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CHANGING PEOPLE
FOR THE KINGDOM

A Little Child Shall Lead Them - y un Niño Pequeño Los Conducirá Hispanic Ministries

In Jesus' time, religious leaders in Judaism as well as leaders in other ancient cultures considered children as a burden until they were physically strong enough to contribute to the family. Children were essentially a drain on the family resources. A child was another mouth to feed, and another "job" for the parents to have to do until the child became old enough to help out with the household chores and income. Jesus' words to the disciples were quite a surprise to them and to those within earshot. Jesus' reaction and action was different than the norm.

Instead of dismissing children as a bother or of no value, Jesus bids them come near. He does not need or want the disciples to be the "gatekeepers" of who could come to Him.

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary, Debbie Mulneix shared stories a few years ago about some of the students at Woodstock school in India. Several were children of high ranking officials, politicians and business/industry people in non-Christian countries. While at Woodstock, they were required to attend Christian chapel services and Bible classes and were surrounded by Christian teachers and dorm parents. They were able to hear and see the gospel everyday. This was a God-given opportunity for those in leadership at Woodstock to impact the future leadership in many countries in Asia.

Here in West Virginia, *we* have an opportunity to impact the world for

Christ through reaching out to immigrants in our communities. Yes, we do have a growing immigrant population! According to the last census 22,511 persons in West Virginia are immigrants. They come from Latin American, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. As Christians, we have the privilege and charge to reach out to them in Christian love and share with them the Good News of Jesus. Who knows the future impact?

Make an effort to invite immigrant children to your Sunday schools,



But Jesus called to them saying, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16

Wednesday night programs and other children's events. Many times when you share Christ with them, you are also opening a door to share with their parents as well. While some of these children may stay in the United States, others may move to their parents' country of origin. They can return knowing the Prince of Peace and the Lord of Lords, and share this life-saving message with a whole new group of people!

Lisa Simmons

*Associate in Mission Support and
Adult Discipleship, and*

Juan Aragón

Hispanic Ministries' Strategist

An excellent resource containing valuable insights into the life of immigrant children and their families is Listen to the Children: Conversation with Immigrants Families by Elizabeth Conde-Frazier. This resource also provides practical steps to connect with and provide support to immigrant children and their families.

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.

COMMENTARY



Dr. David L.
Carrico

Reading Books

Folks know I like to read books so the question is asked many times, "Have you read any good books lately?" or "What are some of the books the Baptist Convention staff is reading these days?" My latest reading list would include the following:

- **Under The Overpass** by Mike Yankoski - A book that shares a journey of faith on the streets of America. Yankoski shares his story of living a life of faith while being homeless. Yankoski will be a keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting in October at New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), Huntington.

- **Almost Christian** by Kendra Creasy Dean - A book based on the national study of youth and religion and what the faith of our teenagers is revealing about the American church.

- **Radical** by David Platt - The author explores the concept of taking up your cross daily for the sake of the gospel. He asks some tough questions such as: Would you abandon everything for the gospel? What is Jesus worth to you? If all the church stuff and building comforts were taken away, would the gospel be enough to cause people to worship?

These are hard questions for a culture that says most of us are believers, yet we don't act as if we even know the Lord. And the gap between what we say we believe and how we act seems to grow larger. Institutional trust just keeps going away. At an all time low is trust in government, education and religious organizations, including the church. What can we do?

First, to build trust in the church, we must let people know where we stand, use simple language and show we genuinely care for them. We must be real and genuine, not letting pride get in the way of doing the right thing. Practice

accountability, keep commitments, deliver results and extend trust to others. And when they ask you why you act in this matter, *tell them about Jesus!*

Second, keep reading the greatest book of all - the **Bible!** There are many good books about the church, religion, faith, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But only one - the Bible - is life changing and renewing. It is one thing to know about Jesus; it is another issue to know Jesus!

Our West Virginia Baptist family is celebrating a positive year of evangelism. We hear of the growing number of baptisms across our state each month. Praise the Lord! As we have renewed our zeal for evangelism, we must also remain connected to our purpose, being a people of the Book. As we grow in our faith we need to grow hungry for the Word. And as we grow, we must feed that hunger. In feeding we are changing, and as we change, we can then change others for the kingdom.

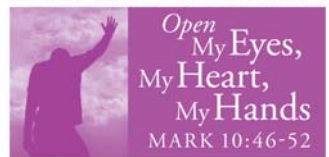
As we prepare for our Easter celebrations, this is a grand time to focus on the Lord's story. The best book I have ever read and continue to read is the **Bible**; all the rest miss the mark of eternal life.

Blessings,
Dr. David L. Carrico
Executive Minister

On a very personal note from my family: In February, a special member of our family passed away. Eleanor Hadcock was the mother of my wife, Janey, and a 'force of nature' for her family and God's Kingdom. She was a committed Christian who served in many ways, always helping others. Eleanor held several church offices and positions with the ABC churches and American Baptist Women's Ministries in New York State. She was known for her faith and trust in God among us who were blessed with her life. Our family thanks you for your prayers, cards, calls and concerns during these difficult days of our loss.

AFC in Action: ABHMS Supports ABMen Hopi Project

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP



AFC'12

America for Christ Offering 2012

VALLEY FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA - At the Mission Center on February 17, 2012, Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, executive director of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), presented a \$10,000 check for the Arizona Hopi Mission Project to Lucky Ray, president of American Baptist Men-USA (ABMen-USA).

"The ABMen-USA Ministry Team greatly appreciates the support of ABHMS," said Ray. "Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and financial gifts. The generous funding you have provided not only allows us to do the physical tasks of disaster relief ministry, but also to minister to the spiritual needs of so many who are broken and

lost. We look forward to an active and productive partnership with ABHMS during the project and future missions with our men's ministry, being the hands and feet of Christ, as we have been called to be."

The multi-week project, to begin on June 18, 2012, will build new capacity for ministry on the Hopi Reservation. Volunteers are needed for jobs that include the following: electrical work, ventilation repair, drain system installation and wheelchair ramp completion, all at Sunlight Mission Church, Second Mesa, Arizona; water tank removal and placement of holding tank and filtration system in the pump house; window replacement, septic system repair and building construction at the community center; floor and septic system repair at the parsonage; razing of shed; and maintenance at Hopi Mission School.

For more information about the mission and to register as a volunteer, visit the ABMen-USA's website at www.abmen.org. To donate, go to the home page of ABHMS' website at www.abhms.org and click the "GIVE NOW" button.

Bivocational Pastors' Event to be Held April 21, 2012

Approximately 70 percent of West Virginia Baptist Convention churches are pastored by people who make most of their living from a source other than the church. Called "tent-makers" by some in reference to the Apostle Paul's trade, these are bivocational ministers.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention will conduct a special event for bivocational pastors at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Rev. Dennis Bickers, Southeast Area Resource Minister, American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky will be leading the event.

Rev. Bickers, author of three books on the subject of bivocational and small church ministry, is National Project Director of BivoNet, a ministry of American Baptist Churches-USA. In addition, he is a member of the advisory board for the Bivocational Ministry Center at Campbellsville University. Perhaps most importantly, however, he is a veteran bivocational pastor having spent more than 20 years serving in bivocational pastorates.

According to some statistics, 80 percent of churches in North America are plateaued or declining, and most of those could be described as maintenance-minded. Rev. Bickers will be leading us in a presentation titled, "Transforming the Church from Maintenance-Minded to Missional." He will help us to understand the differences in missional and maintenance-minded churches and how to move the church to a missional mindset.

The cost of the conference, including lunch and one of Rev. Bickers' books, is \$15. Registration for the conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will conclude at 3:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Bivocational Pastors' Event April 21, 2012 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration Form

***ONE FORM PER PERSON, BUT YOU MAY
WRITE ONE CHECK AND RETURN IN ONE ENVELOPE.***

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

COST: \$15.00 PER PERSON

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

***REGISTRATION AND FEE MUST BE RECEIVED BY
APRIL 13, 2012 to guarantee lunch at Parchment
Valley Conference Center. Please make check payable to
and mail to: West Virginia Baptist Convention, Bivocational
Event, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.***

***If paying in person, please have a check,
money order or exact change.***

***For more information, please contact Max Hill at
hill@wvbc.org or 304.669.6535.***

Experience Parchment Valley!



On behalf of Parchment Valley Conference Center, we share great news of God's richest blessings upon us. Prayers continue to be answered through those who serve Him so faithfully here. The Parchment Valley Conference Center Board of Directors and the West Virginia Baptist Convention

continue to provide the support and participation in making this vision become a reality.

Our spring and summer events warrant all hands on deck! We need your help to come and spend the weekend here as a volunteer and provide guest service coverage for our groups this summer. We have several new faces on staff who truly exhibit a servant's heart, for which we are very thankful.

We invite you to be our guest and experience quiet time alone with God while walking the three stages of our new prayer labyrinth, thanks to the dedicated work of the Twelve Pole Association. Bring your family and friends for a weekend of camping at our new campground. Enjoy a great time, cooling off in our newly remolded pool. Hike the trails and find the amazing new discovery of the Parchment Valley "cave."

Grow closer to the Lord in your walk with Him through participating in fellowship at one of this year's outstanding scheduled programs. On April 21, 2012, Dennis Bickers will conduct a Bivocational Ministers Event. (See the top of this

page.) On June 15-16, 2012, guest clinician Joel Raney will lead the Worship and Music Conference. (See page nine.) On April 30-May 2, 2012, we will host the Spring Golden'eers Conference. (See page five.) And yes, we are bringing back Brothers' Keeper July 8-13, 2012. (Matthew 25:40).



Prayerfully, we are asking for your help in continuing to provide a blessed place for Christian fellowship, Christian education and awesome outdoor family recreation. Please make the difference by investing \$100 and becoming an annual member of the Don Loudermilk Society, as we pay our tribute and show our love and appreciation

for one who undoubtedly made the difference.

The Donald Loudermilk Society, "Grounding in the Past - Soaring into the Future," was formed in 2011 to promote and support the ministry of Parchment Valley Conference Center and invest in the lives of those we care about.

Parchment Valley Conference Center, a place "where lives are changed" and the presence of God is experienced through your giving and continued support. Thanks for caring and thanks for giving.

*Be Blessed,
Frank Miller*

Director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center



by Kim Weaver, Director, Weirton Christian Center

Thank you so much for helping get our year off to a great start. We have been so blessed with all the donations of things we have needed as well as financial contributions. It is wonderful to have many friends of the Weirton Christian Center throughout the state. Our enrollment continues to grow, and with the weather being so mild, we are able to use the yard and the playground for additional space.

We are looking forward to renovating the park the city has leased to us. In the fall, the American Baptist Men at Page Baptist Church (Fayette) have offered to help with the basketball court. The Christian Fellowship Foundation has granted us funding to provide for new additions to the playground, including upgrades to the basketball court, where we are hoping to develop a summer street league, and even a shelter for summer programming. We welcome any groups who would like to come and help us complete the work that needs done. We will need help with the landscaping, equipment installation, cementing the benches and garbage cans, lighting and more. We will have the opportunity to post scripture signs to witness to the neighborhood and plan to have a block party celebration when it is complete. If you, your church or group would like to help us, please call the center or e-mail us at weirtonchristiancenter@comcast.net.

There is so much need for the Lord in our neighborhood. A family of five will lose their home of 15 years this month, and yet another family of five is without transportation as of this month. Our utility assistance requests number at least five per week, and sometimes many more. Some of the children in our neighborhood suffer all forms of abuse, some do not have food in their homes, their water is being turned off, they don't have warm clothes and some have parents who are either in jail, or are going to be. Our downtown area is the base of most of Weirton's drug busts. People need the Lord. And although we provide as much as we can to the children, we need to also reach the parents. So, we have started a Ladies' Bible Study, "Cup of Life" on the second Friday of each month after realizing the weekly plan we tried wasn't working. We have had no consistency with any parental programs we attempt. Please pray for our ministry to the children, and now to the mothers who so desperately need the hope and guidance only the Lord can give. One mother said she is coming because of the constant urging of her four children to go "to church." The Good News is our children really are influencing their parents to follow God's plan. We truly appreciate your generosity and the power you provide to us by being faithful financial and prayer partners with us in our mission.

OMEGA

2012

*Come for a great day of learning
about God and living for Him!*

April 21, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Cost: \$15.00, includes lunch
Please register by April 16, 2012.

Musical Guest:
Benji Taylor Band

*For more information, please contact Valma at
800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.*

Cowen Sunday

April 22, 2012



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



**"The Great Pursuit"
2nd Timothy 2:22**

Cowen Sunday is April 22, 2012. This is a day to highlight the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen in your church. A PowerPoint presentation and a bulletin insert will be available online at www.campcowen.org after April 1, 2012. If you or anyone in your congregation has a special memory from Camp Cowen, please encourage them to share it on **Cowen Sunday**.

THINKING MISSIONS

Change You Can Count On

You are likely familiar with the old jokes that ask, "How many does it take to change a light bulb?" The punch line when the word Baptist is inserted is: "Change? What do you mean change? My grandpa put that bulb in and if it worked for him, it is good enough for us!" The joke is thought to be funny because supposedly, it is difficult to get Baptists to change. And as in most humor, there is at least some element of truth.

I agree the message of the gospel does not, nor will it ever change. While the message will never change, we must always be adapting our methods in light of culture and opportunity. While Paul's sermon on Mars Hill did not produce the results he desired, it is an excellent demonstration of how to meet people where they are to invite them to join you on the Christian journey.

Pastor Mark Stump, of Gassaway Baptist Church (Elk Valley) shared at the officers' training event in February 2012 three reasons why people change:

1. People change when they **HURT** enough that they **HAVE** to.
2. People change when they **LEARN** enough they **WANT** to.

3. People change when they **LOVE JESUS** enough they **TRY** to **PLEASE HIM**.

If we are truly going to help change people for the kingdom of God, we must first be changed people. It is our human nature to try to hold onto the familiar and comfortable. Our first response to a proposed change is usually to defend the way things are and resist the change. Our second response is usually to form a committee to study the change so we can delay, defer and deny the change.

God has called the church to be agents of change. How can we be agents of change when we, ourselves, refuse to be changed? We cannot change the world if we refuse to engage the world. We cannot see growth in our churches or in the lives of our members if we do not embrace the changes Jesus would have us make.

If you are looking for a change you can count on, I recommend you allow Jesus to work in your life and make you a new creation. Let the old go to live and serve in the newness of Christ.

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

Baptist Campus Ministries: His Breath, Breathed Out on Us

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

Great movements of God are marked by a love for scripture. The heartbeat of Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) is to "change lives that change the world" and we realize true change only comes through Jesus Christ and the passionate pursuit of His glory through the truth of His word. It is such an honor to serve the college students of West Virginia. While many perceive college students to be lazy, poor, self-centered or wild, I am thrilled to share a story that proves the exact opposite.

Our BCM students are showing a love for scripture and passion for Christ in their lives. In an age where few students have seen godly marriages and family life lived out, students came to me asking for discipleship in how to be a man or woman of God, equipped for good works. We started a Bible study for the guys and one for the girls. However, we didn't make it "easy" or convenient. We wanted to see who was serious. Who truly craved the word of God? So, at 7:00 a.m. on Mondays, the guys dig through scripture to see what a biblical man looks like. And at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, the ladies meet to study what God has to say about being a godly woman. The response has been overwhelming. Each week, over 70 students have been coming out at 7:00 a.m. to study the word of God because they realize it is indeed His breath, breathed out on us. God continues to blow us away with His grace and mercy as we serve a college generation that is eager for His presence in their lives. May we hunger for God's word like the students we serve.

*Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*

Spring Golden'eers



April 30-May 2, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: "It's Spring Time"

Hats are to be decorated for the banquet.

*Bible Study Leader:
Rev. Kenneth Fisher*

*Registration and pizza will be at
12 Noon on April 30th.*

*For more information or a registration form, please
contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.*



Mission Giving Churches

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

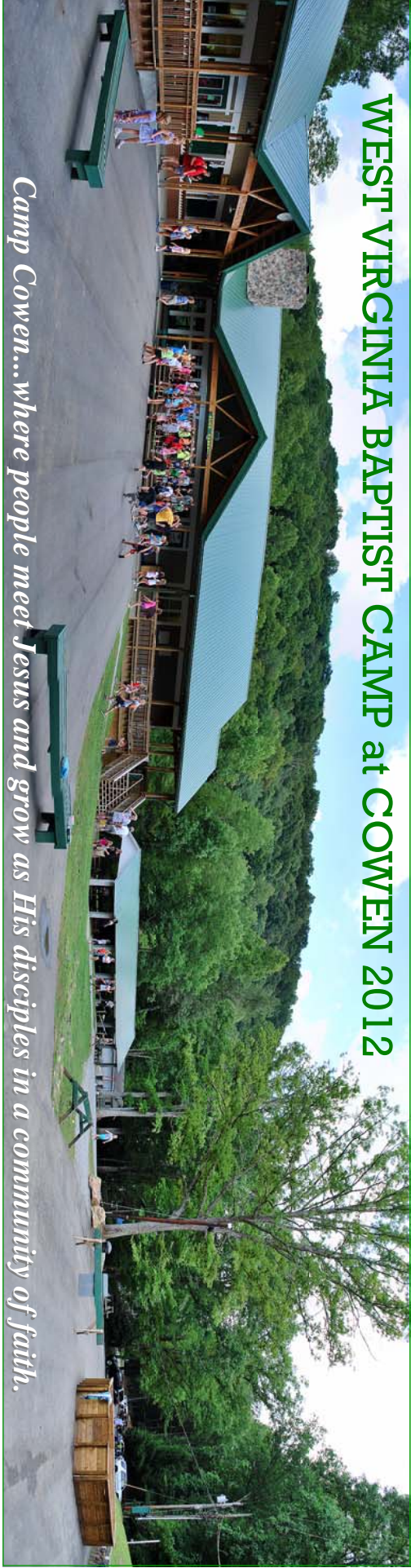
Your Support Makes a Difference as We
ADVANCE the **KINGDOM** of **GOD TOGETHER!**



Doing **TOGETHER**
what we cannot do alone.



AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION SUPPORT	UNITED MISSION	LOVE GIFT	AMERICA FOR CHRIST	ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	WORLD MISSION OFFERING	RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING	MOUNTAIN STATE MISSION OFFERING	WEST VIRGINIA MISSION SUPPORT
Fifth Avenue 147,054	Fifth Avenue 83,503	Fifth Avenue 11,070	Fifth Avenue 14,635	Saint Albans First 16,354	Hurricane First 22,396	Sutton 8,880	Hurricane First 33,884	Fifth Avenue 63,921
Saint Albans First 108,667	South Parkersburg 54,755	Hurricane First 6,142	Williamson First 5,000	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 7,577	Simpson Creek 20,106	Fifth Avenue 4,846	Ravenswood First 14,798	Saint Albans First 46,234
South Parkersburg 96,843	Charleston Baptist Temple 41,368	Vienna 4,370	Saint Albans First 3,621	Fifth Avenue 6,992	Williamstown First 18,375	Mount Vernon, Hurricane 2,648	Barboursville 14,792	Crab Orchard Missionary 44,811
Simpson Creek 89,340	Oak Hill 20,000	Charleston Baptist Temple 4,183	Sutton 3,610	Simpson Creek 6,353	South Parkersburg 17,927	Vienna 2,602	Wayne 9,714	Simpson Creek 40,867
Hurricane First 78,867	New Baptist Church 18,500	Milton 3,308	Vienna 3,099	Harrisville 5,989	Saint Albans First 16,337	Williamstown First 2,342	Parchment Valley 8,988	South Parkersburg 37,434
Crab Orchard Missionary 73,706	Rainelle First 17,700	South Parkersburg 3,119	Beckley First 2,964	Fairmont Baptist Temple 5,780	Emmanuel, Charleston 16,085	South Parkersburg 2,300	Summersville 8,000	Hurricane First 37,423
Charleston Baptist Temple 58,720	Calvary, Oak Hill 17,140	Emmanuel, Charleston 3,040	Beulah, Grafton 2,909	South Parkersburg 4,962	Wheeling First 10,754	Morgantown First 2,199	Williamstown First 6,996	Beckley First 31,142
Vienna 58,318	Judson, Belle 16,650	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 2,951	Mount Vernon, Hurricane 2,745	Summersville 4,945	Sutton 10,407	Charleston Baptist Temple 2,087	Pea Ridge 6,000	Charleston Baptist Temple 29,472
Emmanuel, Parkersburg 53,236	Glenville First 16,479	Beckley First 2,939	Highlawn 2,728	Hurricane First 4,782	Vienna 10,252	Beulah, Grafton 1,987	Toned Missionary 5,748	Vienna 24,679
Beckley First 50,365	Emmanuel, Charleston 15,908	Fayetteville 2,340	Open Arms 2,452	Williamson First 4,500	Crab Orchard Missionary 10,135	Shuck Memorial 1,879	Judson, Winfield 5,417	Elkins First 24,097
Williamstown First 48,829	New Martinsville First 15,255	Oak Hill 2,309	Charleston Baptist Temple 2,318	Sand Fork, Sand Fork 4,167	Milton 9,054	Gassaway 1,863	Harmony, Southside 5,400	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 20,954
Emmanuel, Charleston 44,318	Madison 15,000	Breckenridge 2,254	South Parkersburg 2,250	Sutton 3,585	Fifth Avenue 9,033	Spencer First 1,855	Grass Lick 5,201	Summersville 15,962
Summersville 34,684	Lubeck Community 14,886	Racine First 2,132	New Hope, Parkersburg 2,225	Old Greenbrier 3,501	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 8,998	Summersville 1,653	Dunbar First 5,000	Ravenswood First 15,547
Sutton 31,650	Highlawn 14,400	Saint Albans First 2,086	Milton 2,080	Beckley First 3,474	Mount Vernon, Hurricane 8,323	New Martinsville First 1,569	Genesis Fellowship 4,803	Barboursville 15,188
Williamson First 31,572	Williamson First 14,000	Bridgeport 2,012	Shuck Memorial 2,015	Charleston Baptist Temple 3,342	Connolly Memorial 7,561	Hurricane First 1,543	Petersburg First 4,762	Williamstown First 15,008
Mount Vernon, Hurricane 31,395	Weirton Heights Memorial 13,789	Everson 1,922	Old Greenbrier 2,012	Madison 2,779	Beulah Ann Missionary 7,275	Crab Orchard Missionary 1,500	Reynoldsville 4,711	Oak Hill 14,070
Elkins First 31,382	Crab Memorial 13,410	Crab Orchard Missionary 1,893	Fairmont Baptist Temple 1,964	Wheeling First 2,721	Wheeling, Mount Alto 6,761	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 1,493	Mill Creek, LeRoy 4,631	Grass Lick 13,477
Fairmont Baptist Temple 31,233	Morgantown First 12,125	Beaver First 1,826	Rainelle First 1,931	Vienna 2,721	Enon, Salem 6,738	Philippi 1,461	Kanawha City 4,200	Rainelle First 12,307
Morgantown First 29,194	Summersville 10,211	Coons Run 1,760	Crab Orchard Missionary 1,911	Highlawn 2,483	Beulah, Grafton 6,327	Elizabeth 1,460	Lacoma Missionary 4,132	Emmanuel, Charleston 12,106
Wheeling First 29,029	Vienna 9,218	Madison 1,742	Kanawha City 1,849	Milton 2,453	Hope, Frametown 5,953	Beckley First 1,347	Tallmansville 3,423	New Baptist Church 12,033
Madison 28,361	Sistersville First 9,027	Fairmont Baptist Temple 1,712	Morgantown First 1,795	Crab Orchard Missionary 2,304	Cook Memorial 5,834	Indian Fork, New Milton 1,289	New Hope, Saint Albans 3,407	New Martinsville First 12,010
Gassaway 27,913	Logan First 8,476	Summersville 1,669	Madison 1,783	Shinnston First 2,123	Williamson First 5,709	Gilboa 1,235	Pine Grove, Parkersburg 3,347	Calvary, Oak Hill 11,790
New Baptist Church 27,742	Olive Branch, Nettie 8,310	Main Street 1,645	Summersville 1,698	Shuck Memorial 2,036	Willow Tree 5,502	Weston First 1,215	Hopewell, Mount Alto 3,338	Judson, Belle 11,642
Milton 27,505	Racine First 8,000	Page 1,629	Dunbar First 1,595	Guyandotte Missionary 1,865	Sand Fork, Sand Fork 5,291	Diamond 1,155	Beulah, Grafton 3,237	Fairmont Baptist Temple 11,209
Highlawn 27,242	Gauley Bridge 7,700	Morgantown First 1,558	Nutter Fort First 1,561	Spencer First 1,813	Sabraton 5,110	Hanover Missionary 1,100	Crab Orchard Missionary 3,196	Glenville First 11,191
New Martinsville First 24,913	Oakwood 7,597	Pea Ridge 1,500	Emmanuel, Parkersburg 1,555	Gassaway 1,805	Highlawn 4,900	Hope, Frametown 1,100	Sago 3,140	Madison 11,093
Oak Hill 24,239	Shinnston First 7,560	Judson, Belle 1,500	Parkersburg First 1,479	Rainelle First 1,705	Parkersburg First 4,676	Romney First 1,087	Buckhannon First 3,000	Highlawn 11,055
Rainelle First 24,099	Dorcas 7,273	Beulah Ann Missionary 1,494	Bethesda, Barrackville 1,432	Morgantown First 1,685	Crossroads Cmty Chapel 4,635	Madison 983	Danville First 3,000	Williamson First 10,935
Grass Lick 23,250	Fayetteville 7,225	Lauckport 1,472	New Martinsville First 1,410	Mill Creek, LeRoy 1,645	Pea Ridge 4,600	Hopewell, Mount Alto 976	Peterstown 2,952	Weirton Height Memorial 10,585
Calvary, Oak Hill 22,028	Main Street 6,500	New Martinsville First 1,403	Racine First 1,400	Mount Pisgah, Normantown 1,580	Rockcastle 4,600	Saint Albans First 969	Gassaway 2,897	Morgantown First 10,508
Weirton Heights Memorial 21,635	New England 6,341	Parkersburg First 1,316	Bethany 1,385	Dunbar First 1,505	Spencer First 4,560	Forks of Coal 935	Parkersburg First 2,658	Lubeck Community 10,090
Beulah, Grafton 21,538	Calvary, Charleston 6,291	Mount Hope Temple 1,291	Elkins First 1,360	West Point 1,500	Ravenswood First 4,400	Spencer First 926	Parkersburg Baptist Temple 2,500	Wayne 9,714
Shuck Memorial 21,524	Dallas Pike 6,226	Highlawn 1,230	Elizabeth 1,302	Ebenezer 1,463	Matewan 4,308	Ravenswood First 814	Sand Fork, Sand Fork 2,500	Shuck Memorial 9,391
Judson, Belle 21,278	Nitro First 6,050	Minden 1,220	Guyandotte Missionary 1,297	Parkersburg Baptist Temple 1,450	New Hope, Parkersburg 4,191	Springdale First 813	New Hope, Parkersburg 2,500	Parchment Valley 9,296
Ravenswood First 21,141	Gilboa 5,400	Dorcas 1,208	Parkersburg First 1,479	Mount Carmel 1,383	Harmony, Southside 4,150	Poca 813	Open Arms 2,452	Petersburg First 8,711
Pea Ridge 20,845	Meadow Grove 5,391	Concord 1,200	Bethesda, Barrackville 1,432	Little Laurel, Richwood 1,350	Summersville 4,010	Matewan 761	Matewan 2,300	Dunbar First 8,525
Cook Memorial 20,359	Salem 5,240	Bethel, South Charleston 1,169	Indian Fork 1,289	Weston First 1,284	Fairmont Baptist Temple 4,002	Kanawha City 735	Ten Mile, Tallmansville 2,273	Romney First 7,469
Petersburg First 20,287	Mount Zion, Mineral Wells 5,110	Weirton Heights Memorial 1,105	Spencer First 1,215	Spencer First 1,289	Kingwood 3,891	Wilow Tree 735	Emmanuel, War 2,268	Pea Ridge 7,134
Glenville First 20,147	Philippi 5,000	Bethel, Kirby 1,098	Page 1,212	Page 1,241	Morgantown First 3,863	Wilsonburg 735	Poca 2,267	Racine First 6,712
Barboursville 19,899	Elkins First 4,892	Elkins First 1,060	Goshen 1,200	Goshen 1,200	Hanover Missionary 3,850	Old Greenbrier 725	North Hills 2,194	Judson, Winfield 6,382
Lubeck Community 19,591	Hope, Frametown 4,879	Sabraton 1,019	Weirton Heights Memorial 1,198	New Hope, Parkersburg 1,165	Elizabeth 3,819	Fairmont First 720	Simpson Creek 2,000	Wheeling First 6,354
Dunbar First 19,102	Big Tygart 4,858	Petersburg First 1,014	Philippi 1,154	Hope, Frametown 1,150	New Baptist Church 3,706	Point Pleasant, Troy 702	Broad Run 2,000	Ebenezer 6,193
Fayetteville 17,203	Diamond 4,800	Hope, Frametown 1,100	Parkersburg First 1,144	Mount Vernon, Hurricane 1,145	Poca 3,700	New Baptist Church 676	Spencer First 1,400	Shinnston First 6,139
Parchment Valley 16,866	Petersburg First 4,762	Ravenswood First 1,065	Hope, Frametown 1,100	Hepzibah, Bridgeport 1,131	Old Greenbrier 3,459	Buckhannon First 669	Morgantown First 1,353	Fayetteville 6,137
Racine First 16,667	Weirton First 4,500	Pea Ridge 1,030	Racine First 1,100	Racine First 1,100	Genesis Fellowship 3,237	Little Capon 663	Mannington First 1,308	Sistersville First 6,042
Crossroads Cmty Chapel 16,587	Grafton First 4,500	Parchment Valley 1,027	Calvary, Rock 1,100	Fairmont First 1,093	Romney First 3,179	Highlawn 657	Wilsonburg 1,300	Clarksburg 6,031
Spencer First 16,564	Sabraton 4,400	Holly River 1,000	Parchment Valley 1,027	Mount Hope Temple 1,089	Parchment Valley 3,128	Rainelle First 657	Indian Fork 1,289	Harmony, Southside 5,913
Harmony, Southside 16,188	Summit Missionary 4,285	Valley Bend 1,000	Hope, Frametown 1,100	Kanawha City 1,080	Breckenridge 3,100	Oak Hill 654	Romney First 1,269	Main Street 5,761
Beulah Ann Missionary 16,082	Little Laurel, Richwood 4,220	Rockcastle 993	Judson, Winfield 990	Beulah, Grafton 1,071	Wilsonburg 3,046	Weirton Heights Memorial 628	Elkins First 1,215	Toned Missionary 5,748
Main Street 16,071	Enon, Grantsville 4,200	Danville First 928	Sabraton 993	Coons Run 1,070	Valley Bend 3,000	Hamlin First 622	Concord 1,200	Milton 5,743
STATE TOTAL \$3,012,432	STATE TOTAL \$732,539	STATE TOTAL \$145,424	STATE TOTAL \$140,118	STATE TOTAL \$192,984	STATE TOTAL \$497,924	STATE TOTAL \$100,279	STATE TOTAL \$260,102	STATE TOTAL \$1,158,353



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

Recreation



Swimming pool (summer), climbing wall, basketball, ball fields, GaGa, horseshoes, Cornhole, fishing, playground, tetherball, ping pong and Foursquare



Campfire Community

Not one child was turned away from attending Camp Cowen because of the generous support from our Friends of Camp Cowen. Many scholarships are given every year and the surplus donations enable the camp to keep the costs down for everyone.

Please be encouraged to continue giving as we seek new ways to reach this generation for Jesus. My prayer is that every time you hear a young person speak of their experience with Christ at Camp Cowen, you will know and understand that the Campfire Community was a great part of that experience. My encouragement to you would be every time you see a Cowen shirt in your church or in a store, ask that young person about their experience so you can see and hear the experience and give them a chance to share what God has done in their lives.



Contact Information

Camp Director: Rob Ely
E-mail: ely@wvbc.org
Rental Inquiries: adams@wvbc.org
Website: www.campcowen.org

See the website for camp schedules, camping programs, the photo gallery, year-round rental opportunities, volunteer opportunities and additional information.

Call the office for rental rates and availability.

Prior to May 31st:
PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102
304-422-6449 or 800-879-9822
(Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
adams@wvbc.org

After May 31st:
PO Box 548, Cowen, West Virginia 26206
304-226-3522 or 800-754-1549
(Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.,
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
cowenregistrar@wvbc.org

Directions

If using a GPS, use 275 Baptist Camp Road, Cowen, WV 26206 for the physical address.

⇒ From 1-79, North or South, take exit 57 (Beckley/Summersville). Follow Route 19 South to Birch River exit. Route 82. At Birch River, follow Route 82 to Cowen, turn left onto Route 20 North (through Cowen),...

⇒ From Beckley, Exit 48 take the Summersville (Route 19) exit. Follow Route 19. Take 41 to Craigsville, Route 20 to Cowen through town...

- ...for about two miles to Y-Mart store. Turn right at Camp Cowen sign to Lower Williams River Road sign, turn right onto Lower Williams River Road for about two miles to camp entrance. The camp entrance is on the left.



What is this?
A QR Code. Scan the code with your smart phone and you will be directed to Camp Cowen's webpage.



Camp Cowen is located on Lower Williams Road, just north of Cowen, West Virginia in scenic Webster County, about 90 minutes from Charleston. Over 2,000 campers attend camp every summer. Camp Cowen is one of the many ministries supported by the 388 congregations of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

“Where People Meet Jesus and Grow as His Disciples in a Community of Faith”



West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen Rentals

Younger Midler Junior High I

June 8-10 (grades 2-4*) June 10-16 (grades 7-9*)

Junior I Junior High II

June 17-23 (grades 5-6*) June 24-30 (grades 7-9*)

Mid-High Senior High

July 1-7 (grades 9-11*) July 15-21 (grades 10-12*)

Junior II Older Midler

July 22-28 (grades 5-6*) August 4-7 (grades 3-4*)

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

All registrations begin at 3:00 p.m. on the day camp starts.

2 Timothy 2:22



“..... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for one of the following work weekends at Camp Cowen!

Men's Work Weekend ~ May 4-5
Youth Work Weekend ~ May 18-19



The camping program is sponsored by the West Virginia Baptist Convention and is conducted at: WV Baptist Camp at Cowen, 264 Baptist Camp Road, Cowen, WV 26206.



What is this?
A QR Code. Scan the code with your smart phone and you will be directed to Camp Cowen's webpage.

The health form and more information is available at www.campcowen.org.

Ministers' Spring Retreat

May 7-9

Outpost Camp

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

Family Camp

July 29-August 4

AB Men's Camp

August 10-12

Greenbrier, Raleigh, Rockcastle

Association Camp

July 8-13

Hopewell Association Camp

July 13-15

All registration forms except the Association Camps are available by calling the West Virginia Baptist Convention at 304.422.6449 or 800.879.9822. You may download any of the registration forms online at www.campcowen.org as soon as they are available. Don't forget to print off a health form for each individual attending.

How to Register

To pre-register, mail this completed form with your total payment included. (Early Bird discount requires prepayment in full two weeks prior to camp.)

Before May 31 send to: BAPTIST CAMP 2012 PO Box 1019 Parkersburg, WV 26102

After May 31 send to: BAPTIST CAMP 2012 PO Box 548 Cowen, WV 26206

The entire camp fee including any portion to be paid by the church must be paid prior to the beginning of the camp attending. A completed health form must accompany the registration form or be presented prior to camp attendance.

Health forms are available online at www.campcowen.org.

Official 2012 Baptist Camp Registration Form

ANY PARTICIPANT WITHOUT A COMPLETED HEALTH FORM WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO STAY AT CAMP. Go to www.campcowen.org to download a health form or call 304-422-6449 to request one by mail.

Attention Parents or Guardians: If for any reason the entire fee cannot be paid and mailed with the registration form, at least \$25 of the fee is required in order to hold a spot for your child in the camp chosen. The remainder of the fee must be paid prior to the beginning of camp. In order to receive the early-bird price, the fee must be paid in full two weeks prior to the first day of the camp attending.

Please Register Early: If you have not pre-registered two weeks prior to camp, please call to see if space is available. (Please PRINT clearly)

Name: First Middle Last Home Phone: () Zip:

Address: City: State: Zip:

Gender: M F First time camper: Yes No

Date of Birth: / / Grade in Fall of 2012:

Special needs, request for handicap facilities: Yes No If yes, what: Church: Association: Pastor's Signature :

Do you give your child permission to swim in the river with lifeguard supervision? Yes No

Do you give your permission for photographs to be taken during the camp and used for promotional purposes? Yes No

Parent or Guardian (if camper is under 21) ~ Please PRINT: First Last

Address (if different from above): City State Zip Parent's Signature:

Home Phone: () Work Phone: () Cell Phone: ()

E-mail address: @

Circle Camp Attending:

- Younger Midler** June 8-10 (grades 2-4*)
- Junior High I June 10-16 (grades 7-9*)
- Junior I June 17-23 (grades 5-6*)
- Junior High II June 24-30 (grades 7-9*)
- Mid-High July 1-7 (grades 9-11*)
- Senior High July 15-21 (grades 10-12*)
- Junior II July 22-28 (grades 5-6*)
- Older Midler August 4-7 (grades 3-4*)

COWEN REGISTRAR USE ONLY:

Early bird pre-payment in full Medical Form Scholarship ~ Amount \$ Total Fee: \$ Date received: / /12 Balance Due: \$ Fee Paid by Parent \$ Check #: Fee Paid by Church \$ Check #: Check #: Check #:

BAPTIST CAMP 2012 CAMP FEE SCHEDULE State Sponsored Camps

CAMP	COST (*)	EARLY BIRD (**)
Younger Midler (grades 2-4*)	\$72.50.....	\$ 67.50
Junior High I & II (grades 7-9*)	\$185.00	\$180.00
Junior I & II (grades 5-6*)	\$185.00	\$180.00
Outpost Camp (grades 9-12*)	\$185.00	\$180.00
Senior High (grades 10-12*)	\$185.00	\$180.00
Mid High (grades 9-11*)	\$185.00	\$180.00
Older Midler (grades 3-4*)	\$92.50.....	\$ 87.50
~~~~~		
Family Camp.....(Maximum 3.5 adults = \$630.00, based on individual rates below)		
.....Ages 10-Adult	\$180.00	\$ 92.50
.....Ages 3-5	\$ 72.50	Under 2 years FREE

(**) if PAID IN FULL two weeks prior to camp

WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CAMP at COWEN

A year-round rental facility ideal for retreats, conventions, reunions, banquets, receptions, etc.

June 1st - August 15th Cowen is not available because of our statewide camping program.

Crouch Retreat Center

The Crouch Retreat Center can accommodate 40 persons for year-round meetings and retreats. The sleeping areas are divided into two large dorm rooms and each room is equipped with a restroom and showers. You may bring your own food or our staff can prepare and serve your meals while you meet in the centralized conference room. \$15.00 per person/per night.

Jim Cunningham Staff House

This facility provides the staff quarters during the summer months. Designed as a year-round facility with a spacious living room, it has comfortable lounge furniture for relaxing or tables and chairs that can be set up for meetings. There is a microwave and convection oven with plenty of outlets for crock pots for the option of preparing your own meals, and a place to keep drinks and snacks during your stay. The facility sleeps up to 24 persons. Each of the 12 sleeping rooms has two twin beds and a bathroom. \$15.00 per person/per night.

Alice Randall Dining Hall

The Alice Randall Dining Hall sits on the Gauley River with spectacular views. The complex also houses the camp offices, Kenova store and a nurse's station. The spacious dining hall can seat 300 for traditional family-style meals.

Cabins

There are 19 seasonal cabins nestled in the trees for summer and into late fall use. Each cabin sleeps 16 persons with built-in bunks. Cabins have electricity, but no heat or air conditioning. There are several centralized bathhouses for campers to use. \$10.00 per person/per night.

Hylbert Hall

This facility can be used for meetings, chapel, etc. and will seat 300. The building is equipped with PA and audio/visual capabilities.

Breckenridge Amphitheater

Vespers

Campfires Outdoor and Indoor

# AMERICAN BAPTIST GIRLS' WEEKEND

**"The Hands and Feet of Jesus"  
For Grades 1-8**

**MAY 18-20, 2012**

**PARCHEMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**

**Cost: \$63.00**

On Friday evening, groups may begin arriving at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin with early bird crafts from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The evening program will focus on developing a relationship with the King of Kings.

How can we be the hands and feet of Jesus? We can learn so much from those first followers. As we study the people whose lives were directly touched by Jesus, we can see how we can be His hands and feet. We will use our hands to create four projects that can be used in our communities. On Saturday afternoon, we will participate in two workshops that will become Sunday morning's worship service. Also, there will be a time of praise and worship. It will be time to learn about opportunities to serve our world. On Saturday evening, the girls will be able to tour four countries where West Virginia has missionaries.

Registration due date is May 11, 2012. The registration form will be in the next issue of Seasons. For more information, contact Lou Ann Nicholas at 304.838.6462 or lanicholas@aol.com.

# AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**"Shaped to Serve" For Women and Girls  
(grades 9-12)**

**JUNE 8-10, 2012**

**PARCHEMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**

## **Speakers:**

**Peggy, Sharon and Rachel Johnson -**

*A family of three generations serving AB Women's Ministries and AB GIRLS*

## **Worship Leader:**

**Marsha Raker and the Oakwood Baptist  
Church Praise Team**

Special events are planned for all ages. Program begins on June 8th at 7 p.m. and ends on June 10th at noon.

**LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE  
APRIL ISSUE OF SEASONS.**

# Ministers' Wives' Fellowship Retreat

*"Attempt  
Something  
Big ~ God  
Cannot Fail"*

**April 27-29, 2012**

**Parchment Valley Conference Center**

**Speaker: Debbie Myers,**  
*American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies'  
(ABFMS) Endorsed Missionary to Mexico*

Scholarships are available for first-time attendees or those needing financial assistance. Applications are kept confidential. Please contact Jeannie Bess at 304.382.7044 or bessjl@wvusa.org to apply.

## **Ministers' Wives' Fellowship Retreat April 27-29, 2012 Registration Form**

**ONE FORM PER PERSON. Please complete the following:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church/Organization: _____

Roommate(s): _____ *

**You must list your roommate on the line above.*

**Please check the appropriate box below:**

_____ \$105.50/Single - two nights' lodging at  
\$35.00 per night, linens, meals and program fee

_____ \$75.50/Double - two nights' lodging at  
\$25.00 per night, linens, meals and program fee

_____ \$31.50/Day Only Cost (Saturday)

_____ TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED

**Mail registration form with check enclosed and payable to  
West Virginia Baptist Convention no later than April 20,  
2012 to: Ministers' Wives' Fellowship, P.O. Box 1844, Saint  
Albans, WV 25177.** Special sessions are available on Friday  
evening: *Stress Management and Relaxation or Learning How to  
Share Your Feelings with Others.*

## Church News

### Jeff Biddle Ordained

On January 22, 2012, Jeff Biddle was ordained into the gospel ministry at Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). Ron Stoner, pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church, along with 12 friends and family members participated in the service by reading scripture, offering prayers and speaking words of challenge and encouragement. Jeff completed a degree in economics from Harvard University and a Master of Divinity Degree from Divinity Evangelical Seminary. He was examined by the leaders of the Kanawha Valley Association and recommended for ordination to Emmanuel Baptist Church. Jeff has served Emmanuel Baptist Church as associate pastor to youth and young adults since June 2010.

### Casey Dawson Ordained

On January 15, 2012, Casey Dawson was ordained into the gospel ministry at North Fork Baptist Church (Harrisville). Those participating in the service were Lynn Hilkey, clerk; Scott Morehead, friend; Bob Perine, Harrisville Association chair; Andy Robinson, brother-in-law; Herman Robinson, father-in-law; and Frank Vannoy, former pastor. Casey has served North Fork Baptist Church as pastor since January 2010.

## News from Standard First Baptist Church

### John McBrayer Ordained as Deacon

On February 12, 2012, John McBrayer was ordained as a deacon at Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). Those participating in the service were Lee Fish, opening prayer; Jim and Tammy Browning, special music; Gary Tincher, responsive reading; Yolanda Kidd, reading of the minutes; Ernest White, Sr., charge to the candidate; Bill Hudnall, vows to John; ordained ministers and deacons, laying on of hands; Pat Perry, presentation of the Bible and pen; Maxwell Hill, charge to the church; and Gary Tincher, closing prayer.

### American Baptist Men

Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) hosted one of the locations for the American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast held on February 25, 2012. There were approximately 54 men in attendance. Devotions on John 17 were presented by Gary Tincher, pastor, Standard First Baptist Church. The menu was prepared and planned by the host church. The men enjoyed the breakfast preparation and the fellowship with each other.

### Leadership Updates

**Mr. Allen L. Burnsworth** to Union Valley Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor in October 2011

**Rev. Dan Chadwick** to West Union Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on February 1, 2012

**Rev. O.D. Harman** to Sardis Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on January 1, 2012

**Rev. Bryan William Knight** to Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette) as pastor on January 1, 2012

**Rev. Douglas G. Sandy** to Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope) as pastor on January 16, 2012

**Mr. Steve White** to Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) as interim pastor on December 1, 2011

## New Doctor of Ministry Program Offered at Northern Seminary



Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois is excited to announce a new Doctor of Ministry Program with an emphasis in Preaching and Congregational Leadership. Leading church practitioners and preachers, Dr. Michael Quicke, Dr. Ralph West and Dr. Joel Gregory are the core professors for the program. Together they will guide students through a program that provides a practical and academic framework for pastors and congregational leaders to think critically, creatively and faithfully about preaching and leadership in their context.

This program launches June 2012 and is limited to the first 15 students that are admitted. For additional information, visit [www.seminary.edu/preaching](http://www.seminary.edu/preaching).

## Conference for Church Musicians to be Held July 14-21, 2012



The annual Conference for Church Musicians, sponsored by the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians (FABM) will be held July 14-21, 2012 at Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wisconsin. The conference is for musicians from all denominations. Clinicians include: Pepper Choplin, adults; Kenny Potter, youth; Michael Hawn, children; Michael Glasgow, handbells; Ed Hogan, instrumental; Larry Shackley, piano; and Constance Cherry, worship.

For more information about the conference, visit [www.fabm.com](http://www.fabm.com) or phone 812.371.5390 or 812.376.3321.

## WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION WORSHIP and MUSIC Conference

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

**June 15-16, 2012**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

**Guest Clinician: Joel Raney**

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

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

**For more information, contact Ginny at [prunty@wvbc.org](mailto:prunty@wvbc.org) or 800.879.9822.**

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



## Obituaries

### **BRUCE EDWARD**

**BLACKHURST**, 57, of Belle, died January 23, 2012. He was a 43-year member of Judson Baptist Church

(Kanawha Valley), where he served as a faithful deacon, church treasurer, chairman of the finance committee and Sunday school teacher.

### **ELIZABETH JANE "LIBBY"**

**DAVIDSON**, 83, died February 10, 2012. She was an active member of Milton Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she served in various ministries throughout her life, most recently as Love Gift chairman of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**ARTHUR "LEE" DRENNEN SR.**, 81, of Summersville, died February 4, 2012. He was a retired Baptist minister and member of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell).

**ARTHUR HENSON DUNLAP**, 87, of Crab Orchard, died February 14, 2012. He was a member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and Friendship Sunday school class. He was a member of American Baptist Men, who assisted with the clean-up following the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and the Mullens flood.

**MARTHA ATKINS EMMERT**, 88, died February 13, 2012. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for 35 years.

**WILLIAM F. "BILL" FOSTER II**, of Charleston, died February 16, 2012. At his passing, he was a member of River Ridge Church, Charleston. He was the son of Sandra Foster, of Charleston.

**TRACY GREER GIPSON**, 94, died February 1, 2012. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Society (A.B.F.M.S.) missionary to the Telegu people of South India for 36 years between 1947-1960 and 1965-1981.

**BONNIE TENNANT GRIBBLE**, 87, of Wadestown, died January 12, 2012. She was a member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she had served as pianist.

**ELEANOR J. HADCOCK**, of Herkimer, New York, died Saturday, February 4, 2012. She was a life-long member of Herkimer New York First Baptist Church. She held several church offices, positions with American Baptist Churches of New York State. She was the mother of Jane Carrico, who is the wife of David Carrico, executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

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

**GENE P. JOHNSON**, died February 18, 2012. He was an active lifetime member of Union Valley Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He had served as deacon, moderator, Sunday school teacher and served on most of the boards and committees of the church. He worked on all the building projects at the church. He worked on various building projects at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

**GEORGE E. LAKE**, 80, of Lexington, North Carolina, formerly of West Union, died February 23, 2012. He began his ministry at Balls Gap Baptist Church, Milton. He served three churches in Illinois (Wilton Center, Morrison and Chrisman) before returning to West Virginia in 1971. While in full-time ministry in West Virginia, he served the Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River); Wayne Baptist Church (Twelve Pole); Calvary Baptist Church, War (formerly Rockcastle); Man First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo); Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg); and West Union Baptist Church (Broad Run). He finished his formal ministry as interim pastor at South Fork Baptist Church (Harrisville).

He retired from West Union Baptist Church in 1997, but continued his ministry at South Fork and the Doddridge County Ministerial Association. He was very involved in the formation of the School of Christian Studies. He was also dedicated to the Boy Scouts of America.

**DAVID MATTHEWS**, 67, of Weirton, died January 18, 2012. He was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he was a member of the Pairs N Spares Sunday Class and served as deacon. He was a past president of American Baptist Men.

**CON E. MEANS**, 91, of Mitchell Heights, died February 13, 2012. He was a member of Logan First Baptist Church (Logan Mingo) for 57 years, where he served as a deacon.

**DONALD LEE MORRIS**, of Gauley Bridge, died February 3, 2012. He was a member of Gauley Bridge Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). For many years, he taught the Men's Fellowship Sunday school class and served as chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of the board of deacons.

**CHARLES MORRISON**, 90, of Parkersburg, died February 16, 2012. He was a faithful member of Lauckport

Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He was in the United States Army and served during World War II.

**HAROLD JENNINGS REEDER**, 80, of Washington, died January 25, 2012. He was a member of Lauckport Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was a trustee, usher and sang in the choir. He also served in the United States Marines.

**EDWARD L. ROSENBERGER**, 85, of Fairmont, died February 20, 2012. He was a member of Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) for more than 60 years. During this time, he was president of Fairmont Baptist Temple Men's Fellowship and the P.B. Swearingen Bible Class. As a member of Fairmont Baptist Temple, he served on the Board of Deacons and the American Baptist Men. He served on the Board of Trustees of Alderson-Broaddus College, and for several years led the singing at West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. He was also a veteran of the United States Army, serving in Germany.

**TWYLA LEE SANDERS**, 75, of Wadestown, died December 25, 2011. She was an active member of West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she served as a deaconess, pianist, youth Sunday school teacher, and was a member of the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**BUREN E. SPARKS**, 76, of Diamond, died March 4, 2012. He was a member, deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher at Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). He was a member of American Baptist Men, coordinator for the American Baptist Men Disaster Relief and the National Baptist Disaster Relief and was active with Camp Cowen.

**WANDA S. SUTTLE**, 87, of Saint Albans, died February 11, 2012. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and served on numerous boards.

**GWENDOLYN BEALL WHITE**, died February 16, 2012. She was an active member of Clarksburg Baptist Church where she was involved with the American Baptist Women's group as a leader and teacher.

**GLENN (SHINNY) WOLFE**, 102, of Charleston died January 26, 2012. He was a 65-plus year member of Calvary Baptist Church (Charleston). He served the youth of the church and the community as a member of the Boy Scout Council of Calvary's Troop 4 and was an assistant scout master.

# PRAYER CALENDARS

## April 2012

**April 1** - The ministry of Valley Baptist Church; Michael McCoy, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)  
**April 2** - The ministry of Logan First Baptist Church; Tim Barnhouse, pastor (Logan Mingo)  
**April 3** - The ministry of New Life Baptist Church; Charles Chipp, pastor (Fairmont)  
**April 4** - Bill Morningstar, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**April 5** - Sylvia Sites, treasurer, Eastern Association  
**April 6** - Karen Radcliff, Bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**April 7** - The ministry of New Martinsville First Baptist Church; Don Biram, pastor (Panhandle)  
**April 8** - CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST!!  
**April 9** - The ministry of Gallagher First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)  
**April 10** - The ministry of Crany Missionary Baptist Church; James Walker, pastor (Rockcastle)  
**April 11** - Stephen James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Haiti  
**April 12** - The ministry of Minden Baptist Church; Ronald Richards, pastor (Fayette)  
**April 13** - The ministry of Cairo Baptist Church; Frank Vannoy, pastor (Harrisville)  
**April 14** - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting today at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**April 15** - Ginny Prunty, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**April 16** - Mary Beth McCloy, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**April 17** - The ministry of Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope)  
**April 18** - Mo Kahn, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**April 19** - The ministry of Lover's Leap Baptist Church; Ronald George, Sr., pastor (Hopewell)  
**April 20** - The ministry of Wilsonburg Baptist Church; Greg Blevins, pastor (Judson)  
**April 21** - Omega at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**April 22** - Ram'on Rodriquez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Cuba  
**April 23** - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; John Vetter, pastor (Eastern)  
**April 24** - Corenne Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Brazil  
**April 25** - The ministry of New Antioch Baptist Church; Gary Roger, pastor (Elk Valley)  
**April 26** - The ministry of Kenova First Baptist Church; Steve Willis, pastor (Twelve Pole)  
**April 27** - Laura Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Nicaragua  
**April 28** - Ministers' Wives' Retreat happening this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**April 29** - Daniel Chetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Lebanon  
**April 30** - The Spring Golden'eers Retreat begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

## May 2012

**May 1** - Walter Clark, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**May 2** - The ministry of Racine First Baptist Church; Anthony Pratt, pastor (Coal River)  
**May 3** - Wendy Bernhard, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**May 4** - American Baptist Men's Work Weekend at Camp Cowen  
**May 5** - Tom Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Bulgaria  
**May 6** - The ministry of Clendenin First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)  
**May 7** - Ed Noyes, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**May 8** - Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council Spring Retreat at Camp Cowen  
**May 9** - Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach Week this week at Myrtle Beach  
**May 10** - Jill Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**May 11** - Tim Gray, Baptist Campus Ministries' director, West Virginia University Campus  
**May 12** - Nzunga Madudiga, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Haiti  
**May 13** - Frank Miller, director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**May 14** - The ministry of Pea Ridge Baptist Church; Greg Creasy, pastor (Guyandotte)  
**May 15** - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Ron McClung, pastor (Teays Valley)  
**May 16** - Bud Alkire, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**May 17** - The ministry of Webster Baptist Church; Bruce Hoffman, pastor (Union)  
**May 18** - Youth Work Weekend at Camp Cowen  
**May 19** - The World Mission Conference this week at Green Lake  
**May 20** - Hemelinda Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Great Britain  
**May 21** - Lee Ann Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Japan  
**May 22** - Jane Mullen, clerk, Harrisville Association  
**May 23** - The ministry of Independence Baptist Church; Carl Trickett, pastor (Hopewell)  
**May 24** - The ministry of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church; Bill Bryan, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)  
**May 25** - Marijane Kiley, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**May 26** - Wayne Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**May 27** - The ministry of Vienna Baptist Church; Bill Brown, pastor (Parkersburg)  
**May 28** - Remember those who have gone on before us as we celebrate Memorial Day  
**May 29** - Jean Cunningham, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**May 30** - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Robert Marino, pastor (Broad Run)  
**May 31** - The ministry of Prosperity Baptist Church; Kenneth Heiney, pastor (Little Kanawha)

## COMING EVENTS

### APRIL 2011

April 6

Good Friday Holiday  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

April 14

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Board  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 16-20

Palmer Theological Seminary West  
Virginia Program Doctoral Program  
Cohort I-DM 911  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 21

Omega  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 21

Bivocational Ministers' Event  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 23-27

Palmer Theological Seminary West  
Virginia Program Doctoral Program  
Cohort I-DM 912  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 24

School of Christian Studies  
Discipleship Essentials (M-02) Six-  
Week Class  
Various Locations

April 27-29

Ministers' Wives' Retreat  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 30-May 5

Spring Golden'ers Retreat  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### MAY 2011

May 4-5

American Baptist Men's Work  
Weekend  
Camp Cowen

May 7-9

Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers'  
Council Spring Retreat  
Camp Cowen

May 7-14

Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach  
Week  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

## Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council Spring Retreat

**May 7-9, 2012 at Camp Cowen with Duffy Robbins**  
**"Healthy Life/Healthy Ministry"**

The retreat begins with lunch on Monday and ends with lunch on Wednesday.

For more information, contact Jeremy Myers at [fbcusa.jeremy@frontier.com](mailto:fbcusa.jeremy@frontier.com).

## Pastors4Pastors Spring Retreat Registration Form

ONE FORM PER PERSON. Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Church/Organization: _____

Please check the appropriate box below:

_____ \$70.00 - Conference Registration for Ministers' Council MEMBERS

_____ \$85.00 - Conference Registration for Ministers' Council NON-MEMBERS

**Registrations must be post-marked with check enclosed by April 30, 2012.** Make checks payable to: West Virginia Baptist Convention Ministers' Council. Please mail your form and check to: Mark Stauffer, Highlawn Baptist Church, 2304 Jefferson Avenue, Saint Albans, WV 25177.

School of Christian Studies ADVANCED credit is available.  
Contact Donna at [snyder@wvbc.org](mailto:snyder@wvbc.org) or 800.879.9822.

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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**Executive Minister:** Dr. David L. Carrico

**Editor:** Rev. John E. Simmons

**Assistant Editor:** Mrs. Valma Adams

**Layout:** Mrs. Donna Snyder

West Virginia Baptist Convention  
P.O. Box 1019  
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