

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

December 2016 - January 2017

Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center Campaign Ready to Move Forward

The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen faced the flood waters of 2016 and is now ready to move forward with the vision of the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center*. The purpose of the new facility is twofold: to provide a place for leadership training to younger and older generations and to provide a place where normal camp activities may continue regardless of weather.

The *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* is designed to house three classrooms for educating leaders for today and the future. These classrooms will provide space and teaching resources for additional campers to be trained throughout the summer and provide quality areas for retreats in the off season.

The "activity" part of the building will provide space on rainy days for four-square, volleyball and other indoor activities that camp directors create. This area will have restroom/locker room facilities attached to make it user-friendly for outside groups. It may provide space for Camp Cowen to host basketball tournaments and other activities to reach into the sports world with the gospel.

We give you details of this new facility not so you can picture in your mind's eye what this facility will look like, but rather to help you create a vision for how your church can utilize this facility and the camp as a whole in the future.

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen continues to be a place *"Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."* Combined with the West Virginia Baptist Convention mission of, *"Enabling churches to do together what they cannot do alone,"* the *Sunny*

Day Leadership and Activity Center provides great unity of mission. The 1,775 campers who attended summer camp, 284 volunteer counselors, 64 directors, pastors, game leaders and 2,255 visitors for weddings, retreats, conferences and reunions would all benefit from this new facility. The site preparation is complete and now it is time to make a commitment for the 1.5 million dollar campaign. The building, parking lot, new roads, programming and staffing of this facility can make a difference immediately, along with sustaining the leadership education for the local churches that comprise the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

There are a few ways you can help us meet the financial goal to make this possible ministry a reality:

- *Add this ministry to your church's budget for the 2017 fiscal year.*
- *Donate individually either online or by sending a check to the Parkersburg office.*
- *Give stock or appreciated securities.*
- *Encourage others to give by bearing in mind the church can do more by working together.*
- *Pray for the work being done at the camp and for the number of*

lives touched to multiply as God uses this camp for His glory.

Please consider how you can contribute so we can accomplish *"together what we cannot do alone!"*

*Rob Ely
Director, Student Ministries*



"Camp Cowen is not just your ordinary summer church camp; it is a life-changing experience. Not only is Christ shared and the main focus of the camp, but an incredible community of believers is built that lasts a lifetime. From the time the camp season is over, I immediately look forward to the next camping season to see what God has in store next." -Derrick Bramer



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.



There's an App for That!

The West Virginia Baptist Convention app is available for Android and Apple products. Download yours today!

Vol. LXXXIV, Issue 01 December 2016-January 2017

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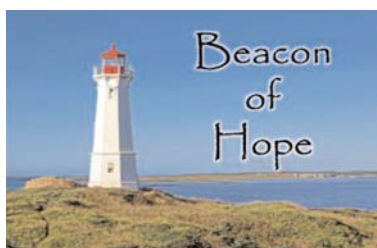
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The Windows and Mirrors Effect

Many of our churches today have spiritually and practically stopped looking outside of ourselves to find local needs and global opportunities. It is as if we have replaced our windows with mirrors. We want to look "holy" to the world around us. An attitude of entitlement has developed in the life of the church, which keeps us from reaching out beyond our walls. We need more windows and fewer mirrors, looking out to who and where we can serve in the name of the Lord.



Dr. David Carrico

Our culture is drowning in information from technology and media sources, and this has overflowed into our churches. Some churches have soaked so long in the brine of the information flood, we have soured to all matters. We have *information without inspiration*. Some are growing spiritually cold and forgetting our love for Jesus, our fellow saints and one another in the kingdom. Matthew 24:12 "... the love of most will grow cold."

The windows and mirrors effect has spilled over into our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. For the most part, the population of the United States enjoys good fortune compared with the rest of the world. Those who tithe are dying off and tippers are taking their place. John Dickerson, in his book, The Great Evangelical Recession, notes church donations are on a course to drop by 70% within 25-30 years, due to the death of the most generous generation. *Prosperity without generosity* will hit the church very hard.

The windows and mirrors effect can deceive us. Our church calendars are full, but our hearts are empty. The church in Ephesus was one whose calendar was full of good works, but they

had "lost their first love." (Revelation 2:4) We too can be busy in the church, but not be spiritual in our work. Busyness does not translate into spirituality.

How do we install windows rather than mirrors?

We can start now by making our holidays "holy days." Be intentional about celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's by pointing to Christ in each. Involve more folks in your family gatherings so they experience Christ first-hand in your family. Invite and bring folks to your church activities.

Get involved in a hunger project like *Stop Hunger Now* by having your church host a meal-packaging event. Prior to our annual meeting, our American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Team sponsored just such an event. They prepared and paid for 10,153 meal packets. Each packet will feed six people and cost only 29 cents. (For more information go to www.stophungernow.org.) *Stop Hunger Now* is a tax exempt organization that feeds people throughout the world with a goal to end world hunger.

In the New Year, be intentional about the things of the Spirit and make Christ your reason to serve. Our world is filled with *information without inspiration, prosperity without generosity and full calendars with empty hearts*. Malachi 3:10 says, "... I will open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." We are a blessed people through Christ. Install windows rather than mirrors in your lives and in your churches.

We are blessed to be a blessing!

Hispanic Ministries: The Faith to Dream, Act and Persevere - La Fe de Soñar, Actuar y Perseverar

Experts assert in the coming years millions of people will continue to move across international borders to seek work, opportunities and peace. The nations will continue to come to us. How can we as God's children build bridges to declare His love and grace? Immigrants are people like you and me with dreams, hopes and fears. We must get to know them and their stories so we can be salt and light in their lives (see Matthew 5:13-16). I want to share with you the story of Eusebio. For several years, we've been sharing God's love with his family in different ways and recently we saw the Holy Spirit opening his heart to Christ.

Eusebio grew up in a little rural village in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. An alcoholic father made his impoverished family struggles worse. "My family lacked money. I did not have clothes. My life as a child was difficult," he began. "When I turned six-years-old, my parents sent me, along with my older brother and sister to a Roman Catholic boarding school," he explains.

"When I went to school and did not have notebooks, pencils and the other things we needed, I felt shame," he recalls. "This was a very sad time because I did not have my mother and father ... they never came to visit. All I had were three changes of clothes. This was the most difficult time for me. My sister was there with us, but a child needs his mother," he adds.

After Eusebio finished sixth grade, he and his brother were encouraged by their father to immigrate to the United States to "get a job, build a house and make a better life." He thought, "I can go to make money, have a good house and make my family." He had heard in the United States life was easy and all about making money. So, he and his brother borrowed \$3,000 each to pay their way to the United States.

Their journey through the desert lasted four nights. He recounts, "As we trekked the desert at night, we found coyotes and snakes. It was very dangerous. I was just a child and I thought about my mother. I missed her. I felt lonely and cried. To this day I miss my mother a lot. Sometimes," he continues, "I still cry because I did not enjoy her much. Back then, I thought one day I would go back. My goal was to be here for five years to work, make money and then go back."

Eusebio arrived in May 2004; he was 13-years-old. "When I came to the United States, I began to ask God for help, and up to now He has blessed me much. I thank God for all I

have. When I was a child I thought God didn't exist or didn't care about my life ... so many problems and suffering," he explains.

In the United States, "... things were worse than I had imagined. I had to work hard to make money to buy my own things. We began to work hard to send money home. We lived with the basics. We worked in the fields picking tomatoes and bell peppers. We worked almost 20 hours a day with few breaks."

He continues, "Back then, I was not very strong, so when I tried to lift the buckets filled with tomatoes and bell peppers I couldn't do it. The other men laughed at me and I felt shame."

He adds, "When I was 16-years-old, I began to drink alcohol, but shortly after, I met my wife-to-be in North Carolina. We dated for some time, but I left to work in West Virginia and Michigan. During that time, I bought a car and my life changed because I felt I had something important and couldn't continue drinking, so I decided to quit. I got drunk for the last time on December 31, 2009. I wanted to start the new year with a new life. Shortly after, I decided to go to look for my girlfriend and start a family with her."

Eusebio and his wife are married and have two boys. "I want my kids to have a better life, to move forward in life. I want them to study. We are giving them what we can," he explains. "I thank God because I have my wife and my kids. I think God has prepared this for me. I left my family, but God gave me a new family." He adds, with much confidence, "If you think, act and try you can accomplish beautiful things."

Eusebio, his wife and kids attend Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope). He says, "The church helped us to be better as a couple and have a better life. We listened to God's word and with time started learning and practicing God's word. The church has also provided support in many things we couldn't do alone." Recently, Eusebio, his wife, and his brothers José and Celso surrendered their lives to Christ.

Thank you for your support to be a *beacon of hope* to Hispanics living in West Virginia.

May God continue to bless you!



Eusebio and his wife, Reina



Adult Discipleship - God's Voice: Paint or Stain?



Famous Christian writer and thinker, C. S. Lewis shares in his book, *Mere Christianity*, the real problem of the Christian life comes when we are moment by moment "surprised" by things and people who want to drown out the voice of God in our lives. Our job is learning to shove them all back and listen to the voice of God first and foremost. Lewis shares we only learn to do this moment by moment, but as we continue to strive to hear Him this becomes part of our whole system of life. He says, "It is the difference between paint, which is merely laid on the surface, and a dye or stain which soaks right through."

Most of the time we can tell the difference between stain and paint when we open the can. Paint will be thicker in consistency than stain. Paint is made to stay on the surface of a wall, ceilings, doors and other paintable items. It colors the top of the item, and at most may mix slightly with the upper layer.

Stain on the other hand is made to permeate, pass through and go into the smallest parts of the item upon which it is placed. Paint can be washable while stain is not. It gets into the cracks and crevices undetectable to the human eye.

We must not allow the voice of God to be to our lives what paint is to a surface. We are called to allow Him to saturate our lives, all facets of it. His voice needs to be clear and understandable to us as we live life. This means listening for His voice at home, work, school, leisure, recreation, when we are alone, with friends, family, traveling and yes, even when we are on the computer!

Most people do not like stains. Stains can be permanent. God wants to be permanent and present with us at all times, in every situation and calls each Christian to seek Him and allow Him to "color" us.

Remember: Road Trippin' for Discipleship events are coming in 2017! Be sure to check the West Virginia Baptist Newsletter, Pastors' mailing and Discipleship Now! newsletter for places and times.

Mission Team Behind Bars: Hearts Captured by the Community of La Majada

by *Mike Stephens, member, Parkersburg Baptist Temple*

From September 23 - October 2, 2016, a team of ten flew from Charleston to Managua, Nicaragua to work with AMOS (A Ministry Of Sharing) - Health and Hope, led by American Baptist International Missionary doctors, David and Laura Parajon. From a beautiful compound in the Managua suburb of Nejapa, AMOS conducts a day clinic, trains health workers from more than 30 remote and underserved communities throughout Nicaragua and hosts mission teams mostly from the United States. These teams travel by truck and sometimes on foot and horseback to work with community members on projects ranging from blood testing, water testing and filter assembly to painting and construction of clinics, homes and churches to Vacation Bible School to various health training with community members.

Our team with Jake and Leisa Stover as leaders, included Mason Sturgill, Kristi Long and Mike and Sherry Stephens of Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg); Krista Clegg and Connie Kerns from Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg); Donna Shanholtzer of Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope); and Lucky Ray from Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). This team collected and assembled 15 large suitcases of multivitamins, first-aid supplies and baby layettes, which by God's grace and many prayers, made it through customs to supply the AMOS ministry.

After a day of orientation and preparation at Nejapa, the team traveled to La Majada in Boaco, where no team had previously worked. The farming community, centered around the Catholic church, welcomed the team with God-honoring worship

and wonderful hospitality. The team was led by 25-year-old Anna Delfina who was elected by the community as health promoter at age 17. The group visited every home in the community to collect water samples, which were tested for E. coli (*Escherichia coli*) and other impurities through a 36-hour incubation process, displayed for the community on Thursday, September 29.

Monday, September 26 - Wednesday, September 28 featured Vacation Bible School, where 24 enthusiastic youngsters plus adults studied scripture, played games and did crafts. There was also training of more than a dozen youth and adults in wound and burn care and the team and community painted the church inside and out. Certificates of completion, New Testaments and first-aid kits were presented to the new trainees. A guitar was donated to the church and community and Mason Sturgill taught some guitar basics to willing learners. Also, Spanish/English Bibles were presented to the church and Anna Delfina.

After a farewell worship celebration on Thursday, September 29, community members viewed the water testing results and began to ask how to acquire filter buckets, which cost about \$50 each. The team was impressed with the Biblical knowledge of the children and youth as well as the enthusiastic hospitality and participation by whole families in all aspects of the work.

As always, David, Laura and the whole AMOS team send their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the many West Virginia Baptists who contributed to this project both materially and by prayerful support.



"Behind bars" in Nicaragua

by **John Simmons**, Associate Executive Minister
Missions and Administration

In Defense of the Innkeeper

*"... and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room in the inn."
(Luke 2:7)*

It is not unusual for people reading this account of the birth of Jesus to cast judgment on the innkeeper for his lack of hospitality when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem. I have heard songs in the Christmas cantatas year after year ask: "Have You Any Room for Jesus?" The idea the innkeeper did not have room in his inn or in his heart for Jesus seems to be a common one.

WHAT IF - instead of being a calloused business man who cold heartedly sent the expectant parents to the cave with the cattle, the innkeeper realized a crowded room of people sleeping side by side with no privacy was not a good environment for bringing a baby into the world?

WHAT IF - instead of simply getting them out of his way, he provided for them a safe, quiet place with privacy and warmth for the coming of the Christ child?

WHAT IF - instead of refusing them room in the inn, he gave them the best he had?

Since we know nothing of the innkeeper other than this verse, we can only speculate as to his motives. I am willing

to believe the innkeeper had a good heart and offered hospitality to the strangers in need who came to him that holy night.

I have never been a refugee. I have no idea how it feels to be forced from my home, my family and my country like millions of people around the world today. I cannot begin to imagine the trauma, fear and chaos that would cause people to flee all they have ever known, hoping against all hope somewhere else will have to be better than where they are.

It is estimated that there are currently 15,000,000 (15 million) refugees across the globe. A large percentage of these are children - many without parents. Due to war, persecution, famine and economic hardships these people have fled their homelands looking for a better life.

As we celebrate God's greatest gift - Jesus Christ - this Christmas season, let us not forget to share His love. Let us reflect on the fact that Jesus himself was also a refugee who sojourned in Egypt because it was safer there than in his homeland. Let us not forget the words of Jesus who said, *"I was a stranger and you took me in ... as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."* (Matthew 25:35 and 40)

Make room for the Christ of Christmas in your heart and in your service to others.

Committed to Missions

West Virginia Baptist Convention Bible Conference

featuring **Dr. Gerald Keown**
on the **Book of Amos**

March 25, 2017

**Parchment Valley Conference Center
in Hill Hall**

Conference Fee: \$15.00 per person

Registration Deadline (with money enclosed): March 17, 2017



Guest Instructor: **Dr. Gerald Keown**

Associate Dean, School of Divinity; Bob D. Shepherd Chair of Biblical Studies; Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, Gardner-Webb University

Gerald L. Keown joined the School of Divinity faculty in 1996. He teaches Introduction to Old Testament I, Introduction to Old Testament II, Jeremiah, Hebrews and one Doctor of Ministry seminar - The Ministry of Biblical Interpretation. His primary area of research is prophetic literature.

WV Baptist Convention Bible Conference - March 25, 2017 Registration Form

COUPLES MAY USE THE SAME FORM.
Please complete the following:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
Church/Org.: _____

Please check the appropriate box(es) below.

- \$00.00 - First 30 to register attend for free!!!
 \$15.00 - Conference Registration Per Person (REQUIRED)
 \$15.00 - Conference Registration Second Person
 \$25.00 - School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Credit
 Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 Three-Year Congregational Transform.
 \$35.00 - School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Credit
 Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 (First Person) Three-Year Congregational Transform.
 Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 (Second Person) Three-Year Congregational Transform.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

To provide adequate arrangements registration must be post-marked and payment included by March 17, 2017.

Make checks payable to: West Virginia Baptist Convention. Please mail your form and check to: West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.

2017 Church Officers' Training Event

February 4

Parchment Valley Conference Center

The cost will be \$15 per person for the day, including lunch.
If you bring eight from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost.

Each participant will select one workshop for the morning session and one for the afternoon session.

Schedule

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

Registration Deadline: Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, January 20, 2017 and include money for all attendees registered. After January 20, the fee is \$25.00 per person and lunch is not included.

Workshops Include:	10:15 A.M	1:00 P.M.
• American Baptist Women's Ministries - Women's Leadership Academy	PART A Inclusion	PART B Inclusion
• Associational Leadership	A.M. ONLY	*
• Children	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Church Security	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Clerks		P.M. ONLY
• Deacons	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Discipleship - two different workshops	A.M. SESSION Workshop 1	P.M. SESSION Workshop 2
• Exploring a Call	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and Finance Committees	A.M. ONLY	*
• Missions - two different workshops	GENERAL	EDUCATION
• Pastoral Relations Committee	*	P.M. ONLY
• SCS ADVANCED - Personal Transformation (NEW)	PART A	PART B
• Senior Adults	A.M. ONLY	*
• Technology	A.M. ONLY	*
• Trustees	*	P.M. ONLY
• Worship and Music	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Young Adults	*	P.M. ONLY
• Youth	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
* No workshop available.		
NOTE: ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.		

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

Individual/Couple/Church: _____, Church Code: _____
 _____ @ \$15.00 = _____, Check Amount: _____, Balance Due: _____
 Check: Individual/Church/Other _____, Check #: _____
 Date Received: _____, Lunch Ticket: _____

FEBRUARY 2017 CHURCH OFFICERS' TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete the following information:

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

- an individual/couple,
 part of a church group (send form(s) in with church)
 I am the contact person for the church group.
 My church has met the requirements. I am a free participant.

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

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Preferred way to contact: telephone or e-mail

Phone or e-mail address: _____

Please check the appropriate fee box(es).

- \$15.00 Leadership Conference Fee (REQUIRED)
 *\$25.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Fee
 *Please note: \$15.00 conference fee must also be paid.
 **\$35.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Fee
 (One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)
 **Please note: \$15.00 per person conference fee must also be paid.
 Total Enclosed (Please write in blank at left.)

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

Workshops **must** be chosen at this time.

- 1.) List choice for a.m. workshop: _____
 2.) List choice for p.m. workshop: _____

SCS ADVANCED Students only:

Please select one program you want this credit applied to.

_____ New Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program
 You must choose Part A and Part B of the SCS ADVANCED Personal Transformation workshop.

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

Attention: Church Group Contact Person.

A contact person must be chosen for all church groups.

Please send all church group registrations in one envelope.
 One check may be written for all registrations. If you plan to use the pay for eight and bring two free rule, please make sure the free participant(s) check the box on the left side of this form. After the first 10, the "pay for eight bring two free" begins again.
 If you have any questions, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017 AND INCLUDE MONEY FOR ALL ATTENDEES REGISTERED.

After January 20, the fee is \$25.00 per person and lunch is not included. It will be on your own.

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

Baptist Campus Ministries: Changing Lives Through iTeams

*by Mary Grace Workman, Marshall
University, Baptist Campus Ministries*

During the first several weeks of Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), the same words are repeated over and over, "Join iTeams, they'll change your life, you'll meet your lifelong friends, etc." Though stressed each week, it is impossible to explain the importance of iTeams to a person who has never been in one.

Baptist Campus Ministries is a large body of believers that congregate to worship, learn and fellowship with one another. This atmosphere is like none other as many college students come together to worship the same God. However, it can be difficult in this environment to get plugged in and to get to know the people around you. iTeams provide students with a chance to get to know their fellow believers on a personal level. iTeams are a place where believers can come together, be open with one another and simply unwind from the craziness of college life.

Being a part of an iTeam also provides a person with accountability. With such a large body of students, it could be easy to miss a week without anybody noticing. But when a student joins an iTeam, they are going to be held accountable by the people in their iTeam.

If they miss a week, the people in their iTeam have the opportunity to send them a text, saying they missed them.

iTeams help students set aside time for God. With the busyness of college, it can be hard to designate time just for God. Having an iTeam gives a person a set day and time completely devoted to God.

We recently had our first ever iTeam Olympics. iTeam Olympics consisted of several team games, including several minute-to-win-it games and a tug-of-war tournament. We ended the night with a worship service on the rec field as we belted out praises for everyone on campus to hear. iTeam Olympics was one of the best bonding opportunities and had such a positive impact on my iTeam personally. Up until iTeam Olympics, my iTeam meetings were still kind of awkward and our conversations were shallow. After bonding in this casual setting, we have been able to open up more and our conversations have become deeper and more personal. It was amazing to be around the members of other iTeams and have a chance to laugh and fellowship with them. What I loved most was even though we were playing silly minute-to-win-it games, we were still worshipping the Lord through our laughter, smiles and fellowship with one another.

Student Ministries

by Rob Ely, Director

Senior High Convention

February 24-26, 2017

**South Parkersburg
Baptist Church**



**SPEAKER:
Eric Samuel
Timm**

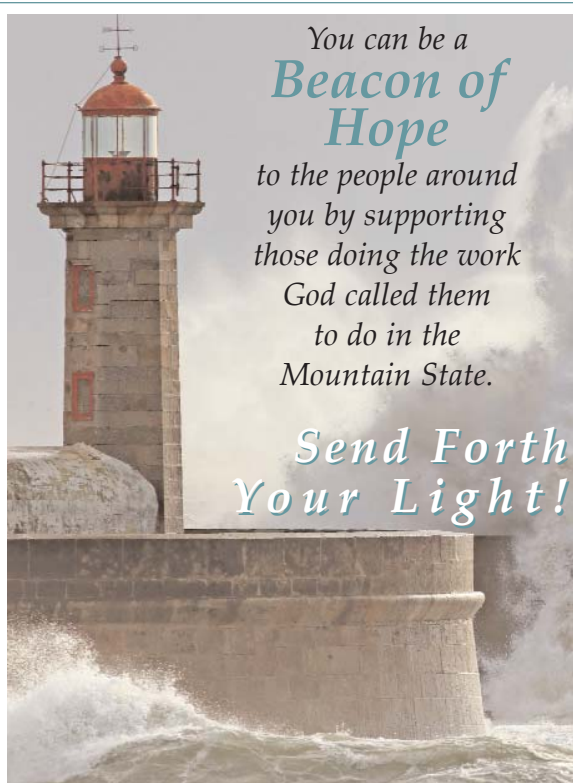
Orator. Author. Artist. Visionary.

BAND: Jason Lovins Band

**COST: \$35
before February 17, 2017
and \$45 after February 17**

*Theme: Dead I, New I, Ask Why
Galatians 2:20*

*Registration forms will be available at
www.wvbc.org or by contacting
Jennifer at 304.422.6449 or
jennifer@wvbc.org.*



You can be a
**Beacon of
Hope**
to the people around
you by supporting
those doing the work
God called them
to do in the
Mountain State.

**Send Forth
Your Light!**



Your gifts to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** are making a difference as we continue to provide ministry:

- On nine college campuses
- To 1,775 campers at Camp Cowen
- For discipleship and leadership development
- To pastors graduating from the West Virginia Program of Palmer Seminary
- To 386 School of Christian Studies' students taking classes for credit

Received as of November 8, 2016: \$210,802.

**100% Supporting the Mission and Ministries
of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.**

151st ANNUAL MEETING

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention



Scripture Verse:
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."



Guest Speaker, Sharon Koh, Director, International Ministries



Max Hill, Central Area Minister and Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Ministry, hands the gavel over to 2016-2017 West Virginia Baptist Convention President, Mark Wood, as his wife, Sherry, looks on.



Annual Sermon Speaker, Robert Perine, Pastor, Harrisville Baptist Church



Max Hill, Central Area Minister and Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Ministry, West Virginia Baptist Convention, introduces new pastors: David Bush, Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell); Jim Hewitt, Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley); Alicia Davis Porterfield, Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte); Obed Siberon, Comunidad Luz Y Vida (Eastern); Scott Wight, Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg); Joe Seese, Clendenin First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley); Davontae' Edwards, Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley); and Jeff Davenport, Hurricane First Baptist Church (Good Hope).



David Carrico, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention



2016-2017 Officers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention - (left to right) top row: Mark Wood, president; Doris Toothman, second vice-president; John Simmons, treasurer; middle row: David Carrico, executive minister; Sandra Phares, 2015-2016 president; David Hoge, first vice-president; and bottom row: Lois Merritt, secretary



2016 Ward Hibbs Winner Rev. Clyde Robertson, with his wife, Phyllis Robertson, by his side.



Jeffrey Johnson (r), Regional Pastor, American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD), presents David Carrico, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, with a check for West Virginia flood relief.



The West Virginians (l) from Alderson-Broadus University and members of the West Virginia American Baptist Men (r) volunteer to Stop Hunger Now.



"Beacon of Hope"
Thursday, October 20 - Friday, October 21, 2016
Gassaway Baptist Church

Eighteen Graduate from the School of Christian Studies

The School of Christian Studies held its annual graduation ceremony at the Thursday, October 20th evening session of the 151st Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Those present to participate in the ceremony are pictured below and are as follows (l to r): bottom row - Mary Beth McCloy, Northwest Area Dean; Roy G. Griffith, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; David Warren Harvey, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; John Dixon, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Mark McCloy, Director for the School of Christian Studies; Mike Sisson, Advisory Board Chair for the School of Christian Studies; second row - Jeffrey Allen Musgrave, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Michael Charles Rubin, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Derek Alan Hall, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; third row - Dennis Napier, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; and Yvette Marlane Shafer, diploma in Pastoral Ministry.



Those who were not present included: Michael Douglas Brown, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Lora Lee Dameron, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Darrell G. Farley, diploma in ADVANCED Studies; Lawrence A. Fleming, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; John L. Hurt, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Kimberly Ann Hurt, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Joseph Lee Jarvis, diploma in ADVANCED Studies; Melissa Diane Osborne, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Dennis Lee Price, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; and Bonnie Lou Smith, diploma in ADVANCED Studies.

McCoy Receives James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry

Rev. Michael McCoy, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, (Greenbrier-Raleigh) was presented the 4th Annual James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award by Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, and his sister, Mary Jo Slater during the Friday afternoon session of the 2016 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual meeting.

The award is presented each year to a bivocational pastor or retired bivocational pastor selected by the area ministers who has served at least ten years in a Convention church, and also has a love for associational and community ministry as personified by Rev. James Anderson, Sr. during his lifelong ministry within the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Michael and his wife, Melissa, are the proud parents of Jonah (age 20) and Charity (age 17), and just celebrated 25 years of marriage. They make their home in Frankford and both will graduate in 2017 from the School of Christian Studies.

Michael shared he was honored not only to receive the award, but was also thankful he knew Rev. Anderson, Sr. from the times he and Jim Anderson ministered together in the Frankford area.



Jim Anderson (l), Southeast Area Minister with James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Award winner Michael McCoy, and Mary Jo Slater.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies Presents \$60,000 One Great Hour of Sharing Grant to Weirton Christian Center

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has presented a \$60,000 One Great Hour of Sharing Domestic Development Grant to Weirton Christian Center. The presentation was made at the center by Victoria Goff, ABHMS' national coordinator of Volunteer Mobilization and Disaster Response Ministries.

To better accommodate the approximately 300 children from struggling families it serves yearly, the center is constructing a large building with a USDA-approved kitchen. While the center currently provides a healthy snack after school and dinner five days weekly, the plan is to add lunch for the preschool

program and to provide at least one meal on weekends.

Weirton Christian Center is one of ABHMS' 16 Neighborhood Action Program (NAP) Christian centers.



Kim Weaver (c), director, Weirton Christian Center, receives a One Great Hour of Sharing grant from American Baptist Home Mission Societies for the Weirton Christian Center.

Rediscovering Mission in Hungary

Periodically, I encounter a book, article or person convinced of the idea short-term mission trips do not work. This is a common position among some academicians I have encountered. However, my experience has been very different. Lives are changed on these trips. Last summer, I had opportunity to join Dr. Rich McClure and Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and a couple from Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) on a missionary journey to Hungary. First, I should mention Hungary is not a place I ever expected to go. Then, as the trip morphed from assisting in simple health screenings to the addition of some construction, I had my doubts. The trip had been assembled with one vision, and was now expected to carry out another. My carpentry skills had grown rusty over the past couple years. Not only that, but I had grown rusty in missions as well. My last mission trip had been when I accompanied Iris Morales to Bolivia. It was October 2009 and would be her last trip to that country before her death from cancer the following summer. For a time, her family became my mission. Later, the time never seemed right to get back on the field. But God's timing is always perfect; I should not have doubted. God always knows what He is doing.

I experienced a personal renewal on this trip, something God had undoubtedly planned. Further, I saw the trip outpace and outdistance our vision to something much larger and grander - something God-sized. Yes, health screenings were accomplished. Floors and subfloors were laid. But, we saw God

accomplish much more. Hungary is composed of two distinct people groups - the Magyars (Hungarians) and the Roma (often called gypsies). These people groups traditionally mistrust each other. However, we worked with both groups and treated all as brothers and sisters. In the process, I believe God built relationships between the Roma Baptists and Magyar Baptists. And the work has continued since we left. A home church for the Roma people that had been meeting on an open-air porch now have a new building in which to meet. Some funds we left helped, but pews and other furnishings have been donated to them by Magyar Baptists. The churches took encouragement from us, but now are offering it to one another.

The reason American Baptist mission works is it occurs in the context of long-term relationships. We did not show up in Hungary. We were invited to accompany our ABC missionaries Rick and Anita Gutierrez. We were there to support their broader work. Nor did they show up in the country unannounced. Our missionaries work in the context of partnerships and relationships built with locals, and must themselves be invited before they may go. Finally, these trips continue to have impact because they are more than just trips. They are a small part of the larger work involving a network of friends - denominations, churches, missionaries and people - that continually work to serve the Lord and grow the kingdom. Mission is more than a trip, but sometimes the trip really helps.

Mark McCloy
Northwest Area Minister

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Pastors' Meetings

Northeast Area pastors' meetings are scheduled monthly to allow pastors time to fellowship, share, encourage and pray together. This informal time together has proven to be a valuable experience, so all pastors are encouraged to attend.

EASTERN ASSOCIATION - first Monday of the month

GOSHEN ASSOCIATION - first Thursday of the month

BROAD RUN/JUDSON/UNION - second Monday of the month

FAIRMONT ASSOCIATION - third Monday of the month
Times and locations vary.

Contact David Hulme (304.623.3386) for specific information regarding your association.

Simpson Creek Children Express Thanks to Bridgeport Police Department

Members of the AWANA group at Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) created approximately 40 thank you

cards for the officers of the Bridgeport Police Department. Each child added his/her own personal note of thanks to the officers for their service to their families and the community. Chief John Walker indicated the officers were both appreciative and touched by the outward display of appreciation.

Although this was the first time the AWANA group created thank you cards for the police officers, the group has been active in other areas of community service such as the Harrison County Humane Society and Shepherd's Corner.

Sand Run Youth Hold Autumn Walk in the Woods

The West Virginia hills offer a variety of glorious displays of the beauty of God's creation, especially in the fall. However, with our busy schedules and technology, we often fail to notice. Not so with one group of youth.

The youth of Sand Run Baptist Church (Broad Run) held their Autumn Walk in the Woods on October 16, 2016. After enjoying a lunch at the church, the youth headed off to the woods to explore and learn more about God's wonderful creation.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

Cooper Memorial Holds Pastor Appreciation Day for Walls

On October 2, 2016, Cooper Memorial Baptist Church (Rockcastle) held a pastor appreciation day for Rev. Merle Walls and also celebrated his 5th year as their pastor. Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pastor Walls and thanks to the church for their support of Pastor Walls and faithfulness to the mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and Rockcastle Association.



Southeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Jim Anderson (l) congratulates Merle Walls, pastor of Cooper Memorial Baptist Church.

Anderson also preached the morning sermon and presented special music. Afterwards, a wonderful meal was enjoyed by all and Rev. Walls expressed his appreciation to the church and his family, who also sang during the morning worship service.

Fairview Baptist Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On September 17-18, 2016, Fairview Baptist Church (Hopewell) celebrated its 100th anniversary.

On September 17, 1916, 23 women and ten men began this church and the existing white-framed structure remains to this day, with later fellowship hall additions.

Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, presented 100th anniversary certificates from the Convention and West Virginia Baptist Historical Society and delivered the Sunday morning message in song and sermon.

A wonderful fellowship meal was enjoyed by all during both services, and Rev. Warren Eades, pastor, Fairview Baptist Church, stated the church wishes to continue its outreach to the Lockwood area and to the world through the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Southwest Area News

Max Hill, Southwest Area Minister

Joe Seese Installed at Clendenin First

November 6, 2016 was a day of great celebration at Clendenin First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as pastor Joe Seese was formally installed as pastor. This also marked the return of the congregation to its renovated sanctuary.

Seese was scheduled to begin his ministry in Clendenin on July 1, 2016. Unfortunately, just a week earlier, June 23, the devastating floods hit the area and the church building and parsonage were flooded. Instead of withdrawing, he reaffirmed his call and commitment to the church by pulling out his work clothes and joining the congregation in the restoration that still continues.

"It has been a bonding experience," he said. "We have been able to speed up the relationship building process by several years."

The congregation enjoyed a meaningful worship experience and Southwest Area Minister Max Hill, West Virginia Baptist Convention gave the charge to the new pastor and to the church. A reception followed.

Worldwide Communion Sunday

A full house gathered on the evening of October 2, 2016 for the Coal River Association's Worldwide Communion Sunday service at Yawkey Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River). The service was led by Rev. Chester Bird of the host church and Rev. Anthony Pratt, association moderator and pastor of Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River).

The association mass choir, under the direction of Jerry Skeens, music director at Forks of Coal Baptist Church (Coal River), presented several powerful musical selections. West Virginia

Baptist Convention Southwest Area Minister, Dr. Max Hill preached the evening message. The association pastors served the Lord's Supper as a fitting conclusion to the service. This is the third consecutive year the association has held such a worship service.



The Coal River Association choir, led by Jerry Skeenes, music director, Forks of Coal Baptist Church

New Hope to Host "Total Recovery" with David Alabran

by Bill Frey, Celebrate Recovery Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

Our Celebrate Recovery meeting held on Friday evenings at New Hope Baptist Church is doing well. We are in our second year and want to thank you for referring people to us who are in recovery.

On the second weekend of December 2016, New Hope Baptist Church will be hosting a conference called *Total Recovery*. It will be held during our regular Friday evening Celebrate Recovery meeting and during the day on Saturday.

The presenter will be Pastor David Alabran from Lake Forest, California. David has helped thousands of people gain traction in their recovery. He has 30-years experience as a psychotherapist, life coach, marriage and family counselor and addiction specialist. David is the director of Abundant Life Ministries.

If you are interested in attending or sponsoring this event, please contact Heidi Life at heidi@ahcr.net. There is no cost to attend.

DECEMBER 2016

December 23, 26
Christmas Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

JANUARY 2017

January 2
New Year's Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

January 7
West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center

FEBRUARY 2017

February 4
Church Officers' Training Event
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 20
President's Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

February 24-26
Senior High Convention
South Parkersburg Baptist Church

MARCH 2017

March 7
MABB Retirement Seminary
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 23-24
Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council Spring Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 25
Bible Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 27-29
Interim Ministry Training
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 31 - April 2
Women's Camp
Camp Cowen

APRIL 2017

April 14
Good Friday Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

April 28-29
American Baptist Men's Work Party
Camp Cowen

2017 SCHEDULE



WOMEN'S CAMP	March 31- April 2
OLDER MIDLER (grades 3-4)	June 4-7
YOUNGER MIDLER (grades 2-4)	June 9-11
JUNIOR 1 (grades 5-6)	June 11-17
JUNIOR HIGH 1 (grades 7-9)	June 18-24
JUNIOR 2 (grades 5-6)	June 25-July 1
HIGH SCHOOL 1 (grades 9-high school grads)	July 2-8
JUNIOR HIGH 2 (grades 7-9)	July 9-15
SENIOR DAY (2017 high school grads)	July 15
HIGH SCHOOL 2 (grades 9-highschool grads)	July 16-22
FAMILY CAMP	July 28-31
AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN AND BOYS' CAMP	August 4-6
CAMP GLOBAL	August 11-13



All registration forms are available by calling Jennifer at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office at 304.422.6449. You may download any of the registration forms at www.campcowen.org. Don't forget to print a health form for each individual attending.

The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen camping program is sponsored by the West Virginia Baptist Convention and is conducted at 276 Baptist Camp Road, Cowen, West Virginia 26206.

JOHN "HENRY" WILLIAM AFFOLTER, 90, died October 30, 2016. He was a member of Milton Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he served as Sunday School teacher and deacon.

HERALD R. BAUGHMAN, of Winston Salem, North Carolina, formerly of Charleston, died October 25, 2016. He was a fifty year member of Calvary Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served on many boards and taught the Partners' Sunday School class for seventeen years. He was a former member of the board of trustees of Alderson-Broaddus University for 13 years, the last eight years as chairman. He was a member of the board of managers of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of American Baptist Churches USA, in New York. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of the board in November 2010.

F. FRANCES BOONE, 93, of Parkersburg, died October 16, 2016. She was a member of North Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she taught Sunday School for more than thirty years. Recently, she was a 15-year-member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

RALPH PAUL BUNNER, 78, of Brohard, died October 5, 2016. He was a member of Strait Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville), where he was a deacon and trustee.

BETTY LEE BURNS, 90, of Dunbar, died October 21, 2016. She was a member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she was director of Children's Ministry. She was assistant teacher in the nursery school for four years, taught the three-year old class for 11 years and the four-year old class for three years. She served on the Deaconess Board for nine years and as chairperson for one year. For 24 years, she served as counselor for the Children's Evening Fellowship and also directed Bible School.

JAMES H. "JIM" COOKE, 82, died October 18, 2016. He was an active member of Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River), where he served as a deacon.

BILLY GERALD FLOYD, SR., 83, of Quinwood, died October 30, 2016. He was pastor of ten churches during his ministry, including Faith Baptist Church of Rupert, Quinwood First Baptist Church (Hopewell) and most recently Springdale First Baptist Church (Hopewell).

ADA MARIE HOLSTEIN, of Madison, died October 8, 2016. She was a member of Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River) for over 50 years. She was a long-time president and treasurer for the Women's Missions Society, a choir member for most all of those years and active in most all church activities.

CHARLES F. HUDSON, 88, of Piney View, died October 7, 2016. He was a pastor with the Raleigh, Fayette and Hopewell Associations and Chaplain for Raleigh General Hospital. He was an Executive Board member of Parchment Valley Conference Center. He was the father of Teresa Miller, Co-director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center.

DORIS LEE KAY, 77, of Saint Albans, died September 16, 2016. She was a longtime member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School director and on various boards and committees.

ARCHIE R. POLING, 77, of Buckhannon, died October 1, 2016. He was a member of the Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

TIMOTHY GENE RECTOR, 57, of Beckley, died May 30, 2016. He was a member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for nearly 40 years, where he was a member of the choir and praise and worship band. He was also a former deacon and former member of the gospel groups *Joyful Noise* and *Just Us*, and loved to visit and sing at southern West Virginia churches.

BILLIE JOY SCHNEIDER BORLAND SMITH, died September 19, 2016. She was a member of New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she organized the Women's Ministry and Bible studies. She was also a member of the Berean Sunday

School Class, a member of the Sanctuary Choir and co-leader of the church decorating committee.

JUNE ALICE DRUM SWARTWOUT, 89, of Oberlin, Ohio, died October 5, 2016. She was a member of Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen), where she sang in and directed the choir for a number of years. Other choirs in Elyria, Ohio and Urbana, Illinois, sang under her leadership. She served as a member of the board of trustees of Alderson-Broaddus University.

RUTH ELLA MOONEY THOMAS, formerly of Beckley, died September 15, 2016. She was a member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she served in many roles, including Sunday School teacher in the Middler Department for 20 years and church treasurer.

VIRGINIA LEE HEADLEY "GINNY" WHITEMAN, 94, of Parkersburg, died October 9, 2016. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She enjoyed over 50 years of ministry with her late husband, Donald Whiteman, as they served Baptist churches in West Virginia and New Jersey.

FRED RAY YATES, 94, died October, 22, 2016. He was a member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he was a deacon. He taught the Robert C. Byrd Bible School class for more than 50 years. He also served as the steward to the Crab Orchard Baptist Church lands, visiting and delivering communion to church members unable to attend services.

Leadership Updates

REV. FRANK CARSON to Sardis Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on January 1, 2016

DR. JACK EADES to Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette) as interim pastor in September 2016

MR. JOEY MORGAN to Fort Spring Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as pastor on June 1, 2016

December 2016

DECEMBER 1 - The ministry of Holly River Baptist Church; Thomas Scott Posey, pastor (Elk Valley)
DECEMBER 2 - Ann Clemmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
DECEMBER 3 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Joe Lamm, pastor (Goshen)
DECEMBER 4 - The ministry of Seventh Avenue Baptist Church; Robert Withers, pastor (Guyandotte)
DECEMBER 5 - The ministry of Madison Baptist Church; Jim Butcher, pastor (Coal River)
DECEMBER 6 - Roger Raikes, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
DECEMBER 7 - The ministry of New Life Ministries; Charles Chipps, pastor (Fairmont)
DECEMBER 8 - The ministry of Evergreen Baptist Church; Thomas Comer, pastor (Hopewell)
DECEMBER 9 - The ministry of Guyandotte Missionary Baptist Church; Harrison Abbott, pastor (Rockcastle)
DECEMBER 10 - Ivy Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Macau
DECEMBER 11 - John Simmons, associate executive minister of Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 12 - Gerald Bissett, vice moderator, Eastern Association
DECEMBER 13 - The ministry of Charleston Baptist Temple; Jim Hewitt, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
DECEMBER 14 - Greg O'Neal, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
DECEMBER 15 - Bill Clemmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Sudan
DECEMBER 16 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Andrew Robinson, pastor (Good Hope)
DECEMBER 17 - Sarah Chetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Lebanon
DECEMBER 18 - Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 19 - The ministry of Wallace First Baptist Church; Keith Swiger, pastor (Judson)
DECEMBER 20 - Mike Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 21 - J.D. Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia
DECEMBER 22 - Robin Crouch, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
DECEMBER 23 - Mike Akers, president, American Baptist Men and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
DECEMBER 24 - Our families as we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior
DECEMBER 25 - Prayer of thanksgiving for a Savior who was born to save the world
DECEMBER 26 - The ministry of West Point Baptist Church; Ron Miller, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
DECEMBER 27 - Koreen Villers, director of Children's Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 28 - The ministry of Romney First Baptist Church; Steven Wilson, pastor (Eastern)
DECEMBER 29 - The ministry of Center Branch Baptist Church; Emory Delaney, pastor (Broad Run)
DECEMBER 30 - Lori Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS)
DECEMBER 31 - Merle George, clerk, Kanawha Valley Association

January 2017

JANUARY 1 - Pray for a blessed New Year
JANUARY 2 - Jenny Jones, treasurer, Parkersburg Association
JANUARY 3 - The ministry of Valley Bend Baptist Church; Joseph Bowen, pastor (Union)
JANUARY 4 - Tom Dale, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JANUARY 5 - Ingrid Rold'an-Rom'an, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Panama
JANUARY 6 - The ministry of New Hope Baptist Church; Larry Coffman, pastor (Elk Valley)
JANUARY 7 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JANUARY 8 - The ministry of Minden Baptist Church; Ronald Richards, pastor (Fayette)
JANUARY 9 - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Roger Fontaine, pastor (Broad Run)
JANUARY 10 - Kyle Witmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JANUARY 11 - Ann Borquist, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil
JANUARY 12 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Rick Watson, pastor (Guyandotte)
JANUARY 13 - Ronald George, Jr., member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and pastor, Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette)
JANUARY 14 - Rick Brooks, vice moderator, Fairmont Association
JANUARY 15 - The ministry of Agape Baptist Church; Willie Stinson, pastor (Panhandle)
JANUARY 16 - The ministry of Quinwood First Baptist Church; Chad Rhodes, pastor (Hopewell)
JANUARY 17 - The ministry of Tabor's Creek Missionary Baptist Church; Denny Brown, pastor (Twelve Pole)
JANUARY 18 - The ministry of Sabraton Baptist Church; Scott Whetzel, pastor (Goshen)
JANUARY 19 - The ministry of Strait Creek Baptist Church; Dobby Thrash, pastor (Harrisville)
JANUARY 20 - Andrea Fling, bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 21 - The ministry of Milhoan Ridge Baptist Church; Dee Rhodes, pastor (Good Hope)
JANUARY 22 - The ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church; Charles Elkins, pastor (Teays Valley)
JANUARY 23 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Jeff Musgrave, pastor (Fairmont)
JANUARY 24 - Doris Toothman, West Virginia Baptist Convention second vice-president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JANUARY 25 - Lori Helmick, clerk/treasurer of the Panhandle Association
JANUARY 26 - The ministry of Lauckport Baptist Church; Richard Eaton, pastor (Parkersburg)
JANUARY 27 - The ministry of Fort Spring Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JANUARY 28 - The ministry of Prosperity Baptist Church; Ken Heiney, pastor (Little Kanawha)
JANUARY 29 - Donna Dingus, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
JANUARY 30 - The ministry of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church; Carl Butler, pastor (Logan-Mingo)
JANUARY 31 - The ministry of Clendenin First Baptist Church; Joe Seese, pastor (Kanawha Valley)

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

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

[Deadline for submission is the 3rd of odd numbered months.](#)

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

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I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
John 16:33 (ESV)

May the Light of the World: Jesus Christ shine brightly in your heart this Christmas and beyond.

*Merry Christmas,
The West Virginia Baptist Convention Staff*

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>David Carrico</i> | <i>Joan Hall</i> | <i>Ginny Prunty</i> |
| <i>Valma Adams</i> | <i>Max Hill</i> | <i>John Simmons</i> |
| <i>Jim Anderson</i> | <i>Jennifer Huber</i> | <i>Lisa Simmons</i> |
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