

Seven from West Virginia Program to Graduate Palmer Seminary

RIPLEY - Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University held its annual graduation banquet for its West Virginia program on Thursday, April 7, 2016 in Hill Hall at Parchment Valley Conference Center. In total, seven anticipated graduates were recognized.

Those recognized for completing the Doctor of Ministry program included Rev. Mark McCloy, Rev. Richard McClure and Rev. Jeremy Myers. Four Master of Divinity students were also recognized in anticipation of their upcoming graduation: Rev. Juan Aragon, Rev. Matthew Ash, Rev. Dwight Brohard, and Rev. Mark Gerstell. The official graduation ceremony took place at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 20, 2016.

During the event, registrar Craig Miller was announced as this year's recipient of the Bob Matherly Award for his work in furthering the success of the West Virginia program. Each of the graduates' spouses were also recognized for their support and encouragement. Also taking part in the program were Dr. Allan Copenhaver, site coordinator of the West Virginia program; Dr. David Carrico, executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention; Dr. David Bronkema, interim dean of Palmer Seminary; Dr. Bob Duffett, president of Eastern University; and Ruth McFarland, alumni director for the seminary.

Palmer Seminary's (formerly known as Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary) formal partnership with the West Virginia

Baptist Convention dates back to 1992. Since that time, students have been able to pursue theological education without leaving the state. At this time, students are able to complete both a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry degree

through the program held at Parchment Valley. All of the classes are held in the Matherly Room in the Santrock Education Building.

Upcoming master's courses classes for the fall semester include:

August 15-19 INTG 524 Church Renewal and Evangelism
 September 19-23 THLE 624 Truth and Transformation: Ethics of the Visionary
 October 24-28 BIBL The Gospels and Acts

Those pursuing a master's degree have access to two generous scholarships: the West Virginia Baptist Education Society scholarship and the Bowen Charitable Trust scholarship. Information about both of these scholarships can be found at the convention website: www.wvbc.org under the partners tab. Students interested in starting during the fall semester are encouraged to start their online application now. The application can be found on the seminary's website. Students are also being accepted for the Doctor of Ministry program. Incoming doctoral students will start coursework in the spring semester.

For more information about Palmer Seminary's programs in West

Virginia, please contact site coordinator Allan Copenhaver at 304.763.8564 or rcopenha@eastern.edu.



Dr. Bob Duffett (l), along with Dr. David Bronkema (r) with the upcoming Doctor of Ministry program graduates: Rev. Jeremy Myers, Rev. Richard McClure and Rev. Mark McCloy.



Dr. Bob Duffett (l), along with Dr. David Bronkema (r) with the upcoming Master of Divinity program graduates: Rev. Matthew Ash, Rev. Juan Aragon, Rev. Mark Gerstell and Rev. Dwight Brohard.



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Be Light



Dr. David Carrico

What are you going to do this summer? I'm not asking about your family vacation or a special church activity or even participating in a mission work project. I am asking, "What life-changing experience could you be involved with this summer?"

Let us acknowledge the fact our world is becoming a darker place. We must dig deep into our culture to find places where **light** is winning over darkness. You can find godly **light** in the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter as you read of the events happening within our convention. Folks are seeking answers to deal with the darkness and the brokenness of world. But the answers - the **light** - will not come from government programs or human proposals. No, Christ is still the only answer - the true **Light**.

In Matthew 5:14-15, Jesus commanded His disciples and us to be the **light** of the world. He demanded nothing less than that His followers, then and now, be like Him. What does it mean to be the **light** of the world? **Light** is first and foremost meant to be seen. That is its purpose. Like **light**, Christianity is meant to be seen. Christianity should not be visible only within the walls of the church, but in all places all the time. **Light** is a guide to make the path clear before us in our journey of life. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a **light** unto my path." Psalm 119:105 **Light** can be seen and it can help us see; it can warn us of danger; it can guide us as we physically and spiritually travel in life.

Jesus calls us to **be light!**
Being light may mean we are used by

others for their purposes as we serve them. We are blessed with a purpose - to be a blessing to others. In being a blessing we bring who we are to the needs of the world in which we live. Some might call that "missions." Hence, **being light** is doing missions.

Jesus is not very popular with our national elite. The media does not know what to do with Jesus or with the Christian faith. Lack of education when it comes to Christian beliefs seems to be prevalent among some of the media. We have allowed political correctness to be the engine that runs our cultural discourse. Christians in America today are targets of the secular left because we believe in a fixed moral code, and the media becomes infuriated when Christians choose a lifestyle guided by a moral code. Instead, they want a society of people who are free to live as they please - unless, of course, you choose to **be light** and live like Jesus. Sin loves company. People who live in spiritual darkness refuse to tolerate **light** because holiness forces them to take a good look at their own lives. Satan hates Christians because we know sin is real!

There is a need in our world for repentance before God. We believe in salvation coming only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In this world, as Christians, we believe in striving to live righteous lives, **being light** to the world and praying for others to embrace the **light!**

This summer will you choose to curse the darkness or **BE LIGHT?**
Have a great summer **being light!**

Blessings

International Ministries Endorses Rev. Juan and Denise Aragon

VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA - The



The Aragon family: Denise, Juan, Ziba (right) and Juancito (bottom)

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS), also known as International Ministries, recently announced the endorsement of Rev. Juan and Denise Aragon to serve as missionaries in Chiapas, Mexico. This endorsement puts the Aragons on a path of full-time missionary service with ABFMS in response to their call to serve God in Chiapas, Mexico.

The Aragons will begin forming their Missionary Partnership Team (MPT) and Mission Partnership Networks (MPN) as they raise the necessary support to be commissioned and sent in the near future.

Juan and Denise have both made trips to the Chiapas area, assisted by Keith and Debbie Myers, as they explored their call to missions. "There was no doubt God was calling us to Chiapas," Denise said after her visit last summer.

The Aragons join a long list of missionaries God has called from West Virginia. They covet your prayers and your financial support as they step out in faith to go again on God's mission.

Juan will continue his staff ministry with the West Virginia Baptist Convention during this time of fund raising and transition.

Hulme Called as Northeast Area Minister

RIPLEY - Rev. David L. Hulme, pastor of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), has accepted the call from the personnel committee to become the Northeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Hulme has served on the staff of Clarksburg Baptist Church for 33 years and as its senior pastor since 2006. He will begin his employment with the Convention later this summer. Hulme has been very active in Convention life, having served on many different boards and committees. He will serve the churches in the Broad Run, Eastern, Fairmont, Goshen, Judson and Union associations. You may contact him at: hulme@wvbc.org.



David Hulme, new Northeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Women's Leadership Academy

Every Christian has a contribution to make to the church's ministry. You do not need the title president or chairman to be a leader. If you are a member of any group you are a leader. If you share ideas, projects, prayers, direction and encouraging words, you are a leader.

American Baptist Women's Ministries has established a Leadership Academy. This ten-course study, over two years, will help women increase their leadership ability. Church women can improve existing skills or develop new skills which will be beneficial in their local women's ministry.

The academy's first session will be held Saturday, June 4, 2016 at the Women and GIRLS' Conference at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Dr. Sandra Lutz will teach the session on the *Characteristics of a Christian Leader*. She has expressed the following thought on leadership:

"A follower of Jesus Christ should be a leader of people. While some are born leaders and some have the spiritual gift of leadership, you need not have the natural talent or giftedness to influence in a Christ-like way. Leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less. Come and learn the characteristics of a Godly leader that will help you think and act like a leader, becoming the person of influence God desires you to be."

The second session is Saturday, September 24, 2016, at the Spiritual Growth Retreat, held at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Rev. Debbie Higginbotham will teach a study on *Personal Spiritual Formation*. Lisa Simmons will teach the third session entitled *Developing a Vision for Ministry* Saturday, November 5, 2016 at Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope).

For more information and a registration form, please visit: www.wvbc.org and click on Partners.



Women's Leadership Academy
Transformed Learning...Transformed Leadership...Transformed Lives

151st Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

October 20-21, 2016
Gassaway Baptist Church

Theme: Beacon of Hope

Scripture: Psalm 43:3, "Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell."

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jeff Haggray,
Executive Director,
American Baptist Home Mission Societies



Lubeck Community Spreads the Gospel to Sister Church in Nicaragua

by Shannon Dixon

member, Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

In the middle of a cold February in 2016, a mission team of 16 from Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) traveled to warm San Marcos, Nicaragua to visit their sister church, Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire, whom they have partnered with for the past four years. The mission team from Lubeck was a mixture of age groups from many different walks of life, and each team member brought their own special strength and unique gift to offer their sister church. The team traveled to Nicaragua to come alongside of Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire and partner not only financially, but more importantly, spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to their community.

During these four years, friendships and love have created a special bond. While the team members have differed each year, several have traveled to San Marcos more than once. There is something to be said about traveling to the same community to share the message of Jesus Christ. This year, the mission team assisted with Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire's Vacation Bible School. There were approximately 275 children who attended the three-day event. The youth of Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire performed puppet ministry and clown skits. The Lubeck mission team members helped to give Bible lessons to the children. The highlight of Vacation Bible School was the mission team performing an impromptu line dance during the last day. The organizer of the Vacation Bible School, Luis, had bags of school supplies to hand out to the older children and a bag of cereal and food for the younger children.

Another highlight of the trip was a nursing home visit. The mission team, alongside of the youth and worship team from Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire danced and sang with the residents. After dancing and singing, the female residents had their fingernails painted, and a couple of the men from the mission team even participated in painting fingernails. The ladies of the church cooked lunch for the residents. One particular resident had a wonderful laugh. She was so happy and full of joy - to watch her worship and enjoy the day made everyone smile. Her laugh was infectious and you couldn't help but laugh with her.

On another day, the mission team was able to visit a local orphanage, which was on an abandoned coffee plantation. A previous translator for the team had been hired at the orphan-

age and she asked for the team to visit. There are three houses for the children, two for boys and one for girls. Each of the houses for the boys had a live-in husband and wife and the girl's house had a mom living there. Each house functions as a real home would, with chores assigned to each child, a sit down dinner cooked by the "parents" and devotions as well as homework time. There is a "casa grande" (big house) where there is a computer lab donated by a church as well as a veranda with rocking chairs overlooking a valley and a volcano in the distance. The orphanage is run by two American missionaries, with help of local men and women who have a heart for God and children. The Lubeck Community Baptist Church mission team has hopes of going back to the orphanage and helping in some way.

A special event that took place this year was the donation made to Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire by a mission team member and his family. The father had passed away last fall, and in lieu of flowers, money was donated to Iglesia Bautista Jehova

Yire in his memory. The money was donated and given to Iglesia Bautista Jehova Yire to use as they saw fit. During the last evening at the celebration church service, Pastor Rodolfo, announced the church planned to use the funds to put up awnings over their newly installed doors and windows to help with the rainy season. They also planned to build steps and a wheelchair ramp into the church. The symbolic gesture of the wheelchair ramp was in honor of the father, who had to use a walker in his later years. There wasn't a dry eye in the church. The evening was also special because a church member invit-

ed the whole team to her house for dinner. It was an authentic Nicaraguan dinner - cooked over a fire, and was prepared in a home that did not have running water. It was an honor to be treated as family. At the end of the evening, several young adults were informed they would be sponsored for college. One young woman, in her final year of nursing school, was facing being unable to finish her degree because her husband had lost his job. A young man, Luis, is going to a year of seminary schooling. Another young adult is finishing his degree in communications and a young lady is starting college for civil engineering. It is exciting to see lives change as cultures are honored and ways of life are improved.

While we only visit the sister church for nine days a year, the friendships and family that have been created sustain us all year long. We are brothers and sisters in Christ - borders mean nothing. Mantente bendecido - stay blessed.



Lubeck Community Baptist Church Mission Team

A Matter of Faith



In a recent Sunday School class, the teacher was discussing the need for faith when things were difficult. She shared that a recent evangelist described faith as hanging on to a rope by making a knot from the dangling end and holding on. She then shared how the pastor told the church later that faith was simply holding on without the knot. Both of these illustrations were made to encourage people going through very trying times - hold on until God provides. As the teacher shared these illustrations, it was all I could do not to challenge both of them as I believe a better image of faith in this instance is you let go of the rope and trust God.

Our natural tendency is to try to keep control of things. Our human nature and instincts are to hold onto the familiar, the safe, the usual, the tradition, the comfortable, etc ... -- especially in times of storm. We tend to hunker down in the boat and ask God to take the storm away instead of looking to Jesus who may be calling us out of the boat and into the midst of the storm.

It takes faith to let go! It takes faith to step out of the boat! It takes faith to follow Jesus!

Juan and Denise Aragon packed up all of their worldly belongings eight years ago and began a journey of faith. When they left Nicaragua, they had no idea that they would reside in West Virginia, let alone work in ministry with the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Yet they came - they let go of the rope - and God lead them on a path far different than they could have imagined.

Juan has planted two Hispanic churches, completed his seminary training, followed a path of ministry being licensed and now ordained by the Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Denise has made great progress in her Master's studies in counseling while serving the Hispanic community in Ravenswood as its "go to" person in time of need. They have added to their family as God has blessed them with Juancito and Ziba. They bought a house. Juan became a United States' citizen. They built lasting relationships with the people of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. God gave them a strong rope.

And now they have discerned the call of God to "let go" and follow Me to Mexico. How exciting it is for those of us who know Juan and Denise to share with them their call to missions. I know you will prayerfully support them as they step out in faith to go where God leads them.

Committed to Missions

Goals for Joint Men Mission Projects

- 1.) To build relationships between the men of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico using our gifts and talents for the mutual benefit of the conventions for the glory of God.
- 2.) To learn from each other in the context of joint mission.
- 3.) To better understand from each other the roles of Christian men in the churches and conventions.
- 4.) To worship together as the body of Christ and experience the cultural differences in our worship of God.
- 5.) To see tangible outcomes from our work on the chosen mission projects.
- 6.) To strengthen the collegial relationships between the partner conventions.

Send name, deposit and contact information to: West Virginia Baptist Convention - Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Questions? Contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.

Men's Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Joint mission with
Puerto Rico Baptist Men
November 3-12, 2016

Cost: \$1100.00 per person*
\$200 non-refundable deposit
due by June 15, 2016.

Payments of \$150 due each month.

Trip Leader: John Simmons
Project: Rebuild Biennial Chapel
at Camp Las Cruces

**Subject to airfare changes.*

Trip sponsored by the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

NEW ADDITION TO OUR MINISTRY

Recently, the Weirton Christian Center expanded their ministry with the opening of Evyenia's House of Hope, just two blocks from the center. The house was a gift to the center, and its purpose is to help rebuild families.

We are currently offering three rooms for supervised visitation, and a kitchen for cooking family meals during those visitations as well as life skills' lessons for parents and our youth at the center. The upstairs meeting room will serve several agencies that deal with family issues as well as provide places for skills training and family meetings. This is truly a blessing to the area, since we have had five different agencies sharing one small room and our park for supervised visitations over the past few years.

House of Hope is also the place we have decided to locate the *Dream Dress Place*. We received a wonderful donation of about 400 formal dresses from a local store who was relocating and getting out of the consignment business. This blessing of dresses will allow many young ladies with low incomes to attend formal dances who would not otherwise have the opportunity to go. We are renting the dresses for the cost of cleaning.

As things evolve, the addition of Evyenia's House of Hope is sure to be a huge part of rebuilding the broken families in our area. Children are being separated from their families every day due to neglect caused by parents' drug use. As our state has the highest overdose death rate in the nation, the number of children - and extended family members affected is skyrocketing. Please be in prayer for these situations.

BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT

We are working hard to close the funding gap for the **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT**. We have submitted grants to help with different areas of the building. Our largest request will be addressed in June, and the more we have already collected by that point the better our chances of being awarded our requested funding. The 40% match will come through and we can start building as soon as the other 60% is secured. Many thanks to all the West Virginia Baptist Convention churches who have already sent in their donations to the project. We truly appreciate all the support, fundraisers at your churches, donor brick purchases and most importantly, your prayers for this project. We could not do this ministry at all without the support of our wonderful Baptist family!

The first excavation has begun; the house we purchased next door is now gone!



Evyenia's House of Hope



The House of Hope Dream Dress Place



The house next to the Weirton Christian Center is going, going, gone.

**The average cost to care
for one of our children is**

**\$5 per day
(\$100 per month).**

**Will you sponsor a child and
help us make a difference?**

<http://weirtonchristiancenter.com>; 304-748-2353

Discipleship Ministries

by Lisa Simmons, Director

Adult Discipleship: Make it Plain



Recently, a new young adult friend shared with me that she did not understand most of what she was hearing in church. As a child she had attended a church and was even baptized, but as she grew up she stopped attending services and had lived a somewhat “wild” life for a few years. Now, she has decided she

needs and wants to return to God. Something is pulling her toward the community of faith, however she is struggling with understanding the basics. She has questions like, “What are the Old and New Testaments? What do books of the Bible mean? What actions are actually sins for people today? Who are the Hebrew people? Why are they an important group in the Bible? Is God serious about the 10 commandments today? Why should Christians read the Bible today, after all it is a really old book?” and the list goes on.

As more and more people have no foundation in Christianity, new Christians will have more and more problems understanding the basics of the faith. We must approach discipleship as we would if we were missionaries serving in countries in which Christians are the minority and the majority embraces another religion.

What are the important lessons they need to know in the beginning? How do we help them to grow up in Christ? What kind of culture within the fellowship of believers should be cultivated? Who is responsible to help them understand and mature? What should they do if they have questions?

Habakkuk 2:2 reads “And the Lord answered me: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.” This passage does not speak directly to the work of discipleship, but there is one part that rings true in this area - *Make It Plain!*

To make the message, commandments, vision, directions and stories of God plain and understandable, we must be willing to evaluate what we are saying, how we are conveying the Word and taking into account who we are sharing with. A firm foundation in the Word and in our relationship to God is the key to continued growth in Christ. What is your community of faith doing to *Make IT Plain?*

Need help? Contact Lisa Simmons, director of Discipleship at lsimmons@wvbc.org.

Student Ministries

by Rob Ely, Director

Omega

“A Weekend of Worship” was the phrase used in the beginning of the planning process for the final event of the school year, Omega. On April 23, 2016 students gathered at New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) to learn more about how to worship and why worship is necessary. Joined by the Marshall Baptist Campus Ministries’ band, students in attendance were taught in both a corporate setting by Adam and Olivia Goodwin as well as in smaller groups where they learned more about how to worship. The smaller groups were rotated through a series of four sessions throughout the day taught by college-aged students on the topics of *Personal Disciplines*, *Knowing the Story of God*, *Telling Your Story* and *Corporate Worship*. The Omega event also provided an opportunity to wish a farewell to the Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) of the 2015-2016 school year and to welcome the new team for 2016-2017.

Youth Ministry Planning Team

The new YMPT has already begun planning the events for the upcoming school year! Be sure to mark your calendars so you can join us for:

Fall Rally, Camp Cowen, September 16-17, 2016

Junior High Convention, November 18-20, 2016

Senior High Convention, February 24-26, 2017

Camp Cowen Youth Work Weekend

On May 20-21, 2016, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen had its annual spring cleaning event as youth from across the state came to camp to help get it ready for this summer’s batch of campers. The Youth Work Weekend is a great way for students to serve the camp they love and to minister to other youth by getting the camp prepared for the ministries being planned over the course of the year.

2016 Camp Cowen Schedule	
JUNE <i>Older Midler</i> (grades 3-4) June 5-8	www.campcowen.org
<i>Younger Midler</i> (grades 2-4) June 10-12	
<i>Junior 1</i> (grades 5-6) June 12-18	
<i>Junior High 1</i> (grades 7-9) June 19-25	
<i>Junior 2</i> (grades 5-6) June 26-July 2	
	JULY
	<i>High School 1</i> (grades 9-HS Grads) July 3-9
	<i>High School 2</i> (grades 9-HS Grads) July 17-23
	<i>Family Camp</i> July 29- August 1
	SEPTEMBER
	<i>Camp Global</i> September 2-4

Brothers' Keeper 2016: The Least of These is Me



RIPLEY - In a recent, popular Christian movie, two close friends adopted as their motto "God is good all the time. And all the time, God is good." They quoted this phrase to one another over and over again throughout the movie. Their

constant reminder is as essential for us lest we forget during turbulent times, "God is good - all the time!"

As we prepare for the challenging, yet fulfilling time of year when *Brothers' Keeper* kicks into action, we are excited about what God is doing. We have had productive meetings with the participating agency representatives and are way ahead of schedule on 53 project applications and site visits. We have applied for and secured two grants to help offset the cost of the building materials needed and have volunteers helping in areas who will streamline the organizational process. Skilled individuals are coming to serve as crew chiefs on the work projects and people are praying for the mission work as well as spiritual education the young people involved will receive during their week at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Brothers' Keeper, a program established in 2000, reaches out every year to those in the Jackson County community needing residential assistance. The program is scheduled for June 26 - July 1, 2016. Parchment Valley Conference Center both spearheads and sponsors the program, which involves approximately 190 youth from churches all over the state. The youth are housed at Parchment Valley Conference Center and pay their own room and board expenses in order to serve others. These youth, their adult leaders and skilled team leaders dispatch each day to various locations within Jackson County to make home modifications to those in need. It is a multi-faceted operation in which the youth learn valuable skills, a good work ethic and the joy of knowing how it enriches their lives to help others.

Registration begins on June 26 and the program continues through July 1. Our *Brothers' Keeper* mission statement declares: *Our mission is to give our youth the opportunity to grow in Christ and to impact our communities for Him through service.*

Also, several churches and individuals are recognized for their \$500 gift for *Brothers' Keeper* Ministry. Please pray about this wonderful opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

God is good all the time. And all the time God is good. For this, we are very thankful.

About Brothers' Keeper

Who may participate?

Junior High and Senior High Youth ages 12 and above or entering 7th grade in 2016

Adult counselors - each group is required to have at least one adult for every nine or fewer youth of the same gender.

Registration

Registration forms may be found at brotherskeeperwv.org. Mail a completed copy of the form, along with the deposit to: Brothers' Keeper, Parchment Valley, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

Registration is first come, first serve until camp is full. No spots will be held without payment. No registrations will be accepted without a complete group registration form. Registrations require the correct adult/youth/gender ratio (1:9).

June 1, 2016 - Last day to reserve a t-shirt size.

Required Forms

Group Registration: send with initial payment (one for each group)

Participation Registration: one for every youth and adult. This must be turned in by June 1, 2016 to guarantee t-shirt size. After that date, all shirts will be XL.

Medical Forms: one for every youth and adult. No camper will be allowed to stay without a notarized medical form.

Insurance Cards: one for every youth and adult.

Date of Last Tetanus Shot: every medical form must have this information included.

Medical forms and insurance cards must be received at Parchment Valley prior to the beginning of camp to assure a smooth registration process. Do

not wait until camp to avoid errors or missing information.

Cancellation Policy

To cancel a group or reduce the number of participants, contact Parchment Valley to adjust your account before June 1, 2016. When canceling, a \$75 per person cancellation fee will be charged. The entire camp fee will be forfeited for cancellations after June 1, 2016.

Attendance Policy

All campers (youth and adults) must be in attendance from start to finish. Arriving late or leaving early creates complications for those we serve. Please plan to arrive for registration no earlier than 3 p.m. on June 26, 2016 and stay through checkout on July 1, 2016 at 10 a.m. Please do not attend if you are unable to meet this requirement.

Project Teams

One of the most amazing parts of the experience is friendships that develop between individuals and youth groups. We help break the ice with the way project teams are organized.

Projects

The specific project you'll be serving on will be assigned when you arrive at camp. Projects consist of a variety of home maintenance and repair, minor construction, painting, sealing roofs, yard work and much more.

Who Do I Contact For More Information?

Please contact Parchment Valley Conference Center with any questions or concerns: 800.489.8564 or 304.372.3675.

More information is available online at brotherskeeperwv.org.

Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center: Building up Leaders for the Next Generation



"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." II Timothy 2:2

Paul was giving the above command to Timothy at a time when he was well aware of the certain execution lying before him (II Timothy 4:6). He was giving this command because he knew Timothy would follow through with it and because he knew there were so many people with whom he would never have the opportunity to interact with who needed to hear the good news. Timothy was a younger man who was not currently looking martyrdom in the eye. Paul saw the life Timothy had before him and encouraged him to raise up a new generation of believers. That new generation of believers could then reach the next generation and culture, with whom neither Paul nor Timothy would have the opportunity to interact.

This one verse is prominent in the campaign process because the picture it paints is the vision the leaders at Camp Cowen hold. The hope is not for a shiny, new building. That is only the outcome of the campaign process. The hope, rather, lies in the work that can be accomplished in the new building. This center is to be a facility in which the church can continue to grow by building up leaders who will reach the next generation and culture with the good news of the Kingship of Christ.

Just as the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* is a vision placed on the hearts of the leaders at Cowen, it will be used as a vehicle to help create the vision for the next generation of leaders. By resourcing this new facility at Camp Cowen, the Baptist community of the state of West Virginia is taking the opportunity to show the current generation of campers how much they care about their personal development. By pouring into the campers of today, the modern church is building up and establishing the leadership for the next generation. The function and quality the church of tomorrow will have is largely dependent in the teaching and training that is poured into its leadership today.

To get this new facility built and running by June 2017, we need \$1 million by August 1, 2016. The time to give is now. Please pray about how God would have you help to make this new building possible for the 2017 camping season.



A rendering of the outside of the Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center.



A rendering of the meeting room inside the Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center.

God Works Powerfully through Russia Mission Partnership

by David Bess

pastor, Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)

Jason Marshall, Fredrick Ward, Jeannie Bess and I left West Virginia for Ryazan, Russia on February 24, 2016. As the Lord would have it, there were two parts of this trip, the first anticipated and the second unexpected. God worked powerfully through both of them.

During the first portion, the team stayed in the home of Pastor Victor, and his wife, Natasha, of Central Church. We led separate men's and women's Bible studies for three different congregations. Jeannie led the women in a study on the book of Esther. Beauty treatments and tiaras were a fun part of the presentation. Jason, Fred and I led the men in their own event, going through the Biblical principles of the "Resolution for Men" study. While at Central Church, on Sunday, we encouraged and prayed with refugees from Ukraine who were fellow Baptists. It was a powerful, inspiring time of ministry.

The team ministered alongside Resurrection Church at a gypsy camp just outside of Ryazan. I shared the wordless book with a large group of children, and other members of the team distributed candy. We then met with a group of adult gypsies who shared their testimonies and sang praises to God, despite their severe poverty.

We visited three new construction sites. There are ten churches in the Ryazan Baptist Union (RBU), and all of them are growing. Ryazan Baptists have an amazing way of doing much ministry with few resources. The Baptist church in Kasimov has been in a home for years, and now is ready to move into their own building. It is under roof, with the help of a generous gift from Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope) to fund roofing supplies. The Baptist church in Korablino is already in a new facility. Both buildings have been constructed using volunteer labor from their own churches as well as from other congregations in the Ryazan Baptist Union. We also went to a large tract of property under consideration for a conference center/campground for the entire RBU. The price of the land is only \$6,000. Funds are not yet available.

While at the Korablino site, Jason Marshall fell through the ceiling of a small, unfinished portion of the second story floor. With this incident, the second portion of the trip began. He was transported to a local hospital where we learned he had broken his hip. The people of the Korablino church took care of him night and day, staying with him and delivering home-cooked food. After a couple of days, he and I were transported by ambulance to a hospital in Moscow that was equipped to do his hip repair surgery.

The greatest challenge at the Moscow hospital was the language barrier. The team translator, Olga Danilova, was with the other half of the team, getting them ready to head back to the States. As I stepped from Jason's room to have a phone conversation with Jeannie, I walked a couple doors down the hall. After finishing the conversation, a frail woman with a broken arm

emerged from her room. "I couldn't help but overhear you," she said in perfect English. "I'm a retired medical translator. I used to work with Russian doctors treating American patients. I would be happy to volunteer my services for your friend." Her name was Irina.

Soon Olga was able to come and help me coordinate Jason's recovery and his trip home. We witnessed to Irina, who was very closed to the Russian Orthodox church, but very open to the Gospel. "George," an intern studying to be a paramedic, listened to a presentation of the wordless

book. Natasha, a female orderly, joined us for a church service in Jason's room on Sunday morning. Dashi, the physician who accompanied Jason and me on the flight home, was asking several questions about what it means to be a Baptist.

God is opening doors for ministry relationships with the Russian people, and we saw it firsthand during both portions of this recent trip. If you would like to learn more about this trip or participation in the Russian Mission Partnership, you can contact me at 304.755.2224 or bessdr@wvusa.org. You can also visit www.wvbc-russia.org.



Praying with refugee Baptists from Ukraine.

Revive Us Again

by Mark Gerstell
chairman, Good Hope Association

The combined churches of the Good Hope Association celebrated a revolving revival from April 24 - 28, 2016. The first four nights were held at various churches within the association.



The churches of the Good Hope Association gather for a revolving revival.

The fifth night was held at Hill Hall at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Each of the first four nights featured an association pastor from one of the affiliated churches; no pastor filled the pulpit of his home church. Music was provided by two churches each night, and as with the pastors, none performed in their own church. Likewise, each night the four churches provided not only the speaker and music, but also the food (sit down meals) and the location.

The last night we traveled to Parchment Valley Conference Center and were presented with an inspirational sermon and outstanding music by evangelist/singer Kenny Evans. His sermon highlighted our need to remain true to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing culture.

The revival was entitled *Revive Us Again*. Each night our attendance was over 200. The revival goal was to create renewed excitement within the believer's heart and bring lost souls to Christ. *Revive Us Again* reminded us of the importance of outreach ministry. Individually and as a church, we are called in a loving way to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

The offering taken the first four nights is to establish a short-term mission fund. I am very pleased to announce the collection for the first four evenings totaled \$3,338.63. The executive committee will be meeting soon to establish guidelines for the application process. The fifth night collection was taken to offset the expenses for the evangelist, the rental of Hill Hall as well as advertising expenses. After all expenses were paid, approximately \$2,300 was raised to help fund short-term mission trips.

The plans of the Good Hope Association are to make this type of revival an annual event. Reflecting on the past week, I believe our association has gained strength as we spent those several evenings in fellowship over the dinner meals and in our worship services.

There are many unchurched people today who live in the belief there is no need for church attendance. Media reinforces the attitude which causes a person to believe churches are filled with insecure and insincere individuals who are quick to judge the shortcomings of others. The best way to introduce people to Christ today is found in personal relationships. *Revive Us Again* was a call for the churches of the Good Hope Association to be engaged in our communities in a manner which demonstrates the love of Christ without compromising the gospel in which our faith rests.

Aragon Ordained

LUBECK - The Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) ordained Rev. Juan Aragon to the ministry of the Gospel in a service of ordination April 30, 2016. Having completed all of the requirements, the ordination was also recognized by the Parkersburg Baptist Association and the West Virginia Baptist Convention.



Juan (center bottom) experiences the "laying on of hands."

Rev. Dr. Mike Stephens shared the sermon at the service with Rev. John Simmons giving the charge to the candidate and Rev. Mark Houser giving the charge to the church. Rev. John Vetter led the service of "laying on of hands"

having clergy and then laity place hands on Juan, setting him apart for ministry. Music was led by the praise team from Lubeck Community Baptist Church with special music by Pastor Luis Diaz of Comunidad Luz Y Vida (Eastern). Scripture and prayer were shared by members of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope).

In addition to his church families, Juan was blessed to have his wife, Denise, and their children, Juancito and Ziba, and family from Canada attend the service.



Mark McCloy (left) looks on as Juan signs his ordination certificate.

Juan continues to serve the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention as its Hispanic Strategist.

Rockcastle Association Holds 15th Annual Choir Festival



Jerry Cook, (center standing) leads the mass choir at the 15th annual choir festival.

The Rockcastle Association held its 15th annual choir festival on Sunday evening, May 1, 2016 at Guyandotte Baptist Church in Jesse.

Over 200 were in attendance and extra chairs had to be placed in the sanctuary as the association churches not only worshiped in song, but overcame a hail storm and tornado warnings. Churches represented by singers included Spruce Grove Baptist Church, Tonedá Baptist Church, Oceana First Baptist Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Guyandotte Baptist Church, Saulsville Baptist Church, Rockcastle Baptist Church, Hanover Baptist Church, Crany Baptist Church and Baileysville Baptist Church. The evening ended with Rev. Jerry Cook, pastor of Oceana First Baptist Church leading a mass choir.

Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention opened the evening with song, and praised God for this worship celebration he initiated back in 2001. Over the 15 years of the festival, he has received great support from the association. Special thanks to Anita Lusk, member of Guyandotte Baptist Church and association clerk, for contacting churches, providing bulletins and being a wonderful host.

Southwest Area News

Genesis Fellowship Moves to New Location

On Friday, April 29, 2016, Genesis Fellowship (Kanawha Valley) held an open house at its new location in South Charleston. Over 340 people toured the new facility and more than 200 were present at the dedication service. The first regular worship service was held on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Pastor Mark Jarrell summed up the congregation's gratefulness by saying, "God is good! All the time!"

Coal River Association Holds Annual Spring Sing

The Coal River Association held its annual Spring Sing at Madison Baptist Church on Sunday evening, May 1, 2016. A warm spirit of worship was present as choirs from Danville First Baptist Church, Olive Baptist Church, Racine First Baptist Church, Forks of Coal Baptist Church, Alum Creek Baptist Church and Madison Baptist Church each presented several selections to an appreciative audience. A reception and time of fellowship followed the concert.

Cook Memorial Makes Connections with Senior Ministry

*by Ann Reed
member, Cook Memorial Baptist Church (Rockcastle)*

Living in rural areas, senior citizens are limited in places to associate with friends. When their adult children live away, they often go weeks without a meaningful touch from others. Losing a spouse is a critical time in a senior's life. The loneliness can be overwhelming without support from their peers. Another issue in this time of a person's life, is hearing loss. This can also lead to isolation, even in the church setting. Churches spend a great deal of their time and resources on children, youth and families. It is important to remember our seniors.

After the death of one of our deacons, it became apparent we needed to provide an additional church activity during the winter months. We began a Thursday evening Soup Supper for seniors. Each week, we asked a person to make soup and then two or three volunteers who worked every week made sandwiches and desserts and cleaned up. We served approximately 15 seniors each week that first winter. Additionally, people would take soup out to friends who were home-bound.

Toward the end of the first winter, someone who volunteered to make soup came to the dinner to help serve and was moved to continue the ministry. So every week the senior ministry leader determines the menu, goes to the grocery store and divides the tasks. People from the church and the community volunteer desserts. Currently, we take 90 dinners into the community and serve 35 to 40 seniors and several volunteers each week. Both seniors and volunteers come from several different churches and some live in the community and do not attend church.

While the younger generation makes the meals, the senior Sunday School class takes responsibility for the spiritual element of the ministry. The members pay close attention to people who are attending, making sure they have connection with others. Currently, the teachers have volunteered to teach a Bible study before the senior supper. There are several in attendance.

Bethel Baptist Celebrates 70 Years of Ministry

The weekend of April 30 - May 1, 2016 marked three landmark events in the Southwest area. On Sunday May 1, the morning worship at Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) celebrated 70 years of ministry in the Kanawha Valley. Rev. Bill Thomas preached the anniversary sermon and joined Mr. Randy Bratka, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, and former pastors Rev. Chuck Rhodes and Rev. Joe Wolfe in serving communion. A delicious dinner followed in the Rev. Elizabeth Caudill Fellowship Hall.



Rev. Bill Thomas (left) with the pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Mr. Randy Bratka.

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

Parchment Valley Receives Electric Club Car



Rev. John Vannoy delivered the new car to Parchment Valley.

Recently, through the giving of the American Baptist Women's Ministries' special truck project and an individual donor, we received an electric club car. This can assist our guests to experience the grapevine chapel trail or drive around the property recalling wonderful memories of the beginning.

As the dedicated staff of Parchment Valley Conference Center, we appreciate the hard work and support received from our churches and loyal volunteers, such as the American

Baptist Men Disaster Relief Team. Thank you for sharing your time and talents. It is a privilege to work alongside Christian people who care. As we spring into summer, we are thankful for your support. Lives are being changed!

Gratitude

While rereading The Parchment Valley Story, I noted the Litany of Dedication service, circa June 1976, which conveyed a message of gratitude to our Lord. The words were written by Mrs. Thomas J. Eastes, first vice-president of the convention and led by Mrs. Evangel Robinson, state president of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

LEADER: *Into the mind of God there came a dream—a dream of heavens and earth, and all the things that now exist. Then, in the beginning, God created them and saw that that were good.*

ALL: *You gave the work of your hands to us, Lord. You presented this world to us! We dedicate this conference center to you, Lord.*

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Music and Worship Conference

June 18, 2016
Parchment Valley Conference Center

with Guest Clinicians:
Michael Young and John Campbell
Accompanist: Amy Sinclair

This conference is designed to help workers in local churches - from small to large - sharpen their skills, broaden their horizons, become familiar with available resources and enrich their lives through fellowship with others involved in Christian music, whether traditional, contemporary, praise, gospel or other.

The conference begins with registration in Hill Hall at 8:30 a.m.
Welcome and opening begins at 9:00 a.m.
Program ends with closing worship at 3:00 p.m.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC TASK FORCE:

JIM BRYANT: Simpson Creek Baptist Church, Bridgeport
JOHN CAMPBELL: 5th Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington
JUDY PRATER: Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg
JASON ROBBINS: Not Available
BARRY SKEENES: Calvary Baptist Church, Charleston
MIKE STEPHENS: Parkersburg Baptist Temple

"At Your Mercy Seat"

This year's conference theme is "At Your Mercy Seat," which is based on an anthem written by Jeremy Johnson, Paul Marino and Ginger Millermom, and arranged by Lari Goss. Beautifully arranged, this stirring selection draws us to our knees before the mercy seat of God.

Worship and Fellowship Highlights

- Worship session led by Michael Young
- Devotionals are included throughout the various sessions
- Closing worship service with the Lord's Supper incorporating music previously rehearsed and involving clinicians and conferees working together
- Break times and lunch are excellent opportunities to fellowship and network

Music Highlights

- Two music reading sessions with mass choir in preparation for the

closing worship service

- All music used in reading sessions is yours to keep
- Tutorial on using **DISCOVER WORSHIP**, an online music and worship resource
- Enlivening Congregational Singing

Exhibits and Music Stores

Staff will be onsite to sell music of all kinds - sheet music, song collections and CDs - musical gifts, books, instruments and more. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet local and national music dealers and Christian supply stores.

Financial Assistance and Course Credits

- Several scholarships are available for those needing financial help.
- Students get 1/2 off the conference fee.
- School of Christian Studies' students can receive course credits.

For registrations postmarked after June 1, housing and meal reservations cannot be assured.

For more information and a registration form, visit www.wvbc.org or contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org.

BETHEL ANN ANGUS, 89, of Cowen, died April 25, 2016. She was a member of Cowen First Baptist Church (Hopewell), where she served on multiple church boards and was also a Sunday School teacher, served as Sunday School superintendent and was a member of the Women's Club.

MALLORY JOAN BEACH, 47, of Barboursville, died March 11, 2016. She was a member of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she was a primary Sunday School teacher.

MILDRED ANN CLOWER, died March 16, 2016. She was a longtime member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served on many boards and committees and attended several annual meetings of the West Virginia Baptist Women. In 2010, she was awarded the Annual American Heritage Award.

RICHARD "DICK" E. GREGORY, 89, of Minnesota, died April 21, 2016. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand.

JACK HARPER, 84, of Charleston, died April 21, 2016. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a deacon.

ROCKY L. HOOVER, 61, of Harrisville, died April 27, 2016. He was member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville), where he was a member of the choir.

RUTH C. JOHNSON, 98, of Parkersburg, died April 1, 2016. She was the oldest living member of Union Valley Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a member for over 75 years.

LUELLA KEEFER, 93, of Leon, died March 16, 2016. She was a faithful member of Leon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she directed the choir for many years and taught Sunday School.

RODNEY C. LAMBERT, of Charleston, died April 5, 2016. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) since 1977. He was a deacon and, most recently, served as president of the deacon board.

DONALD PATRICK MCCARTNEY, 88, of Normantown, died, April 5, 2016. He was a member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where he had been a member since the age of 60. He was also a Gideon and a member of American Baptist Men.

RICHARD A. "DICK" MCDONALD, 74, of Bridgeport, died May 6, 2016. As an ordained American Baptist minister, he pastored many Baptist churches in the local area for over 50 years including: Middleville Baptist Church (Union), Summit Park Baptist Church (Union), Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run), Flemington Baptist Church (Union), Union Baptist Church (Union) and East Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union). He retired in December 2015, due to his health, from Beulah Baptist Church (Union), where he preached for 31 years. He was honored to receive the Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award in 2012, which recognized distinguished pastoral services in West Virginia.

BILLY EARL MEDFORD, 82, of Ravenswood, died April 5, 2016. He was a longtime member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served as a deacon and trustee.

F. LEON NEAL, died March 15, 2016. He was a faithful member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he served as a deacon, trustee and sang in the choir. He was a member of the Beckley Gideon Camp.

RAYMOND EARL REVILL, JR., 70, of Lumberport, died March 27, 2016. He was a member of Hepzibah Baptist Church (Judson), where he served as a deacon and trustee.

WILLIAM "BILL" N. RICE, 102, of Massachusetts, died April 10, 2016. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumnus to India and Burma.

WAITMAN MIFLIN SANDY, 90, of Glenville, died March 31, 2016. He was a longtime member of Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where he was a

deacon. He also served as minister of Leading Creek Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) and Stewarts Creek Church, Glenville.

MARY EILEEN SCOTT, 86, of Florida, died March 23, 2016. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary alumnus to India and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

VERA ANN SWIGER, 76, of Salem, died March 12, 2016. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run). She was also an ordained Baptist minister for 15 years.

EUAL TOLER, 67, of Oceana, died April 18, 2016. He was assistant pastor at Crany Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle).

RUSSELL C. WOLFE, 92, of Saint Albans, died March 10, 2016. He was a longtime member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he had served several terms on the deacon board and served one term as head of the deacon board as well as serving on other boards within the church. He participated in the building and construction of several church building remodeling projects as well as helping with organizing and delivery of Christmas food/gift baskets to those in need.

BILLIE MARIE STAATS YOUNG, 83, of Charleston, died April 24, 2016. She was an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 60 years, where she was a deaconess and served on the finance committee, hospitality committee, visitation ministry and flower committee. She was a Sunday School teacher for many years. She also held many offices with the American Baptist Women. She was instrumental in furnishing and decorating the parlor, gathering area and kitchen of the church.

ROBERT JAMES YOUNG, 84, of Morgantown, died January 14, 2016. He was a longtime member of Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen) and most recently, a member of Goshen Baptist Church (Goshen).

June 2016

JUNE 1 - Kurt Smalley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Hungary
JUNE 2 - The ministry of Welcome Baptist Church; Chad Raines, pastor (Judson)
JUNE 3 - American Baptist Women's Ministries' Annual Women and GIRLS' Conference this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 4 - Myra White, moderator, Eastern Association
JUNE 5 - Older Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 6 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Jason Sleeth, pastor (Fairmont)
JUNE 7 - The ministry of Flint Chapel Baptist Church; Jim Anderson, interim pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JUNE 8 - Phil Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil
JUNE 9 - Dilia Zelaya, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Honduras
JUNE 10 - Younger Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 11 - Cari Pauley, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JUNE 12 - Junior I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 13 - The ministry of Good Hope Baptist Church; Chad Clark, pastor (Guyandotte)
JUNE 14 - Sarah McCurdy, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JUNE 15 - Vital Pierre, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JUNE 16 - Greg Blevins, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, Wilsonburg Baptist Church (Judson)
JUNE 17 - The ministry of Long Run Fellowship; Carl "Buck" Ramsey, pastor (Union)
JUNE 18 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Music and Worship Conference today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 19 - Junior High I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 20 - Katherine Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
JUNE 21 - Libby Allen, treasurer, Greenbrier-Raleigh Association
JUNE 22 - Matt Ash, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope)
JUNE 23 - The ministry of Boaz Baptist Church; Robert Alfred, pastor (Parkersburg)
JUNE 24 - Anita Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
JUNE 25 - Valma Adams, office manager and administrative assistant, Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JUNE 26 - Brothers' Keeper this week at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 27 - Peter McCurdy, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JUNE 28 - Junior II Camp happens this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 29 - The ministry of Liberty Baptist Church; Robert Merritt, pastor (Broad Run)
JUNE 30 - Donald Dague, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and pastor, Weirton First Baptist Church (Panhandle)

July 2016

JULY 1 - Charles Mann, moderator, Teays Valley Association
JULY 2 - Charles Drake, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JULY 3 - The World Mission Conference this week at Green Lake, Wisconsin
JULY 4 - Pray for our country that we will "humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways"
JULY 5 - High School I Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JULY 6 - Sandy Phares, West Virginia Baptist Convention president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JULY 7 - The ministry of Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church; Keith George, pastor (Coal River)
JULY 8 - Tim Rice, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
JULY 9 - The ministry of Sardis Baptist Church; O.D. Harman, pastor (Judson)
JULY 10 - Junior High II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 11 - Madeline Flores-Lopez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JULY 12 - The ministry of Cowen First Baptist Church; Michael Brown, pastor (Hopewell)
JULY 13 - Pamala Williams, clerk, Fairmont Association
JULY 14 - The ministry of Little Laurel Baptist Church; David McLaughlin, pastor (Elk Valley)
JULY 15 - The ministry of Sweet Springs Baptist Church; Kenneth Baker, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JULY 16 - Catherine Longkumer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to India
JULY 17 - High School II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 18 - The ministry of Hurricane First Baptist Church; Ron Stoner, interim pastor (Teays Valley)
JULY 19 - Katrina Williams, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
JULY 20 - The ministry of Comunidad Luz Y Vida Baptist Church; Luis Diaz, pastor (Eastern)
JULY 21 - Larry Stanton, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Hungary
JULY 22 - Mark Gerstell, Parchment Valley Conference Center board chair and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and pastor, Ravenswood First Baptist Church (Good Hope)
JULY 23 - The ministry of Webster Baptist Church; Matthew Taylor, pastor (Union)
JULY 24 - The ministry of Tallmansville Baptist Church; Timothy Lewis, pastor (Broad Run)
JULY 25 - Ruth Mooney, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Costa Rica
JULY 26 - The ministry of South Fork Baptist Church; Randy Landes, pastor (Harrisville)
JULY 27 - The ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church; Michael Murphy, pastor (Fairmont)
JULY 28 - The Rockcastle Association Annual Meeting today at Emmanuel Baptist Church at War
JULY 29 - Family Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 30 - Rob Ely, director, Student Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JULY 31 - Marijane Kiley, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission

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

Coming Events

JUNE 2016

June 3-5

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

June 5-8

*Older Midler Camp (grades 3-4)
Camp Cowen*

June 10-12

*Younger Midler Camp (grades 2-4)
Camp Cowen*

June 12-18

*Junior I Camp (grades 5-6)
Camp Cowen*

June 18

*West Virginia Baptist Convention
Music and Worship Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center*

June 19-25

*Junior High I Camp (grades 7-9)
Camp Cowen*

June 25

*School of Christian Studies
Baptist Polity (E-01) One-Day Class
Parchment Valley Conference Center*

June 26-July 1

*Brothers' Keeper
Parchment Valley Conference Center*

June 26-July 2

*Junior 2 Camp (grades 5-6)
Camp Cowen*

JULY 2016

July 3-9

*World Mission Conference Bus Trip
Green Lake, Wisconsin*

July 3-9

*High School 1 Camp
(grades 9-High School)
Camp Cowen*

July 4

*Independence Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED*

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

Women and GIRLS' Conference

June 3-5, 2016

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Celebrating Women Serving God



*... love the Lord
your God, walk in
all his ways,
obey His
commands, hold
fast to Him with
all your heart and
all your soul.
Joshua 22:5*

Keynote Speaker: Dr. William R. Thomas

Worship Leader and Conference Choir Director: Ginny Prunty

Sermon: Debbie Higginbotham

**Introductory session of the new Leadership Academy
"Characteristics of a Christian Leader" by Sandra Lutz**

**Book sale, craft sale, like new flea market
Fun, food, fellowship and fact finding**

**AB GIRLS will have their own activities on Saturday,
ending with a "Broken Worship" service.**

*Registration forms are available online at www.wvbc.org,
click on Partners, and in the April issue of Seasons.*

**For more information, visit www.wvbc.org or
call Tracie at 800.879.9822.**