  
Thinking Missions: Taste and See That the Lord is Good/2016 West Virginia Baptist Convention World Mission Conference Bus Trip **5**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center: Summer Blessings/Baptist Campus Ministries: New Beginnings **6**  
Register Now for the Season of Transformation Event on November 14, 2015!/Camp Global 2015 **7**  
Annual Meeting Details **8-9**  
West Virginia Baptist Historical Society Luncheon/132nd Annual Women's Day/Leadership Updates/Trading Post **10**  
Adult Discipleship: Total Stewardship/ New School Year Brings Blessings to Weirton Christian Center **11**  
Vermont Baptist Baptizes Thirty/Mission Partnership Between Churches **12**  
Children's Fall Rally/Junior High Convention/Ministers' Wives' Retreat **13**  
Obituaries **14**  
Prayer Calendars: October and November **15**  
Coming Events: October-November/World Mission Offering **16**



## Don't Get Lost!

In this technologically-enhanced age in which we live, travel can still be challenging. We are blessed with GPS (global positioning system), computer-generated maps and we can always "Google it." Yet we still get lost!

On one trip, GPS guided our staff to a bridge which had been dismantled for a decade. There are many ways to get lost, not only physically, but also spiritually. There is an old proverb, "You can't get lost on a straight road." But you can get detoured. Many of our churches are detoured and need to be reminded to get back on the straight path.

In the founding documents of the West Virginia Baptist Convention the following is noted: "*The object of said convention shall be to promote the spread of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to secure harmony and concert of missionary action among the different churches of this state.*" During our annual meeting, we will celebrate our legacy and project what that can mean in the future. Our purpose has not changed. We need to be on the straight road of our purpose. Christians have grown too timid in response to our culture. Examples abound where we have failed to require accountability by our leaders in our society. We continue to nourish foolishness with our tax dollars. The negative consequences impact our family life, our jobs, our school days, our vacations and our church camps.

How do we challenge the progressive trends that drive political correctness? There are many in our land that would silence the telling of the story of Jesus. The newest nonsense is termed microaggression. It seems it is



Dr. David Carrico

politically incorrect to use certain words in printed materials to call attention to a passage. For example, bullet points should not be used as they allude to guns.

Microaggression is a new micrototalitarianism, an attack on free speech. Gun violence is an evil thing, but fresh venison is wonderful for a hungry family. Get common sense back into our civil discourse and celebrate what we value.

How do we get back to the values taught in our home and in our churches? We live out our values and read the Bible! As Bible reading falls, biblical illiteracy rises. Bible ownership remains strong, but readership remains weak. How do we get the message out and tell folks about Jesus? Evangelism is always a challenge. Each year the West Virginia Baptist Convention provides a tool-giving experience to grow evangelistic skills. As you relate to people around you, those relationships open doors for Jesus. On **November 14, 2015, Tom Mercer**, a noted author, will lead an experience at Parchment Valley Conference Center as he shares his book **8 to 15**. Details of this event are available in this issue of *The West Virginia Baptist* (on page seven). You are encouraged to attend and invite others to come with you to learn a new take on evangelism.

Please continue to grow your passion for Jesus and for those who have yet to discover Him. **Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life."** **John 14:6.** It is our task to stay on the way, share the truth and live the life.

Blessings

## Executive Committee Report

At its September meeting, the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention met as the Personnel Committee to address staff changes necessitated by recent resignations. Having previously accepted the resignations of Adam Goodwin (Director of Baptist Campus Ministries - BCM) and Tim Gray (West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministries), the Committee took a comprehensive look at staffing, hearing the recommendations of David Carrico, Executive Minister.

The Committee affirmed its decision to name Rob Ely as the Director of Student Ministries (Baptist Campus Ministries, Camping and Youth). It reviewed and approved the proposed job description presented by David Carrico. The Director of Student Ministries is responsible for all Convention related activities and events for students grade six through college. As the Director of Student Ministries, Ely will be the statewide director of BCM working with the Baptist Campus Ministries' Board. He will also conduct the ministry at Marshall University. Ely will continue his work as the Director of Camp Cowen working with the Camp Cowen Board. He will continue to coordinate the state Youth Programs.



**Rob Ely**



**Lisa Simmons**

Having assigned Rob Ely to a new portfolio, the Committee addressed the vacancy created in Discipleship Ministries. Upon the recommendation of David Carrico, Executive Minister, the Committee approved Lisa Simmons as the Director of Discipleship Ministries. As the Director of Discipleship Ministries, Simmons will provide leadership to the Commission on Christian Discipleship and coordinate the Discipleship programs of the Convention. She will also serve as a discipleship consultant to churches upon request. Simmons has served in this role with the Convention for two previous periods. The Discipleship portfolio has been added to Lisa's current Associate Minister of Mission Support portfolio, which she will continue to carry.

The Committee received the report that Teresa Miller had been appointed as the Associate Director of Operations at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The Committee endorsed the appointment previously approved by the Parchment Valley Board. Teresa will coordinate the administrative functions of Parchment Valley Conference Center and supervise staff and scheduling. This appointment continues a long tradition of husband and wife working together at Parchment Valley Conference Center - *a place where lives are changed.*



**Teresa Miller**

The Executive Committee also reviewed again the proposed bylaw changes that it has forwarded to the Annual Meeting for a vote.

## Executive Board Proposed Bylaw Changes, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**Summary:** The purpose of the proposed changes to the bylaws of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to change the term of office for all standing boards and committees to a calendar year, and to make the meeting times for the Executive Board and Committee more congruent with the annual planning cycles of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and its standing boards and committees.

Bylaw changes required: [changes noted in brackets]

Section 3.0.1 There shall be twenty-seven at-large members, nine of whom shall be elected each year by the Convention for three-year terms [**beginning January 1**]. At-large members, having served a term of eighteen months or more, must be off the Board for at least one year before being eligible for another term of at-large service. The Nominating Committee shall ensure that, conditions permitting, nominees shall be one-third clergy, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen.

Section 3.0.5 The term of office for members of the Board shall begin **upon election at the Annual Meeting of the Convention**. Replace with: [The term of office for members of the Board shall begin **January 1 after their election to the Board**.] No one shall substitute for a Board member.

Section 3.1.7 **The Board shall meet a minimum of two times each year with one meeting in April or May and another in November or December and on call of the President**. Replace with: [The Board will meet three times each year with the scheduled meetings being: the first weekend in January after January 2; the first weekend in May; and the first weekend in October. The President may change the meeting dates providing adequate notice to the Board.] Twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4.1.0 The Committee shall elect two Board members to serve for one year as at-large members; their terms shall begin **immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Convention** [January 1].

Change heading 5.0 [**Quorums and Terms of Office**]

Add Section 5.0.1 [**All Commissions and Standing Committees and Boards terms of office are for calendar years unless specified.**]

**NOTE of PROCEDURE** - these amendments would require 2/3s vote of the voting delegates at the Annual Meeting for passage when coming to the Convention from the Executive Board and published in the delegates packets for consideration.

**FINAL NOTE** - The terms of office for the elected officers would remain on the Convention year (2.0.0) allowing the elected president to make the annual appointments prior to the January Board meeting.

# **Hispanic Ministries: Díaz to Serve as Missionary/Pastor to Community Baptist Church of Light and Life - Díaz Para Servir Como Misionero/Pastor de la Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Luz y Vida**

Great things happen when we join together and unite our efforts and resources for God's glory. In 2012, the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico (IBPR) and the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC), united by their commitment to God's mission began to explore opportunities to partner in mission. West Virginia and Puerto Rico are unique places with quite different cultures and languages. However, God led us to journey side by side for mutual learning and the enrichment of our ministries.

Early in August 2015, both regions launched a new and historic season of collaboration in mission as Luis Díaz arrived from Puerto Rico. He will serve as missionary/pastor for Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Luz y Vida (Eastern), our young Hispanic church in Moorefield. Luis was in Moorefield in 2013 and 2014 with mission teams from Puerto Rico, providing support for the ministry of Luz y Vida. And through those opportunities God planted a seed - a desire to see people surrender to Christ and help them mature as followers of Jesus.

On August 9, 2015, the Iglesia Bautista de Mamey in Gurabo, Puerto Rico celebrated Luis' commissioning service. In his church, Luis wore many hats: he sang in the praise band, was the president of the evangelism and mission team, was vice-president of the social action team, was a member of the church's board and also served as a member of the evangelism and new church planting commission of the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico. In 2014, Luis graduated from the Centro de Entrenamiento de Misiones Interculturales (Center for Intercultural Missions Training).

Luis has a powerful testimony of transformation and forgiveness. To say he is passionate about sharing the gospel with others is an understatement - Luis is head over heels in love with Jesus. ¡Arriba, arriba corazones! (Cheer up, cheer up your hearts!) is one of Luis' favorite phrases. His passion, energy and dynamism are so contagious I nicknamed him AFOE2 - A fountain of eternal energy and enthusiasm.

*"Y esta es la confianza que tenemos en él, que si pedimos aigua cosa conforme a su voluntad, él nos oye." 1 Juan 5:14*



*Luis (left) encourages youth who recommitted their lives to Christ.*

Luis has more than 20 years of experience as a professional hair and makeup artist. He expects to use his skills to connect with the Hispanic community in Moorefield. During his second weekend in Moorefield, six people gave their lives to Christ, and on his third weekend, five youth recommitted their lives and one surrendered his life to the Jesus. How amazing! Please pray for Luis as he adapts to a new culture and way of life as he continues to develop his English skills and new relationships. I am sure the Lord will bless him as he leads Luz y Vida to share the gospel with Hispanics relocating in Moorefield seeking work in the Pilgrim's Pride chicken processing plant.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia. They again stepped out in faith to support our ministry among Hispanics in West Virginia by providing the financial support needed for Luis, and also by providing gift cards and other items to furnish his house in Moorefield. Many thanks also to Pastor John Vetter and his wife, Donna, and the Eastern Baptist Association for their unwavering commitment to God, and to reaching Hispanics with God's love in Moorefield despite cultural and language challenges!

¡Arriba, arriba corazones! For we will continue to see God's glory among us as we become one to accomplish God's dream together - every person from every nation, tribe and tongue kneeling and confessing Jesus Christ as Lord for the glory of God.

*Juan Aragon  
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

by John Simmons, Associate Executive Minister  
Missions and Administration

## Taste and See That the Lord is Good Psalm 34:8

I was privileged to spend the summer on mission. I traveled to North East India where I helped



teach Pastor Training Institutes in five different state conventions. Each convention's mission secretary determined who would be invited to the institutes. So each location had a different

target group. Most of the institutes were focused on training front-line missionaries, evangelists and pastors.

The institutes were designed to teach basic truths at a very fundamental level of instruction. This was done for a couple of reasons:

1. *The students, for the most part, had limited educational opportunities and most were at a sixth grade level of training or below.*
2. *The audience these missionaries were trying to reach had no background understanding of Christianity or scripture.*

Dr. Jolly Rimai and I taught classes in three areas for the students: Personal Spiritual Development; Theology; and Practical Churchmanship (Preaching, Pastoral Care and

**Travel with the West Virginia Baptist Convention by bus to the**



**July 3-9, 2016 at Greenlake, Wisconsin.**

**Trip Cost: \$800**

- Double Occupancy, all meals except travel days included.

- Picking up in Parkersburg, Ripley and Dunbar.

- Overnight in Indiana going out and coming back.

- Register online with International Ministries and pay the conference fee.

- Deposit of \$200 (non-refundable) due to the convention by January 15, 2016.

- Payments of \$150 due in February, March, April and May of 2016.

Administration). Each institute was unique and different even though we used the same curriculum.

I used the book of Ephesians as the basis for the classes on Personal Spiritual Development. The students were challenged to let the word speak to them instead of using it to find their next lesson or sermon. I taught them a five-step study process to help them study God's word for personal spiritual development.

1. *Read the text and ask what does the text say?*
2. *What is the context of the message?*
  - a. To whom was it written?
  - b. What was the culture?
  - c. What issues are being addressed?
3. *What does the text mean in its original context?*
4. *What is God saying to me in the text?*
5. *How should I respond to the text?*
  - a. What changes should I make?
  - b. What actions should I take?

As we went through the book of Ephesians, we utilized this process to help the students in their spiritual development. At the end of the first institute, one of the elders stood and shared, "I have been studying the Bible for many years and have always felt I was licking the outside of ripe fruit. You have taught us how to open the fruit and experience its full flavor." I hope and pray you are spending time in God's word and that you are experiencing its fullness.

*Committed to Missions*

## 2016 World Mission Conference

ONE FORM PER PERSON.

**Name:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

**Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**City:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**State/Zip:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cell #:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Church/Assoc.:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Deposit:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration form with check enclosed and payable to:  
West Virginia Baptist Convention, 2016 World Mission Conference, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Questions? Contact Joan Hall at 800.879.9822 or [hall@wvbc.org](mailto:hall@wvbc.org).

## Parchment Valley Conference Center: Summer Blessings



Joyce Thompson, head of the food service department at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

ing that area of operations. We thank her and all the kitchen staff for their hard work and service.

We have also been blessed by the many visitors we have received this summer, ranging from family reunions, to youth groups, to church groups and even major conferences. Brothers' Keeper 2015, held at the end of July was a busy and hectic week, but very successful and productive. We thank all those who participated in this most rewarding project.

Our Parchment Valley Veterans' Therapeutic Veterans to Agriculture program is not only successful, but growing and receiving attention from across the state and country. Despite the deluge of rainfall we had in the spring, which lasted until early July, some crops survived and continue to be harvested. We are working with a local potato chip company that has asked our Veterans' Therapeutics Program to grow the potatoes for their

## Baptist Campus Ministries: New Beginnings

August 2015 is slightly different than August 1982. Walking onto the campus of Marshall University as the director of Student Ministries for the West Virginia Baptist Convention creates a different feeling than a young 17-year old freshman from Ravenswood discovering an entirely new world. One aspect is the same: there are people in need of Jesus Christ. There are students on West Virginia campuses who need to strengthen their followership of Christ. That is the calling, even 33 years later - helping students walk with the Jesus who loves them and wants the best for them.

Recently, I had the privilege of sitting around the Marshall Memorial Fountain and the newly decorated and furnished "blue room" in the Campus Christian Center asking students: "What does Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) mean to you?"

**DREW** - Sophomore: "It helped strengthen the foundation of my faith. The group is built on Jesus Christ and they have helped me grow."

**ANDREW** - Junior: "It is the strongest sense of community needed on a secular campus to remain strong in Christ, and we are continuing to grow as a community of believers."

It has been a busy summer at Parchment Valley Conference Center, and there have been lots of positives, along with a few negatives. Our kitchen freezers malfunctioned not once, but twice, resulting in a monetary loss. Despite that, business returned to normal and kitchen operations resumed in their usual manner. We received a visit/inspection from the Jackson County Health Department recently. Upon completion of their various site inspections, our food service department was awarded a gold star certificate. We are so blessed to have Joyce Thompson heading that area of operations. We thank her and all the kitchen staff for their hard work and service.

product. The Commissioner of Agriculture is working closely with us on the project. We are also now a certified commercial kitchen, with the help of Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention. Parchment Valley Conference Center will support producing salsa, which will be marketed and the monies used for Hispanic Ministries.

We are often asked by churches and groups what they can do to help at Parchment Valley Conference Center, so we have decided to periodically publish items that would make things run much smoother for our staff. We have encountered a couple of vandalism episodes this summer and the culprits remain unknown. Parchment Valley Maintenance supervisor, Kevin Emerick, advised it would be nice to have a couple of wireless security cameras - one for the pool area and the entrance to the lodges. Also, we are starting a project to replace the old rectangular tables and chairs in the lower half of the dining hall to match the existing round tables and chairs in the upper half. If your church or church group would be interested in providing these surveillance cameras or funding new table(s) or chair(s), please contact Sue Hamric, volunteer coordinator at 304.927.2678.

Fall is upon us, but as we look back and reflect on the summer, we are so blessed. Decisions for Christ were made here by many and that is what Parchment Valley Conference Center is all about. Please continue to pray for the center and its staff that we may meet the needs of those who come. As always, God bless you and thank you for your support.

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

**MEREDITH** - Sophomore: "Studying God's word in community with other college students who are in the same station of life has helped me the most."

**EMILY** - Sophomore: "It is the place I experienced true discipleship - one on one discussions about how to live out my faith!"

**KAITLYN** - Senior: "Christ-centered community that is passionate about reaching others for Jesus. The group is outward focused and wants others to know Jesus."

**BECCA** - Junior: "The fellowship part is special. It keeps people as a part of the body of Christ and gives them opportunities to serve. I wouldn't have made it through my Freshman year without BCM."

**RYAN** - Senior: "The friends I have made at BCM are life long friends. I know they will hold me accountable in my faith and be there when I need them. As a senior at Camp Cowen, I knew these were the people I wanted and needed to surround myself with at college."

*Rob Ely  
Director of Student Ministries*

## **Register Now for the Season of Transformation Event on November 14, 2015!**

How is your church doing at evangelism? When was the last time someone expressed their faith in your worship service and was baptized in your church? Are you satisfied with the growth rate of your church?

Charles G. Finney had this to say about evangelism. "It is the great business of every Christian to save souls. People complain they do not know how to take hold of this matter. Why the reason is plain enough - they have never studied it! They have never taken the proper pains to qualify themselves for the work. If you do not make it a matter of study, how you may successfully act in building up the kingdom of Christ, you are acting a very wicked and absurd part as a Christian."

Those are straightforward, even harsh words from an earlier generation. They do, however, express a truth our churches and we, as individuals, need to hear and must heed if our churches are to move from survive to thrive. Sadly, our



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

churches reported an average of just two baptisms per church in 2014. Can we improve? What is to be done?

The West Virginia Baptist Convention is offering our third "Season of Transformation Event" at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, November 14, 2015. It will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Our leader for the session will be Rev. Tom Mercer, pastor of High Desert Church in Victorville, California. He is the author of 8 to 15: The World Is Smaller Than You Think.

No conference is a cure all, but we believe this one will be helpful to us all. *Because it is so important, the conference, including lunch, will be without cost to the participants. A copy of the book will be given free to the first 100 registrants.* To register, contact Tracie at [temerick@wvbc.org](mailto:temerick@wvbc.org) or 800.879.9822. We look forward to seeing you at Parchment Valley Conference Center on November 14, 2015.

## **Camp Global 2015**

Camp Global 2015, "Destination World," was a great mission education experience. With people from around the world present, the program featured what God was doing in missions. The Bible studies led by Rev. Ray Schooler (International Ministries' staff) challenged people to stretch forward to do what God is calling them to do.

Rev. Krikwin Marak from the Garo Baptist Convention, North East India, shared what God was doing through our partnerships there. International Ministries' missionary, Dr. Rick Gutierrez shared the exciting things that are happening in South Africa and among the gypsy people in Hungary.

We were also privileged to introduce to Camp Global newly endorsed missionaries to the Dominican Republic, Sara and Peter McCurdy, who with their children spent the weekend with us at camp.

A team from Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) shared their experiences in Cuba this summer.

Vespers were led each night by Dr. and Mrs. Mark Stauffer from Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) who challenged us to recognize and address the problems in our own neighborhoods as well as around the world.

Missionary prayer clocks were made during the activity time. Some participants helped build tandoori ovens and cooked bread and chicken in them. The women learned about African cloth and made items they wore to lunch.

In the opening night devotional time, we were reminded of the brokenness of our world. We were also given a message of hope for the broken world and encouraged to take the broken pieces and create a beautiful mosaic representing the hope we have in Christ for our broken world.

Camp Global is held each Labor Day weekend.



*Women wearing their African cloth.*



*Map filled in with the broken pieces from the broken world lesson.*

# **Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of West Virginia Baptists**



## **150th ANNUAL MEETING**

### **PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

**Thursday, October 15**

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

**Theme:** *Faith in Motion*

**Speakers:** Rhonda Reed and  
Debbie Myers

**Location:** Hurricane First Baptist  
Church

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

**Lunch:** Will be provided for \$6.00.  
Nursery provided for preschool  
children.

**Contact:** Kathy Hudson -  
kathykayhudson@gmail.com

**Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council**

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

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

**Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.**

**Speaker:** Dr. Anthony Headley

**Topic:** Emotional Health for Leading  
Effectively

**Cost:** Members - \$30.00,

Non-Members - \$35.00, includes lunch

**Contact:** Dr. Mark Stauffer -

markstauf@suddenlink.net

Purchase tickets on the Annual  
Meeting registration form.

American Baptist Men

**Location:** Tour of Putnam Toyota Plant

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

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

**Cost:** \$10.00

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



**of the West Virginia Baptist Convention**

**Thursday, October 15 -  
Friday, October 16, 2015**

### **Hurricane First Baptist Church**

**2635 Main Street,  
Hurricane, WV  
25526**

### **Scripture Verse:**

**Philippians 3:13b-14**

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



**Guest Speaker:  
John Upton**  
Executive Director, Baptist  
General Association of  
Virginia and the Virginia  
Baptist Mission Board in the  
United States and President,  
Baptist World Alliance



**Annual  
Sermon Speaker:  
Maxwell Hill, Jr.**  
West Virginia Baptist  
Convention



**Executive  
Minister:  
David Carrico**  
West Virginia Baptist  
Convention



**Worship Leader:  
Marsha Raker**  
Music Ministry Director,  
Oakwood Baptist Church,  
Charleston

**SCHEDULE:**  
**Thursday, October 15**

**9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
Pre-Convention Activities

**2:45 p.m. Session 1 - Sanctuary**  
Welcome and Opening Prayer - Clark Swepton  
Ward Hibbs Award - Richard Creehan  
Annual Sermon - Max Hill  
Business Meeting 1 - Clark Swepton

**5:00 p.m. - Dinner Break**

*Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet*

**6:30 p.m. Session 2 - Sanctuary**  
Welcome and Opening Prayer - Sandy Phares  
School of Christian Studies' Graduation  
Keynote Speaker - John Upton

**8:30 p.m.**

*Alderson Broaddus University Reception*

**Friday, October 16**

**8:30 a.m. Session 3 - Sanctuary**  
Welcome and Opening Prayer - Mark Wood  
Executive Minister Address - David Carrico  
9:45 a.m. - Workshops and Front Porch Discussions

**9:45 a.m. - Workshop Session I**

**10:30 a.m. - Break**

**10:45 a.m. - Workshop Session II**

**12:00 noon - Lunch Break**

**Luncheon Opportunities**

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

**1:45 p.m.**

*Exhibit Hall Meet and Greet*

**2:45 p.m. Session 4 - Sanctuary**

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Clark Swepton  
Business Meeting 2 - Clark Swepton  
James Anderson, Sr. Pastoral Ministry Award  
Installation of Officers  
Keynote Speaker - John Upton  
Communion

## **Delegate Registration**

### **Registration Fee:**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Child Care:**

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

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

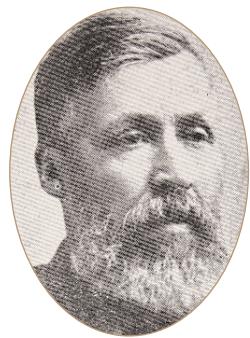
### **DIRECTIONS:**

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

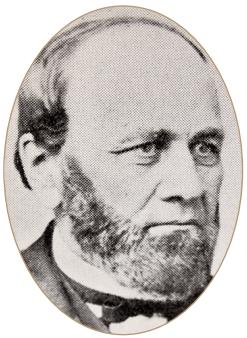
**From the West:** Take I-64 E to exit 34 (Hurricane). Take a right to RR 34. Take a right and go to the second light. Take a right and the church is on the left past the fire department.

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

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



*John W. Carter*



*Daniel B. Purinton*

# West Virginia Baptist Historical Society Luncheon

**Friday, October 16, 2015  
12:15 p.m  
Milton Baptist Church**

*(Shuttle bus service will be provided.)*

*Have lunch with  
John W. Carter and Daniel B. Purinton  
as they plan for the first meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.*

**Luncheon Cost: \$10.00**

*For reservations, contact Sally Cyrus at 304.522.1030 or [sllcrs10@gmail.com](mailto:sllcrs10@gmail.com).*

*Limited editions of the American Baptist Quarterly (West Virginia Baptist Convention) will be available at the meeting for \$10.00.*

*"Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works,  
and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."*  
**Matthew 5:16 (KJV)**



## 132nd Annual Women's Day

**October 15, 2015**

**Hurricane First Baptist Church**

**Featuring:  
Missionaries  
Rhonda Reed and  
Debbie Myers**



*Music for the Heart, Million Women Movement, Light Your World, Sounds of Appalachia*

*Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$6.00 per person. A nursery is available for preschool children.*

## Leadership Updates

**MR. ALLEN L. BURNSWORTH** to Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on July 5, 2015

**REV. JOHN ELDER** to Mount Olive Baptist Church (Union) as pastor on June 1, 2015

**MR. JOSHUA RADCLIFF** to Bethlehem Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on July 1, 2015

**MR. CHAD RAINES** to Welcome Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on July 1, 2015

**REV. MATTHEW SCOTT TAYLOR** to Webster Baptist Church (Union) as pastor on July 1, 2015

**MR. JAKE TIGHE** to Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern) as director of Youth and Children's Ministries on September 1, 2015

**MR. WESLEY WILLIAMS** to Flagg Meadow Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on January 1, 2015

## Trading Post

**FREE: PIANO.** Must be picked up at Sunrise Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Please call the church and leave a message at 304.485.4912.

## **Adult Disipleship: Total Stewardship**

Our study of the facets of spiritual formation (based on Five Facets of Spiritual Formation by John R. Throop) continues with the topic of total stewardship. We have already explored the topics of reflective reading and active repentance.

Total stewardship is most often understood within the community of faith as stewardship of time, talents and treasure. Stewardship in simple terms means the careful management of something. God calls us to be stewards of what He has given us, and that is our lives, our personality, our talents, our spiritual gifts and our material possessions. We are called to carefully manage all of these. Biblical stewardship begins when the Christian realizes and acts on the fact God has given us all we have. Our responsibility as careful managers comes when we are willing to give honestly and evaluate our lives and goods by the standards of God through the Bible and not the standards of the world and the "if I feel like it" or "just enough" standards.

Ask yourself these questions:

- **What are my patterns and practices with money?** If another person looked at these, would they be confident I am a Christian using my money for God's purposes?

- **How do I use my time?** Write down in hour increments what you do each day, and also in a typical week. Why are you doing these things? Do these reflect a God-focused life? Do I need to do some reorientation of the way I use my time?

- **What are my talents?** Do I realize these are given to me to use for God. How am I using them? Are there other ways I could use these for the good of God's kingdom? Who can I talk with about different possibilities?

R. Paul Stevens says good stewardship is integrating faith and life from Monday to Sunday. Integrating what you believe with what you live is key. How is it going for you?

*Lisa Simmons*

*Director of Discipleship/Associate in Mission Support*

## **New School Year Brings Blessings to Weirton Christian Center**

*by Kim Weaver  
director, Weirton Christian Center*

The new school year brought with it some exciting news for Weirton Christian Center. After ending the summer with 117 children and losing the free Boys and Girls Club facility, we wondered if we could once again hold the after-school program at our Elm Street location. But going back to the original plan and being able to purchase the property next door enables us not only to expand, but to use that facility for older children. The **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT** is underway. After acquiring the needed property and receiving bids for construction, our plan is to raise the needed funds and break ground in the spring. We are counting on our West Virginia Baptist family of churches to help us meet our project goal of \$150,000. With the help of the J.C. Williams Trust and local donors, this amount should complete the 60% we need to build the building debt-free and receive the 40% match from the Christian Fellowship Foundation.

Another blessing came from a very generous man who grew up at his grandmother's on Orchard Street, about three blocks from the center. A friend of our board president, he has been made aware of the work of the Weirton Christian Center and has decided to gift



*Fifty-four attended Weirton Christian Center's week of camp at Elkhorn Valley, where 12 attendees gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized, including one volunteer.*

us with her house. Since we are currently using the house at the center for older children, while using the upstairs rooms for music, counseling, behavior classes and family visitation, it makes perfect sense to use this new home for these purposes as well as life skills' classes. We currently have four agencies working with us for supervised visitation of foster children, and now, instead of one small room, we can offer more space and multiple visits at a time. God is so good! He knows what we need, when we need it and is orchestrating things for our good ... and His work.

For this school year, we ask for your continued prayers. We have 26 pre-school students and have no idea how many afterschool students (kindergarten-12th) we will have, after we ended last year with 144. What we do know is, we will help with homework, feed them, give

them God's word, computer access, fitness programs and provide any school supplies they may need. The quarters for grades' fund is ready to be replenished, so thank you to all who collect quarters and send them in regularly. Also, we are still collecting Campbell's labels, which spend like cash for things we need. Thank you for your faithful giving and prayers.

The Weirton Christian Center is beginning our 98th year and from day one our Baptist family has made it possible. Many thanks to all the churches, associations, American Baptist Women's Ministries' groups and American Baptist Men who have been such important partners to our ministry. As we move into our next century, we look forward to being the hands and feet of Jesus in a community that needs Him more than ever! Thank you for enabling us to do that.

## Vermont Baptist Baptizes Thirty



New creations in Christ baptized on July 19, 2015 by Chad Ash, pastor of Vermont Baptist Church.

Vermont Baptist Church (Judson) held a baptism for 30 people at a nearby lake outside Salem on Sunday, July 19, 2015 after worship at the church. Pastor Chad Ash baptized the youth and adults in a beautiful setting with a small beach. Ora Ash, his father and a deacon helped, as well as deacons, Darrell Hutson and Charles Stark. Some of the candidates accepted the Lord in Vacation Bible School, others at worship and some in their homes during a pastoral visit. The church has also been actively telling their story on social media. Attendance at church has more than doubled in the last year.

It is the largest baptism I have witnessed in the 20 years I have been an area minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Victor Shields  
Northeast Area Minister

## Mission Partnership between Churches

### RAVENSWOOD -

When two pastors from cooperating churches put their heads together, great things can be done for God's kingdom.

Rich McClure, pastor of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg) was looking for a way to involve his church's leadership team in face-to-face ministry in the community. Mary Beth McCloy, pastor of LifeSpring Church (Parkersburg) was looking for help in reaching out to families in Ravenswood. The more the two talked the more they realized working together could be mutually beneficial.



who had led Vacation Bible School in Parkersburg to provide leadership for the morning activities. Parents and other volunteers from Lifespring Community Church and Comunidad Nueva Esperanza prepared lunch and supervised afternoon recreation. It proved to be a practical partnership of shared ministry.

Pastor Rich McClure said, "It was like taking a mission team on a day trip. Our team got to encourage the folks at the other two churches, minister face-to-face with families and share Jesus Christ in another setting." Pastor Mary Beth McCloy said, "Parkersburg First Baptist Church gave us the



help we needed to hold an event we did not have the manpower to pull off by ourselves. We made new friends and the kids said they couldn't wait to come back. The highlight for me was hearing one of the mothers express appreciation that her children were accepted at our church. Connecting people with the God that loves them is what it's all about!"



A Kids' Day event was planned by LifeSpring Community Church in cooperation with Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope), the first Hispanic Baptist



Church in Ripley. The event would include Bible stories and crafts in the morning followed by lunch and activities in the afternoon. Parkersburg First Baptist Church sent seven leaders

# Children's Fall Rally

November 7,  
2015

Parchment Valley  
Conference Center

**Theme: Five Very Bad Days  
and How God Fixed Them**

*Registration form available at  
[www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).*

# Junior High

Convention

November  
20-22, 2015

Clarksburg Baptist Church

*Registration form available at  
[www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).*

## Ministers' Wives' Retreat

November 13-15, 2015  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### Six Simple Steps:

*Find Contentment and Joy as a Ministry Wife*  
by Diana Davis



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

### 2015 Ministers' Wives' Retreat Registration Form

ONE FORM PER PERSON.  
Please complete the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: Please check the appropriate box below:**

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

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

**TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED**

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

June - August 2015

**JACK EUGENE BORING**, 81, of West Union, died July 6, 2015. He was a member of Liberty Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he was an honorary deacon and greeter.

**JAMES CLIFFORD BRUNTY**, 66, of Richwood, died July 23, 2015. He was the pastor of Rock Grove Baptist Church (Broad Run).

**ANNABEL PHILLIPS BURNS**, of Lewisburg, formerly of Charleston, died August 6, 2015. She was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley) and led the Bible study for her women's circle for more than 20 years.

**WILLIAM ROBERT (BOB) CASEY**, 83, of Salem, died July 25, 2015. He was a member of Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he was a deacon and served continuously in various capacities including chairman of the board of deacons, member of pulpit committees and assistant financial secretary.

**PAUL E. COOL, JR.**, of Guardian, died August 15, 2015. He was a member of Holly River Baptist Church (Elk Valley), where he was adult Sunday school teacher, usher and previous trustee.

**RUSSELL FRENCH CRAWFORD**, 87, of Parkersburg, died August 8, 2015. He served as pastor throughout his life for several Baptist churches in West Virginia. His latest was Murphystown Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served 22 years before retiring.

**VIRGINIA "GINNY" DENNING**, 93, of Charleston, died July 14, 2015. She was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley) since 1950. She was active in the women's circle, Bible study and served as a greeter.

**DOTTY LOU DEPUE**, 74, of Spencer, died May 20, 2015. She was an active member of Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope). She was involved with American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**GEORGE EVANS**, 88, died August 17, 2015. He was a member of Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he was a steadfast and faithful servant, working tirelessly in the church bread ministry as well as serving on the usher and deacon boards.

**GLENN GERALD (JERRY) GANO**, 88, died June 18, 2015. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumnus.

**ARNOLD W. HARLESS**, 86, of Clear Fork, died July 9, 2015. Arnold was a member of Baileysville Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where he served as Sunday

school teacher, devotion leader and interim pastor. He also served as pastor of Hanover Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle) for 13 years. He was active in the Rockcastle Association, serving as association moderator and as a delegate to the American Baptist Churches at Green Lake, Wisconsin for six years.

**ROBERT LEE "BOB" HART, SR.**, 71, of Beverly, died August 19, 2015. He was a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Union), where he served as a trustee of the church and president of the men's fellowship.

**SARAH MARGARET ISRAEL**, 102, died July 29, 2015. She had been an active member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) since 1926, serving on various boards and committees and participating in the activities of American Baptist Women's Ministries. For many years she taught in the children's department of Sunday school and later was a member of the Berean Bible Class.

**MARY VIRGINIA "MISS GINN" KING**, 72, of Spencer, died August 12, 2015. She was a member of Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope) and a graduate of the West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies.

**VIRGINIA NELL PERRY LEE**, 83, of Saint Albans, died July 6, 2015. She was a lifetime member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served as deaconess, was a member of the Rebecca Class, sang in the Sanctuary Choir and played handbells. She also served on music committees, children's committees and the reception committee.

**VIRGINIA PEARL FRAME MACE**, 79, of Frametown, died July 6, 2015. She was a member of Hope Baptist Church (Elk Valley), where she sang in the choir for many years.

**PHYLLIS IRENE MOORE**, 87, of Saint Albans, died July 6, 2015. She was a member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) for nearly 60 years, where she taught Sunday school and helped with Vacation Bible School.

**VIRGINIA MILLER RATLIFF**, of Elkins, died July 4, 2015. She was formerly a member of Kanawha City Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she was active as an adult Sunday school teacher, served as president of the American Baptist Women's Ministries and chaired the Leota Campbell Circle. In Elkins, she was an active member of Elkins First Baptist Church (Union), the American Baptist Women's Ministries and the JOY Sunday

School Class.

**GEORGE SCONISH**, 98, of Fairmont, died August 12, 2015. He was a member of Coon's Run Baptist Church (Judson), where he was the oldest deacon.

**WILMA ROSE STEEL SHRIVER**, 101, of Wadestown, died August 19, 2015. She was a longtime member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she taught Sunday school for 50 years.

**THOMAS WILLIAM SNYDER**, of Clarksburg, died August 26, 2015. He was a member of East Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) and served on the trustee board, was a member of the choir and music director.

**PEGGY M. TURNER**, 82, of Stockport, Ohio, died August 19, 2015. She was a longtime, active member of Murphystown Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she served as a youth leader.

**DORIS CAROL COSBY VANDEVENDER**, 76, died, August 19, 2015. She was a longtime member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley), where she sang in the choir, served on numerous church boards and worked to preserve the church's archival documents and photographs. She was also an active member of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society.

**V. KATHRYN BRISCOE VANDYKE**, 96, of Scott Depot, died August 24, 2015. She was a member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served as deaconess, secretary, missionary society circle chairperson, was a member of the hostess committee and was on a committee organizing physical programs for senior citizens.

**BILL DIXON VARNER**, 80, of Beverly, died August 23, 2015. He was a member of Mount Carmel Baptist Church (Union) and the men's fellowship.

**CARRIE WILLIAMS**, 87, of Reedy, died July 29, 2015. She was a member of Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope). She was the song leader for many years and sang with the Grace Quartet.

**DAVID E. WOOD**, 71, of Reedy, died, August 26, 2015. He was an active member of Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope), who served as deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

**ANDREW THEODORE (ANDY) YOUSKO**, 89, of Connecticut, died April 10, 2015. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in Thailand.

## October 2015

- OCTOBER 1** - Tracie Emerick, Outreach Assistant, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- OCTOBER 2** - Juan Aragon, Hispanic Ministries' Strategist, West Virginia Baptist Convention
- OCTOBER 3** - Debbie Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
- OCTOBER 4** - The ministry of Gentry Missionary Baptist Church; Lewis Sanson, pastor (Fayette)
- OCTOBER 5** - The ministry of Fairview Baptist Church; Michael McCoy, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
- OCTOBER 6** - The ministry of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church; Tim Underwood, pastor (Little Kanawha)
- OCTOBER 7** - The ministry of Nitro First Baptist Church; David Bess, pastor (Teays Valley)
- OCTOBER 8** - Patti Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
- OCTOBER 9** - Catherine Teubert, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
- OCTOBER 10** - The ministry of Antioch Baptist Church; Larry Peck, pastor (Hopewell)
- OCTOBER 11** - The ministry of Hanover Missionary Baptist Church; Jackie Lester, pastor (Rockcastle)
- OCTOBER 12** - Jonathan Nambu, American Baptist Foreign Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Philippines
- OCTOBER 13** - Kihomi Ngwemi, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
- OCTOBER 14** - The ministry of Standard First Baptist Church; Gary Tincher, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
- OCTOBER 15** - The West Virginia Baptist Convention 150th Annual Meeting begins today at Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)
- OCTOBER 16** - The ministry of Fairmont First Baptist Church; Valerie Gittings, pastor (Fairmont)
- OCTOBER 17** - The ministry of Twelve Pole Baptist Church; Douglas Thompson, pastor (Twelve Pole)
- OCTOBER 18** - The ministry of Clarksburg Baptist Church; David Hulme, pastor (Union)
- OCTOBER 19** - The ministry of Hamlin First Baptist Church; David Burch, pastor (Guyandotte)
- OCTOBER 20** - The ministry of Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope)
- OCTOBER 21** - Dana Gatewood, pastor, Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell); president, West Virginia Baptist Education Society; and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
- OCTOBER 22** - The ministry of Big Union Baptist Church; Kenneth Adkins, pastor (Elk Valley)
- OCTOBER 23** - The ministry of Sarepta Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
- OCTOBER 24** - Dagoberto Zelaya, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Honduras
- OCTOBER 25** - Charles Shawver, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
- OCTOBER 26** - Gary Bolyard, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
- OCTOBER 27** - The ministry of West Union Baptist Church; Dan Chadwick, pastor (Broad Run)
- OCTOBER 28** - Keneda Devrick, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
- OCTOBER 29** - Glen Chapman, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- OCTOBER 30** - The ministry of Wheeling First Baptist Church; Darrin Wright, pastor (Panhandle)
- OCTOBER 31** - The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Todd Jarman, pastor (Judson)

## November 2015

- NOVEMBER 1** - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; David Radcliff, pastor (Teays Valley)
- NOVEMBER 2** - Jeni Pedzinski, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- NOVEMBER 3** - Kim Brown, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) to Thailand
- NOVEMBER 4** - The ministry of Fort Gay Baptist Church; Timothy Preston, pastor (Twelve Pole)
- NOVEMBER 5** - The ministry of Porter Fork Baptist Church; Richard Ruby, pastor (Coal River)
- NOVEMBER 6** - The ministry of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church; Danny Mitchell, pastor (Logan-Mingo)
- NOVEMBER 7** - The Children's Fall Rally today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
- NOVEMBER 8** - Judi Funk, chair, Camp Cowen Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
- NOVEMBER 9** - The ministry of Nutter Fort First Baptist Church; Don Fowler, pastor (Judson)
- NOVEMBER 10** - The ministry of Bellemade Baptist Church; Nathan Vance, pastor (Rockcastle)
- NOVEMBER 11** - Kit Ripley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- NOVEMBER 12** - The ministry of Willow Tree Baptist Church; David Knotts, pastor (Fairmont)
- NOVEMBER 13** - The Ministers' Wives' Retreat this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
- NOVEMBER 14** - A Season of Transformation Event today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
- NOVEMBER 15** - The ministry of Dorcas Baptist Church; Steve Davis, pastor (Eastern)
- NOVEMBER 16** - The ministry of Ravenswood First Baptist Church; Mark Gerstell, pastor (Good Hope)
- NOVEMBER 17** - Lea Lindero, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- NOVEMBER 18** - The ministry of Newton Memorial Baptist Church; Curtis Harris, pastor (Hopewell)
- NOVEMBER 19** - David Carpenter, pastor, Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run) and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
- NOVEMBER 20** - The ministry of Albright Baptist Church; Joe Lamm, pastor (Goshen)
- NOVEMBER 21** - Junior High Convention this weekend at Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union)
- NOVEMBER 22** - Michael Grose, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
- NOVEMBER 23** - The ministry of Diamond Baptist Church; Rick Pursley, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
- NOVEMBER 24** - Joel Hoefle, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
- NOVEMBER 25** - Katie Linderman, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
- NOVEMBER 26** - Count your blessings and thank God for what He has done in our lives!!
- NOVEMBER 27** - The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; Larry McKim, pastor (Broad Run)
- NOVEMBER 28** - The ministry of Parkersburg First Baptist Church; Richard McClure, pastor (Parkersburg)
- NOVEMBER 29** - The ministry of Stump Chapel Baptist Church; Teddy Legg, pastor (Elk Valley)
- NOVEMBER 30** - The ministry of Beckley First Baptist Church; Donald Adkins, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)

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

# Coming Events

## OCTOBER

October 2-4

**Baptist Campus Ministries' Fall Retreat**  
Camp Cowen

October 3

**School of Christian Studies' ADVANCED Walking Through Grief Together One-Day Class**  
Oakwood Baptist Church

October 6

**Retired Ministers and Mates' Gathering**  
Camp Cowen

October 15-16

**West Virginia Baptist Convention 150th Annual Meeting**  
Hurricane First Baptist Church

October 15

**West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries' Women's Day**  
Hurricane First Baptist Church

October 15

**West Virginia American Baptist Men's Day**  
Hurricane First Baptist Church

October 15

**Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council Event**

Milton Baptist Church

October 24

**School of Christian Studies Intro to Missions (Mod-3) One-Day Class**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

## NOVEMBER

November 7

**Children's Fall Rally**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 11

**Veteran's Day Holiday**  
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office  
CLOSED

November 13-15

**Ministers' Wives' Retreat**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 14

**Season of Transformation**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: [thewvbaptist@wvbc.org](mailto: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  
P.O. Box 1019  
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019



*"Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal." Philippians 3:13-14 (ASV)*

**God is doing new and surprising things in once-Communist Hungary!**

For decades under repressive Communist rule, schools in this eastern European country were controlled by the government.

But today, Hungarian churches have been given the opportunity to run schools, where they can teach the Bible, nurture students in their faith and open new doors through courses in conversational English.

With your support through the World Mission Offering, International Ministries (IM) is providing much-needed support to partner organization Hungary Baptist Aid, which is now managing 49 schools in Hungary. Already the impact is staggering.

**STRETCH FORWARD  
with International Ministries  
through the  
World Mission Offering.**

**State Goal: \$500,000**



**INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES  
COME. GROW. CHANGE.  
[www.worldmissionoffering.org](http://www.worldmissionoffering.org)**

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