

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

February-March 2018

Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center: Preparing for the Next Harvest

“Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith” continues to be the mission of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. Summer is an intense time at Camp Cowen with a new camp beginning each week, June through August. Last summer, 1,748 individual campers attended camp. Of that number, 64 students accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, and that doesn't include rededications, of which there were 126. Camp Cowen changes the lives of young people weekly. The *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* will provide a much needed gymnasium to enhance the campers' experience. A gym allows for additional activities and a place to build community when it rains at Cowen ... and you know it rains!

The *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* will also include additional classrooms that will provide space where discipleship can occur. Rentals at camp during the other nine months at Cowen allow windows for discipleship activities of local churches through deacon retreats, ladies' events, marriage retreats and youth retreats. The *Sunny Day* building will enhance these programs with heated space to meet in year round.

The phrase being repeated to the leadership at camp is: “Cowen really needs this building!” Well family, it is time to get it built. Pray about your involvement, challenge yourself and the congregation you worship with to make a difference for the future of Camp Cowen and the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The Kanawha Valley Association cabin was constructed in 1942 and hosted students in 1943. Imagine the conversations and discipling that has occurred in the past 75 years in that one building. Multiply that by the rest of the facilities onsite. Now imagine what will happen in the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* for the next 75 years. Your neighbors, children, grandchildren and people you do not know will have another place to *“meet Jesus and grow as His disciples.”*

The leadership of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen would like to invite you to join us in 2018 as we celebrate the past ministry at camp and look forward to the future God has in store. Three ways you can join us are:

1. **PRAYING:** What is the purpose of a ministry if there is no prayer involved in the foundation laid for it? With each passing month, the funding for the campaign continues to swell. As the camp comes closer to the opening date of the new facility, it is becoming more important for the church family to join us in prayer.

2. **GIVING:** During the 2017 Annual Meeting, the Cowen campaign team introduced the *Sunny Day* block banks. These banks have been sent home with students and church leaders alike to help keep the fund-raising need of the camp at the front of everyone's mind.

Because every donation amount makes a difference, the banks are

being utilized to encourage the collection of not only checks and card swipes, but pennies and nickels, too. The campaign is now at \$200,000 and needs to be at \$1.5 million for completion. That amount needs the participation of the entire family of West Virginia Baptist Convention.

3. **ATTENDING:** *To celebrate everything going on at Camp Cowen in 2018, a block party, combined with Omega will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) April 21, 2018, starting at 12:00 noon. The event will include fellowship, music and a chance to bid on one-of-a-kind Cowen craftwork. The invitation to the event is open to adults and students alike. This is a celebration you will not want to miss!*

If you would like to receive a bank to join us in this form of fundraising, or if you would like to join us for our block party, please contact Jennifer at 304.422.6449 or jennifer@wobc.org.

For the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen to exist as more than a simple shell to hold memories of the good old days, we must treat it like the garden it is, always preparing for the next harvest.



The Sunny Day block bank - fill one today!

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

by Michael C. Stephens, Interim Executive Minister



There's an App for That!

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

Vol. LXXXV, Issue 02 February-March 2018

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God's Comprehensive Plan for Life and Ministry

As we move into the last three months of transition, there are many topics one could address - i.e. the "Me Too" movement with victims of sexual harassment or imposition and finding the courage to speak out against powerful abusers. Unfortunately, even Christians have at times fallen into the trap of compromising our faith, dismissing the frailties of those who seem to support our moral, social or political agendas by rationalizing we are choosing the lesser of two evils and overriding good judgment and even clear Biblical teaching.



Dr. Michael Stephens

What is needed more than ever is the heart attitude and mind of Christ as laid out in Romans 12:1-2:

¹ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

² *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

All our programs and emphases need to be measured according to the standard set forth in Romans 12 and throughout God's word.

First of all, everything we do depends on *"the mercies of God."* Without God's mercy we would all remain condemned to a godless eternity without hope. Second, because of His mercy and His sacrifice on our behalf (coming to earth; living a perfect life; dying on the cross and rising again victorious over sin, death, hell and the grave), we can live a life dedicated to His designed purpose for each of us: *"living sacrifice ... acceptable to God."*

The last statement in that first verse, *"your reasonable service,"*

challenges us to recognize living to fulfill God's purpose makes sense, follows logically, from all God has done for us.

The second verse kind of takes care of itself if we follow through with the first verse, but we still need to be reminded. If

what we are doing in "ministry or outreach" is *"conformed to this world"* at the expense of and in opposition to verse one and *"the renewing of your mind,"* it should not be done. A renewed mind is found by following Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus ..."* The following verses in Philippians summarize Jesus' attitude of humility and sacrifice on our behalf.

The last phrase in Romans 12:2, *"that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."* is the core result of our witness and ministry in fulfillment of His will for us.

So rather than attempting to formulate strategy for addressing every ill of this world (which we must do as God leads), I challenge you to measure every aspect of ministry conceived and planned for you personally, for your church and community, for those things we do together in West Virginia and around the world against God's word, and especially the heart and mind of Jesus.

Pray first, always seeking the mind of Christ, fully aware of His mercy and grace. Be willing to live for Him regardless of the personal cost. Allow His work in you to demonstrate His perfect will to His glory!

Dr. Mike Sisson will begin his duties as Executive Minister on April 1, 2018. His contact information is sisson@wvbc.org and 304.422.6449.

Interim Area Ministry Executive Committee Update

Happy New Year! As you know, area minister, Dr. Max Hill, retired at the end of 2017. It is likely we will not hire his replacement until the May Executive Board meeting at the request of incoming Executive Minister, Dr. Mike Sisson. This will give Dr. Sisson time to craft a job description that fits his ideas for the position as a part of the developing ministry plan.

To maintain the relationships between churches in the Southwest, "Convention Liaisons" will be assigned by mutual agreement between the Executive Minister and staff to each of the six associations in the area. It is not expected that the staff assigned as liaisons will simply focus their church visits and relational time on the assigned association(s) while maintaining their currently assigned portfolios.

BASIC EXPECTATIONS:

- Visit churches in the assigned associations on Sunday mornings as Convention representative
- Attend association gatherings and meetings, when possible
- Relate to the association executive committees representing the Convention
- Identify potential leaders and board members
- Promote Convention events and Mountain State Mission Offering (MSMO)
- Highlight their portfolio ministries in the association churches

NOT EXPECTED TO:

- Be the Area Minister! They are to be a relational liaison.
- Sacrifice their primary portfolio.

Convention liaison for the Logan-Mingo and Twelve Pole Associations is Rev. Frank Miller. His contact information is: miller@wvbc.org and 304.372.3675. His mailing address is 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

Convention liaison for the Guyandotte and Teays Valley Associations is Mr. Rob Ely. His contact information is: ely@wvbc.org and 304.532.3166. His mailing address is 1 John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25755.

Convention liaison for the Coal River and Kanawha Valley Associations is Rev. John Simmons. His contact information is: jsimmons@wvbc.org and 304.422.6449. His mailing address is PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Please contact these liaisons with your requests for visits, special events and any association meetings.

Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Third Annual Bible Conference to Feature George Hancock-Stefan

The third annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Bible Conference will be held on March 10, 2018 at Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall.



Dr. George Hancock-Stefan, associate professor of Church History at Palmer Theological Seminary

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and instruction will start at 9:00 a.m. The registration cost is only \$15.00, and includes lunch and snacks. The event is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Bible, and the first 30 pastors who sign up can go for free.

This year, we are fortunate to have Dr. George Hancock-Stefan, associate professor of Church History, Palmer Theological Seminary. Dr. Hancock-Stefan will present *Challenged to be Like Christ* (Phillipians 2:5), Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. In the given time he hopes to present all four chapters.

Bible Conference March 10, 2018 • 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 - Conference Registration Per Person
If I am one of the first 30 pastors to register, I would like to 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 5, 2018.

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.

A Bridge of Hope: At Work **Adult Discipleship:** **Faith in the Workplace Emphasis 2018**

The workplace, according to research, is one of the places where Christians can make the biggest impact for Christ. This is the place where most people spend the majority of their time and the church has the responsibility to encourage and empower its members to keep God in the forefront of their thoughts and actions. The church must also “tool” members to be **Bridges of Hope** in the workplace as well.

Being a **Bridge of Hope** means through thinking, acting, reacting, planning, working and relating to others in the workplace, Christ is glorified. This means bringing the Christian lifestyle to work in a way that attracts others to Christ, that allows coworkers to see a difference in your work ethic and creates a “space” for sharing your testimony.

Living as a **Bridge of Hope** at work means first realizing and understanding God sees work as a ministry! It is a place to be in service to Him and a place where you can worship through your actions. Yes, the everyday worker is a minister and missionary! Consider how this idea can change your workplace.



The Switch

The West Virginia Baptist Convention is excited to unite all our member churches in a study and focus of work life and its impact on individuals and communities. The West Virginia Baptist Convention Discipleship Ministries’ Commission is focusing on Faith in the Workplace throughout 2018. General and specific information on resources can be found on the convention website: www.wvbc.org.

WorkLife, a nationally known organization focusing on work and the Christian, has many resources that can be used during the year. These resources include materials for individuals, churches and businesses. Planning ideas for churches are included. It all starts with the six-week study titled *The Switch*, which includes the book Monday Morning Atheist.

Join other churches in our convention in this yearlong focus and let’s see what God has in store for us and others. For more information, contact Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304.273.9693.

Lisa Simmons
Director, Discipleship Ministries

Refresh - Personal Spiritual Growth Retreat

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a **solitary place**, where He prayed.”*

Working in partnership, the West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and Pastors4Pastors: The West Virginia Baptist Convention Ministers’ Council will host **Refresh**, a **Personal Spiritual Growth Retreat**, which can be attended March 12-14 or March 15-17, 2018. The retreats will be held at Parchment Valley Conference Center. These retreats are for men, women, pastors, associates in ministry, full-time and bivocational pastors and laypersons.

Participants can expect extended opportunities for silence, solitude, reflection, prayer and spiritual listening. Guided small group discussions will also be part of the program. The book, Hearing God, by Dallas Willard, is required reading prior to the retreat.

Attendees will have the opportunity to spend time with a spiritual listener, use the prayer labyrinth, enjoy relaxed, unhurried time in prayer and Bible study, create a personal spiritual journey portrait (for personal use only), go on a prayer walk and learn and share with others.

Only single rooms are available. The cost per person is \$125. This includes two nights in a lodge room, two breakfasts, two lunches and two dinners and a program fee. For more information, contact Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304.273.9693. Registration forms are also available at www.wvbc.org.

Refresh - Personal Spiritual Growth Retreat 2018 Registration Form

March 12-14 or March 15-17
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Retreat Attending: Please select one.

___ **March 12-14, 2018**

___ **March 15-17, 2018**

_____ **\$125.00 payment included**

Please note any special dietary requirements:

**Make checks payable to: West Virginia Baptist Convention and
mail to: Refresh, West Virginia Baptist Convention, PO Box
1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.**

Getting There



It was probably one of the first lessons I learned in geometry -- "The closest distance between two points is a straight line." This truth is absolute in the world of plane geometry, physics and general mathematic calculations. However, if you have ever traveled in West Virginia, you know the shortest distance is not always available. Many times, even when a "shorter" route is available, it is not the best way to get there.

I was privileged to go to Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church (Good Hope) in Clio for an ordination interrogation. Clio is only 48 miles from my house. But the best way to get there is for me to drive 45 miles south to Charleston, then north 19 miles to the Clendenin exit and then north again on 119. The trip is 20 miles longer this way - but a lot faster! There are exceptions to the straight line theory.

If you have ever flown to Africa or Asia you know the airlines usually fly up and over the northern polar cap instead of going in a straight line to get there. The first time I experienced this, I immediately came home and got my tape measure out

and measured the difference between the route they had flown over a direct line on a globe. It turns out there are exceptions to the truth that the closest distance between two points is a straight line.

I tend to be a straight line thinker. My analytical mind likes to look at life and explore the possibilities based on empirical data - connecting the dots - to reach logical conclusions and probable outcomes. I love the algebraic simplicity of problem solving ($a + b = c$). I am easily frustrated by people who continually ignore the obvious solutions and seem to always want to look for another way to get there.

In travel and in problem solving, there are often many ways to "get there." However, there is only one way of salvation known to man and that is Jesus. If you want to get to heaven, there is only one way! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

If you want to get there, you must follow Jesus - The Bridge of Hope!

Committed to Missions

Fund for Puerto Rico Update

The response to our request that you take an offering to help our partners in Puerto Rico has been great! Forty-two churches have participated, so far, giving **\$31,085!** This offering will be presented to our friends in Puerto Rico at their annual assembly in March 2018.



Pastora Iris Rodriguez

In conversations with our friends, we have heard their pain. We have felt the hardships they are suffering. We have encouraged them with our prayers and friendship.

It has been six months since the devastating storms hit the island. Still, 50% of the island does not

have electricity. Many roads remain closed and impassible. Many churches were destroyed or heavily damaged. Food, water and fuel are available in limited supplies and are very expensive.

There has been a mass exodus of people fleeing the hardships of life and coming to the United States for better jobs and living conditions. The result of this exodus creates even more hardships for the people remaining.

The American Baptist Home Mission Societies has made Puerto Rico a mission priority and has pledged longterm recovery support through the funds it received through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Your special gifts to our partners will make a tremendous difference!
THANK YOU!



Weirton Christian Center

Kim Weaver, Director

A Vision Becomes God's Reality

How exciting it was in 2017 to see our vision become God's reality! Thank you for your continued prayers for our ministry and our building project to have all our children safely under one roof. The Lord has given us exactly what we needed to move our building project forward, from all the generous donors providing funds to the right people to make it happen.



The ground floor is finished and we hope to have the main floor on and the building under roof before April 2018.

As executive director, I am so blessed to have a team of qualified people, our amazing staff and friends of the center, to help us start our 101st year. With the help of one of our leading advocates for the center, Steve Psaros, we were able to revamp the plans we started the

year with, when he offered to have his friend, and now our general contractor in to look at the plans. Tom Banketas brings 45 years of commercial construction expertise, and with him come even more people with years of experience in building. So many people working on the building are generously donating their time, their expertise, their equipment and their employees to get these plans underway and the building under roof, in spite of the extremely low temperatures and other obstacles they need to overcome.

All those involved in this construction have provided the best possible pricing for their products, service and labor. We are truly blessed, and although we still have a way to go to be able to complete the building, there are still funds coming in and grants being written. We know God will provide! Thank you to

our Baptist family for letting Him use you and your churches for contributions to the building fund in the amount of \$96,818.55. This brings us to our 2017 total collected and committed in the amount of \$1,022,949, and in-kind donations of services and materials over \$215,000. God is so good!

We are also blessed with a wonderful staff of caring individuals to work with our kids. Our ministry could not be what it has been to so many children and families over our century of service without those who continue to make things happen for us. I want to take this time to thank all of you have contributed so much, and I hope you know who you are because I would not have enough space here to list everyone involved. Just through our CHRISTmas season alone, the churches, American Baptist Women's Ministries' groups, Sunday School classes and individuals throughout our Baptist family did so much to make a difference for our children. The collections of toys, gloves, hats, scarves, socks and more meant so much. And the special t-shirts for every child from Beulah Ann Baptist Church (Guyandotte) were so greatly appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for our ministry as we move into our second century.



Every year, Vienna Baptist Church's (Parkersburg) shoeboxes are the most exciting thing the children receive at their CHRISTmas party. Brayden is pictured above with his shoebox.



Your America For Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.

www.abhms.org

The America for Christ Offering is received during the month of March. Materials should arrive at your church by February 1, 2018.

State Goal: \$110,000

1/3 of this offering stays in West Virginia for the ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Thank you for your faithful mission support in 2017. The total collected was \$103,281.

CULTIVATING LEADERS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
HEALING COMMUNITIES
Ephesians 4:11-13



Passion Conference 2018

"I challenge you to be flaming arrows in the hands of a merciful God," said Louie Giglio, in his message during Passion 2018, a three-day gathering of 18-25 year-olds and their leaders in Atlanta, Georgia. Twenty-three students from Marshall University and West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) heard that challenge, along with several from Gassaway Baptist Church (Elk Valley) and Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg). The challenge for these and the 30,000 other students was to take the message of Christ wherever they land. I have often challenged students to "bloom where they are planted." God has placed a call on all of our lives to serve Him in mighty ways, and the best place to do that is where you are right now: school, college, work, home ... everywhere - just take the Gospel with you. Baptist Campus Ministries' students are doing that on our college campuses throughout West Virginia.



West Virginia and Marshall University students visit the Pentagon after attending the Passion Conference. They learned of the history and the amazing work that goes on at the Pentagon. They also visited the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

Baptist Campus Ministries on a Mission

Rainelle First Baptist Church

Marshall University BCM took 27 students to Rainelle to continue rebuilding that community. Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell) and pastor, David Bush hosted the group as they worked with the Appalachian Service Project. Eighteen months later, the impact of the flood is evident, but so is the impact of many volunteers serving God in mighty ways by providing the community with evidence that followers of Christ care! West Virginia University and Marshall University students were also in Rainelle during spring break 2017 helping people recover.

This trip had a great impact on our students. Here are some quotes from them about their experience.

Rainelle was a place of growth. I found it very inspiring that their only option was to continue and persevere in a time of distress. It's evident that God is moving there, in fascinating ways. Exodus 33:14 says, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." What I found most admirable about the small community of Rainelle is their bravery and ability to remain steadfast in the Lord. I think this is something we can all learn from. -Tatum Ferris, Marshall University

It was so amazing to see how the Lord can use something as devastating as the flood to bring his people back to Him. The people of Rainelle really embodied the words of Jesus, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13-14). It was both a humbling and rewarding time in serving the people of Rainelle, West Virginia. I considered it a blessing and I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve there. -Brad Chanault, Marshall University

Don't underestimate the importance of community.
-Jacob Davis, Marshall University

So often, we feel that it is mandatory to cross waters and borders to do mission work satisfactory of glorifying the Lord. Doing mis-

sion work 2 hours from my hometown taught me this is indeed a myth. The people of Rainelle that I was personally able to meet and talk to while serving them showed me that the Lord can be glorified in any place, at any time. There is no job too small to glorify the Lord through. Working with brothers and sisters in Christ to serve the people of Rainelle was a humbling experience that has truly taught me the meaning of community and unity amongst the Lord's people. The Lord fights for all. -Miranda Martin, Marshall University

Bolivia

West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministries is preparing to work in Bolivia during spring break 2018. Kevin Sions, director of West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministries, will lead that trip and work with J.D. and Rhonda Reed, International Ministries' missionaries to Bolivia, in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia. The specifics of the trip are developing, but with recent floods in Bolivia, they could be doing flood relief there as well.

Beach Week 2018

Also in spring 2018, BCM students from across the state will have the opportunity to attend the annual Beach Week event at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina the week of May 7-14.

My prayer is for the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention to recognize and understand the importance of Baptist Campus Ministries. These students are serving their local churches now, not waiting until they are married and have children. Baptist Campus Ministries' students are serving as staff members at Camp Cowen. They are serving as leaders in youth groups. They are "arrows in the hands of a merciful God" taking His message everywhere. Please continue to pray for these ministries.

In Christ,
Rob Ely

BROTHERS' KEEPER 2018

June 24-29

A ministry of the *Parchment Valley Conference Center* and established in 2000,

Brothers' Keeper reaches out every year to the Jackson County community for mission projects, which youth groups from around West Virginia and surrounding states complete. *Youth get a chance to serve, learn, grow and fellowship without having to worry about a passport. Multiple youth and project applicants accept Christ each year.*



Now looking for: SPONSORS, YOUTH GROUPS, CREW CHIEFS AND PROJECTS

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION - \$245.00 by April 1, 2018.

After April 1, \$270.00.

For more information, call 304.372.3675. www.parchmentvalley.org

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

Remembering 2017

As we say goodbye to 2017 and welcome in 2018, it is not without wonderful memories and challenges experienced at Parchment Valley Conference Center by many of our customers, staff and volunteers.

A recent quote from a very good friend and supporter of the ministry here at the conference center said this, *"Parchment Valley gives some of us the opportunity to express our love to God. I've been here from the beginning and have experienced what God's love can do when led by the Holy Spirit."*

Remodels

- The Administration Building (*The Barn*), lower room four received a complete overhaul and is a great area for our group gatherings.
- Upper room three, also known as Veterans' Heroes' Hall has been complimented by wood flooring, a stone fireplace, serving counter and custom woodwork. The Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) installed carpet, a chairlift on the stairway and painted.
- The apartment also went through major renovations and will now easily accommodate a family of six.

- Dorothy Santrock will be remembered by a new lodge room, built with a special touch, remembering our dear friend and the legacy she leaves.

- A new bridge constructed by the American Baptist Men of West Virginia Disaster Relief Team was critical to reaching Parchment Valley Conference Center's lodging units.

- We have a new security system that enables the staff to monitor all activities on the property and keep our residents and guests safe.

Programs

- Brothers' Keeper was just awarded a \$7,500 grant from Jackson County Community Foundation for this year's missional camp.

- Minutemen Farming harvested 18,000 pounds of squash, and we are currently in talks for our 2018 plan.

In 2017, it is estimated we received about \$50,000 in donations for our projects. These were unsolicited donations and we received them with thankful hearts

We are blessed and excited to continue to be a bridge of hope to all who come to Parchment Valley in 2018 and beyond.

Parchment Valley Hosts Annual Muzzleloading Event

From December 7-10, 2017, Parchment Valley

Conference Center experienced its annual influx of veterans participating in the Jackson County Hunting Heroes (JCHH) annual muzzleloading deer hunt.

Twenty-seven veterans from locations as far away as New Mexico and Oklahoma attended the fifth JCHH event, although most were



HUNTING HEROES

West Virginia veterans. They were more successful this year than in the past in that 27 hunters harvested 29 deer. This event is a community based event with local volunteers from businesses, Future Farmers of America, the Vo-Tech culinary school and local citizens coming together to honor our veterans and offer them support and thanks for their sacrifices of personal time, safety and family to keep our country strong and safe.

This event gives our veterans an opportunity to come together and share their experiences and bond with other veterans. They are truly "brothers of another mother" when they come together and share their stories and offer counsel to one another. Some of their comments on evaluations of the event are as follows. "This event lets us feel proud to be a veteran, a band of brothers, no color 'just green only,' they won't give up." "I met several people I will stay in contact with. I got a few new

friends, some great times in the woods and the knowledge there are still people out here that care and don't want anything in return." "I don't have a lot of opportunities throughout the year to share life with other guys who share my passion for hunting ... these guys did and we became instant friends! I needed that." "Wounded veterans to be united together, is letting us know we are not forgotten from World War II up to this date." "I feel

incredibly humbled and blown away that you folks would take as much time and effort from your daily lives, not only to organize this, but to invite us into the fold. It is really heartwarming for me to see my life's work genuinely appreciated, and on behalf of all participants I want to say "thank you" from the bottom of my heart."

Parchment Valley Conference Center and Jackson County Hunting Heroes are planning next year's event to again say "thank you" to our humble veterans.



The Jackson County Hunting Heroes class of 2018.

Join us for Women's Camp 2018!

We are thrilled to be having the third annual Women's Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. We would love to welcome any woman 18 years and older to join us for Women's Camp 2018. The weekend is focused on uniting generations of women with ages ranging from 18 to 95.

From college-aged girls washing the feet of wiser women at spa night, to small groups praying together and sharing each other's burdens, it has been a joy to see such an incredible group of ladies attend each year and grow in the Lord and with one another.

This year, there will be fun, fellowship and Bible study for all including a snack swap, special movie night, interest groups with offerings including crocheting, hand lettering, missions and more. This year's Women in Missions' session will feature special guests, who you will have to come to meet!

Our theme focus is going to be *Better Together*, with our theme scripture coming from Ephesians Four. I encourage you to read that passage and think about how we as women can better work together to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I think oftentimes we get caught up in competition with other women and what we need to do is work together for the glory of the Father, because we are *Better Together*.

Speaking for us during the weekend will be Jana Stoner and Jillene Narraway, associate director of Camping and Youth for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Jana is passionate about God's word and community development. She is wrap-

ping up her doctorate degree this spring. She and her husband, Ryan, have been married ten years and live in Huntington, where they raise their three children. Jillene and her husband, Joshua, have been married for almost 19 years and they have eight crazy children. She blogs at *thinmoments.com* and enjoys studying scripture, photography, baking, concert/event planning and talking with friends, but most of all she is a child of God trying to seek Him and live for Him.

We pray you will join us for the journey of Women's Camp 2018, as we grow and learn and share on being *Better Together*.

Women's Camp 2018 Schedule

Friday, April 13

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Registration
8:00 p.m. - Welcome and Snack
9:00 p.m. - Campfire

Saturday, April 14

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast
9:15 - 11:30 a.m. - Worship,
Speaker Jana Stoner, Small
Group
Noon - Lunch
1:00 p.m. - Worship and
Women in Missions
2:00 p.m. - Interest Groups

3:00 - 5:30 p.m. - Fellowship
(Free) Time
- Optional Activities: Board
Games/Cards, Nature Walk
5:30 p.m. - Dinner
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Vespers,
Speaker Jillene Narraway
7:45 p.m. - Evening Activity
8:30 p.m. - Campfire

Sunday, April 15

9:00 - 9:30 a.m. - Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. - Worship and
Speaker Jana Stoner
11:30 - 12:00 p.m. - Departure
Time

Senior High Convention 2018



**February
23-25, 2018**
Mount Vernon
Baptist Church

Speaker: Chris Campbell

Worship Leader: Render the Hearts

**Cost: \$35.00 - Early Bird Registration,
postmarked by February 12, 2018
with money enclosed**

**\$45.00 - Late Registration,
postmarked after February 12, 2018**

Housing Deadline: February 12, 2018

*Following the theme of the 2017-18 school year, the focus of
this event will be on endurance as we run the race.*

Children's Rally

**ANGER
FEAR
DISGUST
SADNESS
JOY
EMOTIONS**

**March 10,
2018**

**Parchment
Valley
Conference Center**

***I praise you because you made me in an amazing
and wonderful way. What you have done is
wonderful. I know this very well. Psalm 139:14***

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

**For more information, please contact Valma at
adams@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.**

Page Baptist Church Mission Team Travels to Bolivia

Ten years ago, a mission team led by Jim Anderson, Southeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, with members from Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and Page Baptist Church (Fayette) built a church in the Bolivia Andean mountain village of Totorapampa over a span of two years. Overlooking the village, which itself is 13,000 feet above sea level, was a white wooden cross another 1,500 feet above the village, which several of the team climbed. The cross could be seen miles away, brought hope to many weary travelers and was a reminder that with the cross of Jesus Christ overlooking us, we always have hope no matter our life's situation.

Four years ago, when traveling to a nearby village to paint a church, we noticed the cross was no longer there. One of our team members, Greg O'Neal, had a vision for restoring that cross. After getting approval from the village leaders it, was time for the cross to be constructed.

Blessed by very talented team members, Alex Garrett, an engineer; Mike Nelson, who can solve any problem; Richard Flores, project director at the House of Hope; and Greg O'Neal and Lisa Nelson, the problems of erecting and transporting the cross, which once erected measured 27 feet vertically and 19 feet horizontally, five hours up into the mountains were solved.

Upon arriving at the village, we were met by the village leader with several men and women ready to assist us. A little boy, Ormando, asked if he could help carry Jesus' cross (can you imagine the sermon that will come out of that request), which brought tears of joy to us all as Jesus has commanded all of us to take up His cross daily! While walking up the mountain, we



Members of Page Baptist Church, along with men from the Totorapampa village in Bolivia erect a new cross to replace one that had gone missing.

laughingly concluded that nine years ago this trip had been much easier, but after several breaks we arrived at our destination. Work quickly began to dig the holes needed not only for the cross, but for the telephone pole type cables that would anchor it as well as assembling the cross. With everyone assisting, the cross was lifted and placed, and for just a brief instant the weakest portion of the cross swayed dangerously in the winds, but was soon anchored and put into place. A thunderstorm was fast approaching, but we still had time for a celebration and dedication service in the languages of Quetchua, Spanish and English with Pastor Nicanor, a dear friend and former area minister in the mountains and Liezbeth Flores from the House of Hope translating for me. We quickly descended down the mountain before the storm hit and had a reception in the Baptist church.

Before we left, the village leader, who is not a Christian, shared with me that for a couple of years he had been opposed to replacing the cross overlooking his village, but with a mass exodus of people leaving for the city of Cochabamba to find a better life, he had a change of heart as it seemed his village had lost all hope of a better future. He shared that now with the cross overlooking his village once again, hope for a better life of his people would be restored. We had prayer together and encouraged him to go to church and find out more about the cross, which does bring hope to those who embrace it. He promised me he would do just that. We then left for the long trip home weary, but also energized with the knowledge that once again weary travelers would have a sign their journey was near an end.

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Three Deacons Ordained at Willow Tree

James Chandler, Stanley Carr and Michael Hunter were ordained as deacons by Willow Tree Baptist Church (Fairmont) in a special service, Sunday, November 5, 2017.



(L to r): front row - James Chandler, Stanley Carr and Michael Hunter. (L to r): second row - pastor, David Knotts, pastor, Allen Burnsworth and Northeast area minister, David Hulme.

Participating in the service were pastor, David Knotts, Willow Tree Baptist Church; pastor, Allen Burnsworth, Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont); David Hulme, Northeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention; as well as other church leaders and family members. A reception was held following the service.

Middleville Holds 15th Annual Live Nativity

Middleville Baptist Church (Union) held its 15th Annual Live Nativity December 9 and 10, 2017. The presentation is in a drive-through format and features a variety of scenes depicting the events surrounding the birth of Christ. The large event involves many church members, special lighting, live animals and authentic props. This "gift to the community" is attended by hundreds of people each year. Rev. Paul Boyles is pastor.

Fairmont Association Plans Lenten Services

The Fairmont Association will hold its annual Sunday evening Lenten Worship Services, beginning Sunday, February 18, and continuing through Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018. The services are held at a different association church each week and feature special music and a sermon from a pastor in the association. Each service begins at 7:00 p.m. Information on locations and speakers may be obtained by contacting David Hulme, Northeast area minister or any association pastor.

Mill Creek Baptist Church Christmas Closet/Sharing Center

by Bob Keen, pastor, Mill Creek Baptist Church (Good Hope)

This past December marked the 11th year for Mill Creek Baptist Church's Christmas Closet. It began in 2006 as a way to reach out to those who could use some help in providing a good Christmas for their families. It was a success from the start! This ministry has been one of outreach primarily to Jackson and Roane counties, and has also been an opportunity to involve the community, our youth group, 4-H club, other churches, individuals, businesses as well as the whole Mill Creek Baptist Church congregation in working together to help others.

In 2008 - 2009, Mill Creek Baptist Church registered this as a Missional Outreach project through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Missional Church Learning Experience. It met the guidelines, was accepted and we received a \$1,000 Clark Grant each of those years. Since then it has grown and become funded by Mill Creek Baptist Church and friends.

Each year, we turn our fellowship hall into a mini Walmart, but it is all free! Our Christmas closet coordinators, Oscar and Linda Counts had this to say about this year's effort, "We consider this as being in God's will because it has grown from helping a few families in the first year to helping 163 families, which involved 542 family members this year. There were an additional 12 food boxes delivered to shut-ins and elderly in the community. Each family was given food, clothing and toys, household items and spiritual material. While parents shopped for needed items, their children gathered around the Christmas tree to hear the story about the miracle birth of Jesus. Any with

prayer needs were given the opportunity to kneel at the altar with our pastor or deacons. What a blessing to see a soul saved or to see the tears of a mother as her young child receives a bike for Christmas."

Our youth help by doing the shopping and much of the financing for hundreds of dollars worth of these toys. West Ripley Baptist Church helped by providing 13 new bicycles this year. The fellowship we experience in providing this outreach is priceless. As pastor, I can tell you, I get a little soggy when I watch people work so hard to give so much. It is a lot of work, but the congregation at Mill Creek as well as others in the community step up and provide tremendous support. With the Lord's help, we are planning and looking forward to Christmas Closet 2018!



Just some of the items available at the Mill Creek Baptist Church 2017 Christmas Closet!



I would like to thank Bob Keen for taking the time to share this wonderful ministry with us, and hope it may prove a valuable ministry idea for some of you in your context." Mark McCloy

2016 Widow's Mite Award Presented to South Parkersburg Baptist Church

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/20/17) - On behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, MMBB Financial Services presented the 2016 Widow's Mite Award to South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), on Sunday, December 17, 2017. The award is given to a congregation that exemplifies generosity and a continued commitment to the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO).

The South Parkersburg congregation was singled out for raising more than \$132,000 for all ABCUSA offerings in 2016—among them RMMO. RMMO is an annual campaign spearheaded by ABCUSA and MMBB to raise money for retired ministers, missionaries, their widowed spouses and elderly clergy within their churches.

When asked, South Parkersburg's outgoing pastor, Rev. Dr. Tom Lipsey could not explain his congregation's "genius of generosity," but feels it "unlocks so many things." He remarked, "God teaches us to live by being generous. Giving is not a debt we owe, it's a seed we sow."



MMBB representative Rev. Dr. David Hinson (r) presents the award to incoming pastor, Rich Blain.

Effective January 1, 2018, Lipsey is moving on to another church to make way for a newly appointed pastor, Rich Blain, who said, "This award is for all of you who have given so generously to others."

The surrounding West Virginia community has been rocked by a host of challenges — which makes South Parkersburg Baptist Church's generosity even more astonishing.

Worship Pastor, Matt Enoch says, "Our church members know the importance of generosity — even if they have to make sacrifices." He adds, "We have been through some rough financial times, and the church has never backed down in giving."

Lipsey says he has seen a lot of hurting people in his community, but the members of his church always manage to reach into their pockets to give to a worthy cause. "It's an honor and a privilege to live for something other than yourself — and the gospel teaches us to do that."

American Baptist Men of West Virginia
Annual National Prayer Breakfast
February 24, 2018



Locations throughout our state are now being sought for this very important day in the American Baptist Men's ministry year. This is a time for our West Virginia Baptist Convention men to gather together for concentrated prayer and Biblical teaching in conjunction with a fellowship breakfast.

If your church is already planning to host a prayer breakfast on February 24 or if your church would be interested in hosting a prayer breakfast on that date, please complete and mail the registration at right.

Your location will be added to our list to provide contact information to those who are seeking to participate in this event. The reported sites will be posted to our website and publicized via e-mail.

If you desire, you can be contacted with information and provided assistance with speakers and materials. Please visit www.wvbc.org/partners/auxiliaries for location information and to download the prayer guide. For more information, contact Frank Miller at 800.489.8564 or miller@wvbc.org.

2018 Camp Cowen Dates



Women's Camp	April 13-15
Older Midler	June 3-6
Younger Midler	June 8-10
Junior 1	June 10-16
Junior High 1	June 17-23
Junior 2	June 24-30
High School 1	July 1-7
Junior High 2	July 8-14
Senior Day	July 14
High School 2	July 15-21
Family Camp	July 27-30
AB Men and Boys Camp	August 3-5
Camp Global	August 10-12

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 forms online at www.campcowen.org.

Don't forget to print off a health form for each individual attending.

American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Yes, my church will be hosting a prayer breakfast on this date.

Church Name: _____
 City: _____
 Association: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Return this form to Tracie Emerick, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.
 Questions: Contact Tracie at temerick@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.

*Cut on this line and return top portion.
 Return bottom portion with your offering.*

**American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast
 Attendance Report/Offering Slip**

Church Name: _____
 City: _____
 Association: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone: _____
 Number of Men in Attendance: _____
 Amount of Offering: _____

Offerings received have been designated to support the Pastors' Emergency Fund.

Return this form to Tracie Emerick, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Leadership Updates

- MR. RICH BLAIN** to South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on January 1, 2018
- DR. MAXWELL L. HILL** to Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as interim pastor on January 21, 2018
- MRS. CONNIE JOHNSON** to Goose Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville) as pastor on June 1, 2017
- MR. RONALD (RON) H. MOORE, JR.** to Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) as interim pastor on October 29, 2017
- DR. MICHAEL B. SISSON** to West Virginia Baptist Convention as executive minister on April 1, 2018

Trading Post

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LITERATURE TO SHARE.

From Judson Bible Journeys Series: Winter 2016-2017
Creation: A Divine Cycle (17 Student guides; one Large Print student; three Leader); Spring 2017 **God Loves Us** (13 Student; one LP; five Leader); Summer 2017 **God's Urgent Call** (two Student; seven LP; one Leader); Fall 2017 **Covenants with God** (18 Student; three LP; seven Leader). Also, **Secret Place** Devotional Guides. Spring 2017 (five regular); Summer 2017 (ten regular; 1 LP); Fall 2017 (three regular; one LP). Also, five Beth Moore Bible Studies: **Believing God**; **Beloved Disciple**; **Jesus the One and Only**; **James: Mercy Triumphs**; **A Heart Like His** (one student guide each).
 E-mail Alicia Porterfield at alicia@fifthavenuebaptist.org if interested.

PHYLLIS CHRISTINE BARNEY ALLEN, died October 26, 2017. She was an active member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she had served as church clerk, junior high Sunday School superintendent, leader of the Ann Judson Guild, member of the Lizzie Lewis Circle and Fellowship Sunday School class.

MARTIN SAMUEL BEATTY, 79, of Romney, died October 26, 2017. He was a member of Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern), where he served as a deacon.

RODNEY PAUL "ROD" BRAND, 89, of Southside, died December 13, 2017. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church (Teays Valley).

CLARENCE "CHARLIE" "JACK" B. BROWN, JR., 83, of Parkersburg, died November 17, 2017. He was a faithful member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served in various capacities, including sixth grade Sunday School and adult Bykota Sunday School class teacher, member of the Evangelism Board, president of the retired men's association, member of Cornerstone Ministry, coordinator of the Youth Lunch Alternative Program for Parkersburg South High School students and deliverer of meals for the Salvation Army.

ARTHUR RAYMOND CAMPBELL, 79, died November 26, 2017. He was a charter member of New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a trustee, was on the Finance Committee and Church Council.

BRIDGET NEAL CURRY, 82, of Delbarton, died December 7, 2017. She was a faithful member of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo) for 74 years. She was a Sunday School teacher and lovingly cared for the church flower gardens.

FRANKLIN D. DAVIS, 74, of Parkersburg, died November 17, 2017. He was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served on various boards and committees, was a member of the Crusaders' Sunday School class and wrote the *Prayer Corner* articles.

WILLIAM "BILL" DUNN, 95, of Sutton, died October 18, 2017. He had been a member of Long Run Baptist Church (Elk Valley) since 1942 and a deacon for close to 70 years.

ELAH MAE GAINER, 80, of Parkersburg, formerly of Grantsville, died November 18, 2017. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), Nobe Baptist Church and Ravenswood First Baptist Church (Good Hope) and attended several others. She served as president of American Baptist Women's Ministries for years, contributing to missionary programs such as rolling bandages for White Cross and Love Gift.

MARCIA KAYE (ELLIS) HATFIELD, 69, of Madison, died November 1, 2017. She attended Madison Baptist Church (Coal River) for over 40 years, where she served on the Hostess Committee.

BONNIE (POWERS) HITT, 91, died November 11, 2017. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run) for 50 plus years.

MARGARET ANN HUDSON, 79, of Nitro, died November 10, 2017. She was an active member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she was dedicated to youth activities, including Baptist Youth Fellowship, Sunday School instruction and supervision.

PATTY L. JACK, 89, died November 22, 2017. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

ELIZABETH LUELLE (BETTY LUE) JOHNSON, nee Kortum, 101, of California, died November 15, 2017. She was a Baptist missionary to the Chin people in the western mountains of Burma (Myanmar).

M.V. (KELLY) KALAYCIOGLU, of Shinnston, died November 4, 2017. He was an active member of Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson), where he was a former deacon and trustee.

THERESA KNAPP KEENEY, 95, formerly of Saint Albans, and recently of Charleston, died November 23, 2017. She was a member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley). She was the wife of Leroy Malcolm Keeney, who was the pastor at Highlawn Baptist Church for 37 years.

MICHAEL FRANKLIN KING, 74, of Spencer, died November 28, 2017. He served several local churches including Gilboa Baptist Church (Good Hope) and Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope). He

was honored to be named pastor emeritus in 2016 by Spencer First Baptist Church.

BOBBIE LOU CAMPBELL KNAPP, 79, of Nitro, died November 20, 2017. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she had been secretary.

MARLENE LOUISE (THOREN) MANN, 82, of California, died October 27, 2017. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) alumna. She served in Thailand.

JEAN S. MARKS, 89, of Buckhannon, died November 30, 2017. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

MARY LOU SHAWVER OXLEY, of Teays Valley, died December 1, 2017. She was a lifelong member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served in various positions including Sunday School teacher, choir member, Sunday School superintendent and American Baptist Women's Ministries' member.

ROBERT EARL "BOB" PELFREY, 79, of Spencer, died November 30, 2017. He was a member of Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he was deacon emeritus.

GLADYS RUTH ROSS, 97, of Lumberport, died November 3, 2017. She was a lifetime member of Lumberport Baptist Church (Judson), where she taught Sunday School.

MAYNARD LEE SCHOOLCRAFT, 74, of Hurricane, died November 28, 2017. He was a member of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he was a deacon.

SUN AE "SUSIE" CHON SANDY, died November 10, 2017. She was a longtime member of Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha). As the wife of a Baptist minister, she was active at Leading Creek Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) where her husband preached. She loved working with children, and enjoyed singing and teaching the children of Sand Fork Baptist Church to sing hymns in Korean.

CAROLYN JANE SNODERLY, 73, of Fairmont, died December 4, 2017. She was a faithful member of Willow Tree Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she had served as a Sunday School teacher.

JAMES WESLEY SPARKS II, 57, died December 1, 2017. He was a 47-year member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

DOROTHY "DOT" MARIE KELLY TENNEY, 97, of Buckhannon, died November 30, 2017. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

GERALD L. (JERRY) THOMAS, SR., 73, of East Bank, died October 30, 2017. He was a member of Hampton Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a deacon, taught many Sunday School classes, participated in Vacation Bible School and sang in the choir. He was active with the West Virginia American Baptist Men, prison ministries and student ministries at WVU-Tech.

FRANK LOUIS VANNOY, 75, of Reedy, died November 20, 2017. He was a retired pastor of North Fork Baptist Church (Harrisville) and Cairo Baptist Church (Harrisville).

WILLIAM "BILL" B. WETZEL, 87, of Weirton, died December 1, 2017. He was an active member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he sang in the choir, founded the Pairs & Spares Sunday School class and served in many other capacities throughout the church. He was lifetime member of the Weirton Christian Center, where he served on the board of directors for many years.

CAROLYN ROSE (MERRITT) WILLIAMS, 92, of Huntington, died December 18, 2017. She was a lifelong member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she and husband, Bill, taught the toddlers for 17 years. She was instrumental in building the church's day care program. She dedicated countless volunteer hours to the Jeffrey E. George Comfort House. She received the West Virginia Distinguished Mountaineer Award in 2011 for her charity work. She enjoyed serving as Travel Program Chairman for the church's Dynamic Adults for many years.

February 2018

FEBRUARY 1 - Marilou Legg, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
FEBRUARY 2 - Nellie Gillespie, treasurer, Guyandotte Association
FEBRUARY 3 - Church Officers' Training today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
FEBRUARY 4 - The ministry of Hill Grove Baptist Church; William Stutler, pastor (Good Hope)
FEBRUARY 5 - The ministry of Sand Fork Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River)
FEBRUARY 6 - The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; James Murphy, pastor (Elk Valley)
FEBRUARY 7 - The ministry of City Soul Ministries; Luke Easter, pastor (Parkersburg)
FEBRUARY 8 - Mark Shaffer, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
FEBRUARY 9 - Isabelle Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to the United Kingdom
FEBRUARY 10 - Zola Miller, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
FEBRUARY 11 - The ministry of Sago Baptist Church; Wease Day, pastor (Broad Run)
FEBRUARY 12 - The ministry of Handley Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
FEBRUARY 13 - The ministry of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha)
FEBRUARY 14 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Jason Sleeth, pastor (Fairmont)
FEBRUARY 15 - The ministry of Independence Baptist Church; Carl Trickett, pastor (Goshen)
FEBRUARY 16 - Tan Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
FEBRUARY 17 - Nancy James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
FEBRUARY 18 - The ministry of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell)
FEBRUARY 19 - Yvette Shafer, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
FEBRUARY 20 - The ministry of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church; Dewey Lowe, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
FEBRUARY 21 - The ministry of Saint Albans First Baptist Church; Joel Harpold, pastor (Teays Valley)
FEBRUARY 22 - Aaron Helmick, vice moderator, Union Association
FEBRUARY 23 - Senior High Convention this weekend at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Hurricane
FEBRUARY 24 - American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfasts today in each association
FEBRUARY 25 - Boyden Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Mexico
FEBRUARY 26 - The ministry of Petersburg First Baptist Church; Rick Bergdoll, pastor (Eastern)
FEBRUARY 27 - Rebecca Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
FEBRUARY 28 - Barbara Bolick, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Chile

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

March 2018

MARCH 1 - Emerson Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to East Asia
MARCH 2 - Annie Dieselberg, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
MARCH 3 - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
MARCH 4 - Taku Longkumer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to India
MARCH 5 - Marilyn Raatz, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
MARCH 6 - Preston Gore, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
MARCH 7 - The ministry of Mannington First Baptist Church; Greg Roth, pastor (Fairmont)
MARCH 8 - Carylon Koon, moderator, Fairmont Association
MARCH 9 - The ministry of Hamlin First Baptist Church (Guyandotte)
MARCH 10 - Nathan Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia
MARCH 11 - Joan Hall, assistant for Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 12 - The ministry of New Antioch Baptist Church; Gary Walker, pastor (Elk Valley)
MARCH 13 - The ministry of Oakwood Baptist Church; David Moutz, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
MARCH 14 - Jim Anderson, Southeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 15 - The ministry of Sistersville First Baptist Church; Darrell Mayfield, pastor (Panhandle)
MARCH 16 - Lee Boso, president, West Virginia Baptist Education Society; second vice-president, West Virginia Baptist Convention; and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
MARCH 17 - Karen Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
MARCH 18 - Tim Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
MARCH 19 - Richard Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
MARCH 20 - The ministry of Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church; Keith George, pastor (Coal River)
MARCH 21 - Steve McCartney, site maintenance manager at Camp Cowen
MARCH 22 - The ministry of Curtis Baptist Church; Danny Thomas, pastor (Rockcastle)
MARCH 23 - Richard Hepler, president, West Virginia Baptist Historical Society and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
MARCH 24 - Donna Snyder, assistant for Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 25 - The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Charles Grays, pastor (Parkersburg)
MARCH 26 - Ruth Stanton, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Hungary
MARCH 27 - The ministry of Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run)
MARCH 28 - Nancy Wolfe, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
MARCH 29 - The ministry of New Hope Community Baptist Church; William Adam Hanna, pastor (Hopewell)
MARCH 30 - The ministry of Vermont Baptist Church; Chad Ash, pastor (Judson)
MARCH 31 - Kimberly Hurt, clerk, Judson Association

Coming Events

FEBRUARY 2018

February 3

Church Officers' Training
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in Hill Hall

February 19

Presidents' Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

February 23-25

Senior High Convention
Mount Vernon Baptist Church,
Hurricane
Registration deadline for early bird pricing February 12. At the door registration begins on February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

February 24

American Baptist Men Annual Prayer Breakfast
Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), 8:00 a.m.
Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), 8:30 a.m.
Fayetteville Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m.
Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), 8:00 a.m.
Middleville Baptist Church (Union), 8:00 a.m.
New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle), 9:00 a.m.
Parchment Valley Baptist Church

(Good Hope), 8:30 a.m.
Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg), 8:30 a.m.
Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson), 8:00 a.m.
Stump Chapel Baptist Church (Elk Valley), 9:00 a.m.
Williamson First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), 9:00 a.m.

February 27

School of Christian Studies Old Testament II (B-02) Six-Week Classes Begin
Various Locations

MARCH 2018

March 10

Bible Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Presenter: George Hancock, Stefan, Palmer Theological Seminary

March 10

Children's Spring Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Registration at 9:00 a.m.

March 12-14

Refresh - Personal Spiritual Growth Retreat I
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 15-17

Refresh - Personal Spiritual Growth Retreat II
Parchment Valley Conference Center

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.

The **West Virginia Baptist** is a newsletter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, associated with the American Baptist Churches, USA, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102; 304.422.6449. US Postage Paid at Parkersburg, West Virginia.

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West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

2018 Church Officers' Training Event

February 3 Parchment Valley Conference Center

*The cost will be \$25 per person for the day.
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 - 3:15 p.m.	Bonus: Faith in the Workplace - Hill Hall

**The registration deadline has passed.
All registrations are now \$25.00 and lunch is not included.**

The following workshops are being offered: American Baptist Women's Ministries - Women's Leadership Academy; Projects and Activities - Part I and II; Children's Ministry; Christian Estate Planning; Church Security; Clerks; Deacons; Dealing with Addiction; Discipleship - Faith in the Workplace: Planning for the Year; Drug Awareness; Exploring a Call; Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and Finance Committees; Missions - All You Want to Know and More!; SCS ADVANCED Community Transformation - Part I and II; Senior Adults; Technology; Trustees; Worship and Music; Young Adult Ministry and Youth Ministry.

**For more information and a registration form,
please visit www.wvbc.org or call Donna at 304.422.6449.**

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