

# The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

## Every Pig Has It's Dinner: Lessons from Project Hope

In Puerto Rico, Christmas dinner calls for pork! During the latest meeting of *Project Hope*, the West Virginians learned an important Puerto Rican phrase, "Every pig has its Christmas dinner." In other words, the time will come for every pig to give it's all (except the squeal). It is inevitable.

Jesus calls us to give our all too. We are to be willing to give heart, soul, mind and strength in service to Him. This often may lead us to get out of our comfort zone and begin something new and different, relying on God to lead the way.

*Project Hope* is a year-long project involving young adults from Puerto Rico and West Virginia in a period of leader development and thinking in new ways. It is a project that deliberately puts young adults into cross-cultural relationships to work together in growing spiritually and in learning how to work for God's kingdom in unity. Those members of the team have been using online conferencing and will have a total of three face-to-face meetings.

Meeting number two recently occurred at Parchment Valley Conference Center in Ripley. The Puerto Rican side of the team arrived to cold weather and snow. Their prayers were answered! Between meetings, the West Virginians enjoyed showing their Puerto Rican brothers and sisters the fine art of sledding and snowball battles. Some snow angels were even found!

Thanks to donations of coats, hats, scarves, socks, boots and a package of Hot Hands, the Puerto Rican group was cozy and warm.

The weekend was spent learning, sharing, praying and developing a final project which would be useful to young adults in learning about Jesus' call to be "missionaries" wherever they find themselves. The program will be a modular, web-based program that can be done in small groups in homes, at churches or maybe even at the local Panera

Bread! It will be in English and in Spanish. Puerto Ricans and West Virginians will work in pairs or triads to complete sections of the program.

A special treat came to the *Project Hope* team during the weekend. Two of the group members had their first baby! Todd and Erin McClure welcomed Jehiah, and the team got to see some of the first pictures while being able to send wishes of blessing and congratulations!

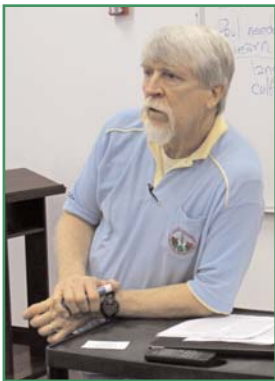
The *Project Hope* team was also assisted by Stan Slade, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) and Salvador Orellana, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). Both men have been key contributors to the project through teaching and assisting with the online meetings. Facilitators for the weekend were Laura Ayala, Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico; Juan Aragon, West Virginia Baptist Convention Hispanic Strategist; and Lisa Simmons, West Virginia Baptist Convention

Associate in Mission Support.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention *Project Hope* team members will be heading to Puerto Rico in late April 2014. Those members are Todd and Erin McClure, Kim Lupton, R.L. Ely and Meredith Crislip.



*First-time snow experience*



*Stan Slade, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS)*



*Project Hope Team*

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.



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# HOPE

## God, the Sender and Giver

God has always been a *sender*. He sent His Son, who in turn sends us to tell His story of salvation. God also sends His Holy Spirit to enable and empower us to engage our culture with the gospel. Our culture seems to be filled with contradictions. At many levels we are a spiritual people, open to Jesus, but not to the church. We are wired for relationships, but we have difficulty always understanding them. It seems for some of us we must make sense out of our interaction with others before we can enjoy them. As children of God, we need a practical, scriptural approach to all our relationships. Sometimes the how becomes more important than the why - we need both or we do activities in life without understanding their purpose. Any action without a purpose has little value.

God is a *giver* which is as much a part of His nature as a *sender*. He is not a getter. We are made in God's image so we need to reflect His nature as a giver and a sender. Many of the folks around the church are givers, sharing their time, talents and treasure with those who need it. One of the ways Christians are known is by the way they give back to society, and believers give in all kinds of ways. In recent days, folks have shoveled walks, provided rides to those wanting to get to church or given someone a phone call to see how they are. Unbelievers do these things as well, but the difference is we, as Christians, know 'why' we do these things. God is a *giver*, but we live in a world of folks looking for something for themselves. One thing that should never be heard in a church business meeting is, "What are we doing for ourselves?" God is a *sender* and a *giver*. Why then should we be



Dr. David Carrico

senders and givers?

We send and give because we were made in the image of God. Genesis 1:26-27 proclaims we are made in God's image, and if we are made in His image we need to act like Him. What does that mean in practical terms? We need to be senders,

doing missions and helping others to do missions as well. The heart of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is missions. Not only do we enable and encourage individuals and churches to do missions, another part of our purpose is to help *associations* express their passion to be a sender of God's love. During 2014, we wish to focus energy on building stronger and healthier *associations* around our state. The first Baptist association in America was founded in Philadelphia in 1707 with 29 churches. That association is still active today in our American Baptist family. The spirit of sending and giving is alive and well among our West Virginia Baptist Convention family with the emergence of new ways of reaching out to underserved communities in Hardy and Wirt counties. These areas will be served by our *associations* because the needs are so overwhelming.

In this 21st century we are awash in information. With the touch of an app on our smart phone or a keystroke on our computer, we are able to receive information. With information comes the responsibility of sharing that knowledge in our living. In the coming weeks, we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful opportunity we have to witness to the nature of God as *sender* and *giver*. May the Holy Spirit guide our witness that we may wisely and lovingly tell the story of what Jesus has done for us. That is information those around us need to know. Maybe you can be that 'app' for someone. You are blessed. Thank you for being a blessing.

*Blessings*



# Mountain State Mission Offering

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

- Area Ministry
- Association Support
- Church Consultation
- Pulpit Supply
- Pastoral Support
- Search Committees
- Coaching
- Conflict Resolution
- Church Development
- American Baptist Men
- American Baptist Women's Ministries
- Retired Ministers and Mates
- Ministers' Wives
- West Virginia Baptist Historical Society
- West Virginia Baptist Education Society
- Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council
- Parchment Valley Conference Center
- Baptist Campus Ministries
- Camp Cowen



- Discipleship
- Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT)
- Youth Leader Core (YLC)
- Youth and Children's Ministries
- Golden'eers
- Hispanic Ministries
- Evangelism
- School of Christian Studies
- Worship and Music Conference
- Leadership Training
- The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter
- Mission Support
- Missionary Deputation
- Mission Education
- Camp Global
- MPT/MPN Coordination
- Mission Partnerships
- Stewardship
- WVBC Foundation, Inc.

**State Goal for 2014: \$280,000**

*Thank you for your support of our mission and ministry together.*



## **Baptist Campus Ministries: Living the "College Life"**

On any given weekend you could drive downtown in any college city and find college students at bars and clubs. You would see what the world calls "living the college life." But too many students "college life" looks very different from that. To hundreds of students "college life" means Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). Life to many BCM students at Marshall University means Wednesday nights are an incredible time to worship the Lord corporately. Thursday nights are spent at I-teams, not at the clubs. It means living a life seeking the Lord like never before, no matter what you are doing.

This past Friday night, when the world would expect college students to be at a party, over 75 Baptist Campus Ministries' students were gathered at the ice skating rink. It was our semi-annual broom-ball tournament. It was an incredible night, not merely for the broom-ball aspect (broom-ball is a hockey-like game, except the players wear tennis shoes on the ice), but also for the intentional fellowship aspect. We had a great time getting to invest in the lives of students while also playing broom-ball. We continued international missions as we reached out to a Brazilian student, who had come to our international dinner and also played broom-ball. Our students played hard and had amazing attitudes. They left a beautiful impression of who Christ is to the staff of the ice rink as they cheerfully cleaned up and thanked the workers over and over.

Friday night was a great reminder of 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Missions can happen anywhere. The students of BCM truly glorified the Lord by investing in the lives of others as they played a game on Friday night. May these students be an encouragement to us all as we look for ways to glorify an extraordinary God in the ordinary moments of life.

*Adam Goodwin  
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*



*Baptist Campus Ministries' students participate in the semi-annual broom-ball tournament.*

# Cowen Campfire Community

by **Rob Ely**, Director of Discipleship,  
Camping and Youth

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old  
he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 (ESV)*



Have you finished your taxes yet? How was the return on your investments? Typically, 2013 has been a good year for people and their investments. Often, we are not sure what the market will do and if there will be a positive response when asked about our investments. This article is to confirm and challenge you to make an investment in people.

In the surrounding pictures you will notice:

- **A FUTURE CAMPER:** Alex, on her first visit to the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. (at top left)
- **SENIOR HIGH CAMPERS PREPARING FOR CONSECRATION:** There were first-time decisions, decisions to serve God with their vocation and decisions to get their life on track with God ... and keep it there! (at right top)
- **SENIOR DAY:** A day where high school Seniors make their "Ebenezer" to mark that God has used Cowen to solidify their foundation in their walk with God. (at right bottom)
- **CAMP STAFF:** Former campers return to give back to a place that invested in them! (at right middle)



All of these demonstrate a return on investment on the dollars and time the West Virginia Baptist Convention and family have put into Camp Cowen. Since 1943, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen has been a place *"Where people meet Jesus and grow as a disciple in a community of faith."* Look around in your family and church family and see how God has used Camp Cowen to impact people.

The year 2014 brings new challenges to the camping ministry: snow, schedules and the emergence of year-round schooling, just to name a few! This also is a year to emphasize the importance of the Cowen Campfire Community. This is our donor club: people who continually give so each camper can receive their \$35 supplement for camp. These donations affect the yearly budget and enhance the program for the 2,000 campers and 250 plus volunteers at camp. Please consider being part of and investing in the present and future of the West Virginia Baptist Convention through the ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen.



The **Cowen Campfire Community** is a great place to impact the lives of young people who attend the West Virginia Baptist Camp each summer. This amount comes from church and individual contributions.

## Automated Giving Plan

Now you can have your gifts to **Cowen Campfire Community** conveniently and automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up for the Automated Giving Plan, please go to [www.campcowen.org](http://www.campcowen.org). Click on the Authorization Form on the home page in the middle section.



## Living Water



It started simply enough. On the morning of January 9, 2014, Freedom Industries reported that it had a hole in one of its storage tanks. They also reported that their containment systems had failed

allowing crude MCHM (4-methylcyclohexanemethanol) to flow into the Elk River. West Virginia American Water, believing its filtration systems could handle the invasion of MCHM into the water, decided to leave the intakes open. However, it was soon discovered that MCHM had gotten through the system and into the finished water. Thus the entire system was tainted and the water declared unusable. The full economic and health impacts of the spill and subsequent pollution of the water supply will take years to determine.

The water crisis made all of us aware of how dependent we are on potable water. It also reminded us of how difficult life can be when that clean, usable water is not easily available. Weeks after the spill, water is still being trucked in. There are daily reports

of contamination. It seems like the lingering effects of this breach of trust will be around forever.

It started simply enough. A woman went to gather water in the middle of the day. She walked alone as no respectable person would be seen with her. She had, through her lifestyle, destroyed her standing and status in society. When she got to the well, Jesus was there. He asked her for a drink. In the exchange that followed (John 5), Jesus told her she should be asking Him for a drink instead of Him asking her.

Jesus offered the woman living water! Water welling up to eternal life! Water that would satisfy the thirst in her soul. Water that would wash away all of the sin and guilt - all of the pollutions of life so she could be, once and for all, satisfied.

It starts simply enough: a decision not to close an intake, a decision to experiment with drugs, to ignore the warnings and think one can handle it. Then, like the water system, one is overwhelmed with the sin and the stains it leaves. Thank God Jesus is the living water that offered His life to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

Let us share the living water with those who are dying of thirst.

*Committed to Missions*

## Hispanic Ministries: Samaritans in Our Midst - Samaritanos en Medio de Nosotros

*"A movement toward God necessarily moves us closer  
to other people." Roberta C. Bondi*

The gospels include stories of Jesus sharing the good news of God's kingdom with people from other cultures. In John 4, we read the well-known encounter and life-changing conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. This is a beautiful story that allows us to catch a glimpse of God's heart. Samaritans were culturally different from the Jews; they were rejected and unwelcomed. But Jesus breaks through cross-cultural barriers to reveal Himself. Jesus crossed boundaries that keep people apart to form a relationship, to bring hope and salvation. Through His actions, Jesus teaches us the power of the gospel removes barriers - ethnic, gender and religious - that prevent this woman from getting the living water she needs.

Jesus avoids going through the preferred and comfortable road from Judea to Galilee. He risks going through Samaritan territory where people will know He is not from the area. Not being from the area and having a different accent may mean one gets a skin or accent tax or no attention at all at a local family restaurant! But Jesus knows the reward far exceeds the risks. When He meets the woman He asks for a drink of water, but receives an antagonistic response. "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (John 4:9) The woman knows Jesus is not supposed to be talking to her. He is a Jew. Jews look at Samaritans as religiously and ethnically inferior. She is both a Samaritan and a woman, and by way of His contact with her He will be contaminated.

Throughout her conversation with Jesus, the Samaritan raised several objections (social, cultural and religious), but Jesus breaks through each of them and becomes an agent of God's love. He wants this woman to know the "gift of God" and drink of His "living water." (John 4:10) She has been discriminated against and regarded as of lesser worth in a society that pushes some people down and lifts others up based on manmade barriers. He wants to restore and give her hope. He wants to satisfy her deepest thirst with "a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14) The woman's eyes slowly opened and Jesus perceives the time to reveal Himself as the Messiah. (John 4:25-26) At this point, the disciples arrived and got agitated because Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman (John 4:27) failing to understand what had just happened. After meeting Jesus, she becomes an evangelist to those in her town. She goes back and tells them of this God who loves everyone and crosses cultural, social and religious barriers to demonstrate His grace.

Where is Samaria today? Who are the Samaritans in our midst who need to hear about this God who restores and gives hope? Samaria today may be just a house down the road or a few miles away from your neighborhood. The 52 plus million Hispanics living in the United States are surely part of the Samaritans living among us. They work in the restaurants you dine at; they work in farms and pick the fruit and vegetables you eat; they build your houses; they clean your office buildings; they attend school with your children; and so much more. Jesus invites us to follow His example to go into forbidden territory to be in relationship with racially rejected and unwelcomed people so we can share the hope we have found in Him!

*Dios les bendiga!*

*Juan Aragon*

*Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

*The West Virginia Baptist/April-May 5*

# Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

## Thanking You for Your Continued Support as We Prepare for the Spring and Summer Seasons

Yes, it must be so. Winter has past and spring is upon us once again. But the harsh winter certainly has taken its toll on the Parchment Valley Conference Center facility. The maintenance team worked round the clock to keep roadways opened, sidewalks cleared and water lines thawed. On those days of frigid temperatures and dangerous roads, the cooks stayed in the apartment in preparation to serve our Palmer Seminary students and other groups staying with us. We are thankful for the marvelous support we receive from our staff as well as those who love this place and faithfully attend the many West Virginia Baptist Convention sponsored events and programs.

In February 2014, we hosted the *Jackson County Second Annual Critter Dinner*, and some unique dishes were served. Over 300 people packed the barn, including pastors, law enforcement, teachers, judges and local residents. Many new relationships were formed and additional guest bookings are now on our calendar as a result of this free event.

Please mark your calendars and be in prayer for *Brothers' Keeper 2014*. We ask God to prepare our hearts, minds and hands to do the difficult, yet blessed work of Brothers' Keeper 2014. Let us first thank Him for the great focus from within our Brothers' Keeper leadership team to plan, coordinate and celebrate the 14th year of an incredible Christian mission work, sponsored for the youth of our churches across our great West Virginia and Ohio regions. Our praise to Him for the monetary gifts we receive from those churches that make it possible for our Brothers' Keeper work crews to impact the homes and lives of the less fortunate here in Jackson County. Take advantage of the early bird registration special for your youth group. More details are available on our web site, [www.parchmentvalley.org](http://www.parchmentvalley.org) or contact us at 304.372.3675 or [miller@wvbc.org](mailto:miller@wvbc.org).

The members of the *Don Loudermilk Society* enable us to do together the ministry that we couldn't do alone. Your dedicated giving has impacted the kingdom work in such a blessed

and incredible way. If you are not a member, please call me today. If you join this month, you will receive a Cat's Meow collectible and limited edition wooden keepsake of the Administration "The Barn" building. I appreciate your committed spirit in supporting our ministry.

Those *Building for Generations* donors have helped to roof buildings and make necessary repairs to our aging infrastructure. Without your support, we would not be able to properly maintain what God has so graciously provided for His people here. After the winter season, we are facing costly major repairs. We urgently need financial assistance to repair the dorms for our summer guest lodging and both Parchment Valley Conference Center vehicles are in need of being replaced.



*The crowd prepares to enjoy a feast at the Jackson County Second Annual Critter Dinner at Parchment Valley Conference Center.*

We serve an awesome God who always meets our needs. Recently, our icemaker went out and a gracious young man paid for a new unit that works great. We thank him for the gift and being a friend of Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Despite the operational challenges we face, Parchment Valley Conference Center has continued to be a blessing for 49 years. I appreciate all the hard work from those who have served or volunteered here. You have made a difference and that is exactly why we are on solid ground, rooted in Christ and set apart to be a beacon of hope to those who are connected with us in this incredible and wonderful place.

*Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

*Be Blessed in Christ our Savior*

### Now Accepting Resumes

**SUMMER INTERN - GUEST SERVICES POSITION,  
PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**

For more information, please contact Frank Miller  
304.372.3675 or [miller@wvbc.org](mailto:miller@wvbc.org).

## ***Highlights from the March 8, 2014 Congregational Change Event***

The event to teach the Congregational Transformation Model was an event folks paid attention to! I heard good questions and saw people engaged in the presentation. Mike Bonem challenged the group to take what he presented and make a difference.

From where I sit, the West Virginia Baptist Convention staff cannot drive a church or pastor to anything, but we can inspire you by giving you tools and resources to make a difference in the churches of our West Virginia Baptist Convention family. The Spirit was moving at this event.

In the near future you will see other events like this one and this theme will be celebrated at our annual meeting on October 16 - 17, 2014 at Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Come and be engaged in a process of transformation. Come and see what I saw.

*David Carrico  
Executive Minister*



*Mike Bonem, front, featured speaker at the Congregational Change Event, prepares to lead a study in congregational change.*

*West Virginia Baptist Convention*



***Guest Clinician:  
Mary McDonald***

# ***Worship and Music Conference***

***June 19-20, 2014 at  
Parchment Valley Conference Center***

***Worship Leader:  
C. Michael Hopkins***

***Accompanist:  
Mike Barnhouse***

***Theme: "Then Sings My Soul"***



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



*For more information and a registration form, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact Donna at 800.879.9822 or [snyder@wvbc.org](mailto:snyder@wvbc.org).*

## ***Trading Post***

***FOR SALE: 2002 FORD E450 VAN SHUTTLE BUS TRITON V-10.*** 15 passenger, wheelchair lift; 100,989 miles. Engine and transmission are strong and run great. Price - \$4,995. Please contact Teresa Lydick at 304.462.7015.

***FREE: 100 CHILDREN'S CHAIRS.*** Solidly constructed in good condition. Sizes vary from preschool to upper elementary. Please contact Jim Butcher at [butcher@gmail.com](mailto:butcher@gmail.com) or 304-369-1061.



 MISSION SUPPORT		 PER CAPITA														 SUPPORT	
Fifth Avenue	126,374	Send the Light	1072	Fifth Avenue	90,440	Sutton	6,215	Hurricane First	9,023	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	25,886	Broad Run	4,309	Hurricane First	22,100	Fifth Avenue	58,390
South Parkersburg	103,979	Bethel, Morgantown	577	South Parkersburg	60,513	Williamson First	5,000	Simpson Creek	8,658	Hurricane First	22,814	Williamstown First	3,872	Ravenswood First	15,706	Saint Albans First	45,887
Simpson Creek	92,976	Mount Vernon, Salem	357	Charleston Baptist Temple	40,637	Fifth Avenue	4,541	Pine Grove, Parkersburg	7,189	South Parkersburg	21,545	Fifth Avenue	3,723	New Baptist	13,000	Crab Orchard Missionary	43,333
Saint Albans First	91,449	Morgantown First	320	Emmanuel, Charleston	20,983	Beulah, Grafton	3,463	Sutton	6,000	Emmanuel, Charleston	20,543	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	3,615	Barboursville	10,384	Simpson Creek	43,223
Vienna	70,127	Charleston Baptist Temple	318	Oak Hill	20,567	Saint Albans First	3,320	Fifth Avenue	5,082	Simpson Creek	17,757	Vienna	3,472	Kenova First	10,000	South Parkersburg	39,098
Crab Orchard Missionary	69,604	Matewan	314	Judson, Belle	18,682	Beckley First	2,515	Saint Albans First	3,937	Saint Albans First	15,739	Beckley First	2,552	Wayne	8,934	Vienna	32,731
Hurricane First	67,218	Auburn	310	Rainelle First	17,700	Open Arms	2,434	Sand Fork, Sand Fork	3,610	Vienna	13,226	Sutton	2,535	Parchment Valley	8,509	Beckley First	27,946
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	58,945	Willow Tree	303	Glenville First	17,000	Bethany	2,381	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	3,063	Willow Tree	10,674	Sand Fork, Sand Fork	2,500	Summersville	8,132	Charleston Baptist Temple	26,321
Charleston Baptist Temple	55,580	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	298	Calvary, Oak Hill	16,768	South Parkersburg	2,268	Williamstown First	2,920	Crab Orchard Missionary	10,610	South Parkersburg	2,300	Dunbar First	7,000	Hurricane First	25,824
Emmanuel, Charleston	50,015	Cooper Memorial	294	Cooper Community	16,499	Charleston Baptist Temple	2,268	South Parkersburg	2,725	Williamstown First	10,008	Summersville	2,135	Pea Ridge	6,100	Elkins First	21,468
Beckley First	46,871	Beckley First	293	New Martinsville First	16,145	Shuck Memorial	2,102	Madison	2,646	Milton	8,801	Gassaway	2,134	Harmony, Southside	5,400	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	19,614
Summersville	34,124	Mount Pisgah	281	Williamson First	16,052	Crab Orchard Missionary	2,007	Beckley	2,550	Wheeling First	8,663	Morgantown First	2,000	Genesis Fellowship	4,902	Ravenswood First	16,262
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	30,362	Fifth Avenue	281	Weirton Heights Memorial	15,492	Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,871	Albright	2,521	Beulah, Grafton	7,732	Romney First	1,795	Mill Creek, LeRoy	4,873	Summersville	15,622
New Baptist	29,680	Dorcas	277	Madison	15,407	Vienna	1,819	Newark	2,438	Mill Creek, LeRoy	7,602	Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,750	Reynoldsville	4,693	New Baptist	13,495
Williamstown First	28,767	Fairmont First	271	Vienna	13,640	Page	1,778	Beulah, Grafton	2,195	Beulah Ann Missionary	7,545	Charleston Baptist Temple	1,705	Toned Missionary	4,556	Emmanuel, Charleston	13,263
Oak Hill	28,094	Fairmont Baptist Temple	267	Shuck Memorial	13,414	Milton	1,755	Guyandotte Missionary	2,184	New Baptist	7,500	Spencer First	1,595	Lacoma Missionary	4,257	Oak Hill	13,114
Williamson First	27,573	Saint Albans First	264	Summersville	11,518	Nutter Fort First	1,638	Charleston Baptist Temple	2,128	Sabraton	7,349	Indian Fork	1,560	Judson, Winfield	4,232	Judson, Belle	12,100
Milton	27,489	New Martinsville First	263	Racine First	10,106	Morgantown First	1,635	Fairmont Baptist Temple	2,071	Enon, Salem	7,275	Saint Albans First	1,534	Williamstown First	4,008	Rainelle First	12,028
Kenova First	27,246	Zion, Gallipolis Ferry	251	Fayetteville	9,401	Indian Fork	1,560	Shuck Memorial	2,067	Connolly Memorial	6,670	New Martinsville First	1,530	Parkersburg Baptist Temple	4,000	Williamson First	11,693
Gassaway	27,171	Minden	249	Logan First	9,116	Bethesda, Barrackville	1,540	Hope, Frametown	2,041	Matewan	6,370	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,525	Kanawha City	3,850	New Martinsville First	11,528
Elkins First	27,061	Simpson Creek	246	Shinnston First	8,568	Parkersburg First	1,534	Beulah Ann Missionary	2,000	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	6,158	Hanover Missionary	1,200	Parkersburg First	3,620	Lubeck Community	11,324
Fairmont Baptist Temple	26,681	Enon, Grantsville	245	Main Street	8,523	Dunbar First	1,435	Goshen	1,947	Sutton	6,105	Tallmansville	1,091	Grass Lick	3,520	Calvary, Oak Hill	11,102
Madison	25,429	Oak Hill	244	Oakwood	8,225	Buckhannon First	1,420	Crab Orchard Missionary	1,929	Crossroads Community	5,994	Wilsonburg	1,077	Gassaway	3,495	Glenville First	10,976
Sutton	24,658	Wilsonburg	242	Dorcas	8,183	Madison	1,400	Mount Carmel	1,925	Morgantown First	5,919	Beulah, Grafton	1,064	Beulah, Grafton	3,300	Barboursville	10,503
New Martinsville First	23,918	Hopewell, Mount Alto	240	Gauley Bridge	8,006	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	1,338	Milton	1,925	Broad Run	5,900	Weston First	1,000	Hopewell, Mount Alto	3,217	Madison	10,427
Wheeling First	23,695	East Clarksburg	238	New England	7,639	Philippi	1,305	Morgantown First	1,919	Rockcastle	5,800	Williamson First	1,000	Fairmont Baptist Temple	3,000	Fairmont Baptist Temple	10,319
Beulah Ann Missionary	22,721	Independence	238	Grafton First	7,277	Pea Ridge	1,300	Gassaway	1,852	Hope, Frametown	5,800	Hope, Frametown	1,000	Poca	3,000	Weirton Heights Memorial	10,027
Judson, Belle	22,454	Racine First	234	Hurricane First	6,770	Old Greenbrier	1,204	Dorcas	1,731	Cook Memorial	5,567	Rockcastle	1,000	Danville First	3,000	Kenova First	10,000
Lubeck Community	22,092	Bethel, Rio	228	Highlawn	6,569	Racine First	1,200	Philippi	1,706	Oak Hill	5,348	Springdale First	979	Peterstown	2,952	Shuck Memorial	9,175
Rainelle First	21,931	Sutton	224	Nitro First	6,442	Weston First	1,191	Summersville	1,655	Parkersburg First	5,217	Bethesda, Barrackville	950	Tallmansville	2,888	Wayne	8,934
Calvary, Oak Hill	21,861	Williamson First	222	Meadow Grove	6,412	Kanawha City	1,155	Dunbar First	1,607	Dunbar First	5,000	Philippi	944	Broad Run	2,855	Parchment Valley	8,667
Beulah, Grafton	21,789	Romney First	222	Philippi	5,934	Guyandotte Missionary	1,100	Hepzibah, Grafton	1,600	Hopewell, Mount Alto	4,895	Hamlin First	932	Matewan	2,813	Ebenezer	8,447
Weirton Heights Memorial	21,663	Madison	221	Cooper Memorial	5,809	Lubeck Community	1,085	Wheeling First	1,588	Pea Ridge	4,800	Dunbar First	902	Sand Fork, Sand Fork	2,500	Williamstown First	8,016
Dunbar First	20,876	Hope, Frametown	219	Gilboa	5,666	Wilsonburg	1,070	Indian Fork	1,560	Highlawn	4,783	Forks of Coal	891	New Hope, Parkersburg	2,500	Dunbar First	7,943
Ravenswood First	20,833	Rush Run	217	Page	5,600	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,059	Mountain	1,552	Williamson First	4,771	Old Greenbrier	868	Open Arms	2,434	Romney First	7,520
Shuck Memorial	19,444	Mountain	214	Salem	5,586	New Martinsville First	1,001	Old Greenbrier	1,530	Dallas Pike	4,570	Sabraton	862	Ten Mile, Tallmansville	2,199	Beulah Ann Missionary	7,317
Morgantown First	19,216	Harmony, Southside	214	Summit Missionary	5,573	Holly River	1,000	Mount Pisgah	1,521	Fairview, Forest Hill	4,400	Rainelle First	830	Simpson Creek	2,000	Pea Ridge	6,894
Glenville First	19,069	Scarbro First	214	Mount Zion, Mineral Wells	5,255	Petersburg First	999	Springdale First	1,500	Fifth Avenue	4,338	Lauckport	800	Sistersville First	1,962	Petersburg First	6,824
Spencer First	18,688	Two Runs	213	Rainelle First	4,981	Fayetteville	996	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	1,471	Spencer First	4,317	Beulah Ann Missionary	800	Big Clear Creek	1,895	Grass Lick	6,764
Willow Tree	18,179	Shuck Memorial	211	Hope, Frametown	4,838	Sabraton	985	Buckhannon First	1,425	Wilsonburg	4,234	Buckhannon First	795	Emmanuel, War	1,850	Shinnston First	6,716
Main Street	17,523	Main Street	206	Fairmont First	4,786	Judson, Belle	888	Judson, Belle	1,425	Hanover Missionary	4,200	Weirton Heights Memorial	793	Mannington First	1,785	Clarksburg	6,713
Petersburg First	17,515	Emmanuel, Charleston	202	Diamond	4,758	Elkins First	880	Kanawha City	1,376	Oakwood	4,000	Madison	790	Indian Fork	1,560	Racine First	6,638
Pea Ridge	17,375	Hamlin First	200	Elkins First	4,719	Summersville	851	Vienna	1,356	Breckenridge	4,000	Diamond	780	Spencer First	1,500	Crossroads Comm. Chapel	6,468
Cook Memorial	17,358	Flint Chapel	199	Elkins First	4,599	Forks of Coal	841	Two Runs	1,284	Harmony, Southside	4,000	Elizabeth	772	Sutton	1,500	Harmony, Southside	6,163
Pine Grove, Parkersburg	16,982	Emmanuel, War	196	Olive Branch, Nettie	4,524	Mount Carmel	798	Mount Hope Temple	1,128	Bethesda, Barrackville	3,977	New Hope, Parkersburg	768	Mount Carmel	1,500	Fayetteville	6,066
Hope, Frametown	16,445	Ravenswood First	193	Enon, Grantsville	4,421	Elizabeth	766	Bethel, Rio	1,113	Fairmont Baptist Temple	3,961	Little Capon	757	Romney First	1,320	Main Street	6,026
Sabraton	16,311	Parkersburg First	187	Dallas Pike	4,375	Willow Tree	743	Ravenswood First	1,063	Bethel, Morgantown	3,912	Glenville First	645	Wilsonburg	1,300	Wheeling First	6,006
Harmony, Southside	16,045	Buckhannon First	182	Bethel, South Charleston	3,927	Fairmont First	740	Shinnston First	1,059	Romney First	3,867	Hopewell, Mount Alto	643	Lovers Leap	1,200	Logan First	5,814
Parchment Valley	15,996	Judson, Winfield	182	Nutter Fort First	3,855	Little Capon	721	Bethesda, Barrackville	1,055	Beckley First	3,796	Point Pleasant, Camden	641	Shinnston First	1,200	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	5,612
Romney First	15,312	Vienna	182	Morgantown First	3,695			Lubeck Community	1,052	Fayetteville	3,682	Dallas Pike	591	Sago - Man First	1,200	Milton	5,428
														Sabraton - Concord	1,200		

2013 TOP 50 MISSION GIVING CHURCHES

Your support makes a difference  
as we advance the  
kingdom of God together!

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Doing together what  
we cannot do alone!





Fifth Avenue	9,494
Hurricane First	6,770
Vienna	4,167
Charleston Baptist Temple	4,071
Emmanuel, Charleston	3,730
South Parkersburg	3,452
Milton	2,912
Fayetteville	2,779
Oak Hill	2,234
Beckley First	2,160
Everson	2,143
Racine First	2,106
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,897
Page	1,700
Breckenridge	1,669
Saint Albans First	1,620
Fairmont First	1,604
Bethel, Kirby	1,530
Summersville	1,518
Sabraton	1,500
Weirton Heights Memorial	1,500
Beulah Ann Missionary	1,486
Saint Paul, Fairview	1,425
Baptist Temple, Fairmont	1,407
Harmony, Southside	1,387
Judson, Belle	1,369
Crab Orchard Missionary	1,365
Main Street	1,323
Parkersburg First	1,264
Nutter Fort First	1,264
Oceana First	1,260
Dorcas	1,237
Bridgeport	1,138
New Martinsville First	1,095
Lauckport	1,078
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	1,043
Welch First	1,041
Beulah, Grafton	1,010
Shinnston First	1,008
Petersburg First	987
Philippi	934
Dunbar First	932
Beaver First	901
New Baptist	900
Williamson First	894
Hepzibah, Judson	863
Morgantown First	861
Wilsonburg	853
Concord	850
Goshen	837

# 2013 TOP 50



## American Baptist GIRLS' FESTIVAL (grades 1-8)

**May 17-18, 2014**

**Parchment Valley Conference Center**

**"A Time to Serve"**

**Cost: \$50, linen rental is extra**

**Registrations must be postmarked by May 3, 2014.**

**Check-in will be at Hill Hall, beginning on Saturday, May 17 at 8:45 a.m.**

**Groups will be able to leave for home between 10:30 and**

**11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 18.**

**Girls will be working on a couple of service projects over the weekend, and on Sunday morning an offering will be collected to send to Weirton Christian Center for their quarters for good grades' program.**

**For more information, please contact Kathy Wince at [kathy.wince@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.wince@gmail.com).**

**REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org)  
AND IN THE MOST RECENT ISSUE OF SEASONS.**

**American Baptist Women's Ministries' Annual Conference**

## Women and GIRLS' Weekend

**A Time to Serve and Make a Difference**

**To equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ...  
Ephesians 4:12**

**June 6-7, 2014**

**Parchment Valley Conference Center**

**Speaker: Debbie and Baillie Myers,**

**American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionaries to Mexico**

**Registration begins at 3 p.m. on June 6. The program begins at 7 p.m.**

**The conference will conclude at 4 p.m. on June 7.**

**Experience a Kaleidoscope of Kindness - Group activities that will benefit the homeless, military, children at risk and you, as you learn to be a light in your community.**

**Meet your state leadership, participate in officer training, renew friendships from around the state, join in inspirational worship, visit the bookstore and hear missionary stories!**

**Take the Challenge 10! Groups of 10 or more that register together (separate checks accepted, but all must be sent in the same envelope) by May 16 will receive \$5.00 off each registration.**

**REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org)  
AND IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF SEASONS.**

## Teodoro Ordained



*Jay Teodoro, pastor,  
Buckhannon First  
Baptist Church*

On November 17, 2013, pastor Jay Teodoro was ordained into the gospel ministry at Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run). Jay has a degree in History and Psychology from West Virginia University and a Masters of Divinity Degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Moderator of Buckhannon First Baptist Church, Don Nestor conducted the service. Those participating in the service were John Puffenbarger, welcome; Jim Vance, scripture reading; Andrew Reiner, prayer; Bill Coffindaffer, recommendation for ordination; Adeline Price, reading of the recommendation; Victor Shields, charge to the candidate; Cyril Johnston, charge to the church and special music; Don Nestor, code of ethics and presentation of Bible; Don Shingleton, welcome to the fellowship of the ministry; and Betty Norvell, organist. Teodoro gave a personal testimony. A reception followed the service.

Jay and his wife, Amanda have three children: Jacob, Sam and Sarah.



## Childrens Art Camp

*For children entering  
grades 3-6.*

**July 1-3, 2014**  
*at Parchment Valley  
Conference Center*

**Cost: \$150.00**, includes meals, lodging, instruction, supplies, camp picture and camper address sheet. Registrations must be received by June 16, 2014. Space is limited to the first 36 children registered and paid in full.

**Art Director: Jocelyn Robison**  
**Camp Director: Koreen Villers**

Registration is from 4-5 p.m. on July 1. Camp will close on the evening of July 3 with a gallery opening displaying the children's art work at 7 p.m.

*For more information and a registration form, visit  
[www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or  
[adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).*

## Send The Light Fellowship Celebrates Five Years of "Love in a Brown Bag"

On January 9, 2014, Send the Light Fellowship (Greenbrier-Raleigh) celebrated five years of their missional project, "Love in a Brown Bag."

Bags of prepackaged food are given each Friday from January through May of each year to the late bus students of Frankford Elementary School in Greenbrier County as these are the most at risk students facing hunger over the weekends. Over 2,000 bags are given out each year with the funding coming from

local churches, service organizations and individual donors.

Members of Send the Light Fellowship purchase the food, and on Thursdays during their meeting, bag the food.

Included in every bag is a note from the fellowship that lets the students know God loves them and so does their community as

every organization or church that donates funds has their name on the note.

Rev. Jim Anderson, president of the fellowship and Southeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, would welcome the opportunity to consult with any church wishing to begin such a ministry.

As Jim states, "To see the excitement of the students when they receive their bag, and knowing this might be all the food they get over the weekend keeps us focused and thankful our Lord has enabled us to work together for their benefit and to His glory."

You may contact Jim Anderson at [anderson@wvbc.org](mailto:anderson@wvbc.org) or 304.667.5111.





## ***Estep Takes Second Place in Judson Essay Contest***



*Brooke Estep*

A love for reading and writing, a determination to raise college funds and a passion for the Lord and His word led a teen member of Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte) to enter the recent Judson Press essay contest. Brooke Estep, daughter of Kelli and Harry Estep, won second place in the essay contest with her piece about how Queen Esther and she faced similar circumstances.

"I learned about the opportunity through Rob Ely, who thought I might be interested," said Brooke. "I love to write."

A West Virginia Baptist Camp Cowen camper since she was in the second grade, Brooke has been part of the Youth Leadership Core (YLC), and has served for two years on the Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT). Estep shares, "I enjoy people and organizing, so working on the YMPT has been a great

experience for me. I also love working with children." Through these opportunities and various mission trips, Brooke is working toward a future in public relations and communications. "I think it would be great to work with the West Virginia Baptist Convention or the American Baptist Churches in these areas," Brooke commented.

Currently, Brooke is a senior at Cabell Midland High School. Coming from a Christian school to public school was quite an adventure for Brooke. She shares a bit about the journey in her essay, which can be found on the West Virginia Baptist Convention website. Go to [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) and read what Brooke has to say. Congratulations Brooke!

## ***New Cabin at Camp Ona Dedicated***

Camp Ona has served the Guyandotte Association since 1957. It includes five large cabins, a large dining hall with a conference room, vesper area, bonfire area, ball fields and much more. On November 15, 2013, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to dedicate a new cabin to replace a cabin that had suffered water damage and had been deemed

unusable. The new cabin, which will be fully handicap accessible, was designed by architect Evan Dailey, who is also a young minister. After hearing the history of Camp Ona, and of how many had found Jesus there, West Virginia Baptist Convention Southwest Area Minister, Max Hill took off his shoes and declared he



*"Breaking ground" for the new Camp Ona cabin.*

was standing on Holy Ground, and prayed the dedication prayer. Hill, camp trustees and caretakers and representatives from six Guyandotte Association churches then symbolically turned the soil. It was a day of great blessing and rejoicing. Camp Ona is available for rental. Call caretaker Jared Childers at 304.743.3602.

## ***Agape Cloak Fills Need with "Love Bags"***

*by Mary Browning, Agape Cloak Coordinator  
Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River)*

It came to our attention in 2011 there is an underlying problem in our communities. We have many students who fall under the poverty levels set forth by the federal guidelines and they have little or nothing to eat over the weekend. We find this appalling! During the 2012-2013 school year, we at Agape Cloak gave out over 10,000 *love bags*.

We are made up of area community churches (Baptist, Methodist and Independent) and private individuals, and serve the students of the Big Coal River area through three different programs. All six schools on Big Coal River are provided for, covering an area of 40 miles.

These children are served through a snack program we call "Love

Bags." These *love bags* are delivered to the schools every Friday to be given to those students the schools have deemed eligible.

After starting this program, we started receiving requests for other assistance. We have two other programs in place: "Travel Bags," a hygiene bag and a "Smile" clothing program. The school contacts us with what is needed and we try to provide accordingly.

In 2011, we started out with our faith and \$600 in the bank. Our budget for this past school year for the *love bags* was \$20,000. With the economy and the growing need, we would appreciate your support to continue this work. Please look into your heart and give what you can to help us. You may donate by sending a check made out and mailed to: Agape Cloak, P.O. Box 10, Racine, WV 25165. For more information, please contact Mary at 304.837.3702 or [msmary1493@yahoo.com](mailto:msmary1493@yahoo.com).

## ***Leadership Updates***

**REV. J. CHESTER BIRD** to Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as interim pastor on March 1, 2014

**MR. DANIEL CUNNINGHAM** to Union Valley Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on January 1, 2014

**MR. BRINTON B. EASLEY** to Enon Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor in January 2014

**REV. LESTER HARPER** to Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette) as pastor on December 1, 2013

**MR. BENJAMIN L. SIMMONS** to Providence Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as pastor on February 23, 2014

**MR. GARY WHITESCARVER** to Flemington Baptist Church (Union) as pastor on February 1, 2014

## Challenge 52 - April 2014

NIV	KJV
<b>April 6</b> Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing	<b>April 6</b> Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
<b>April 13</b> Psalm 23:2-3 He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.	<b>April 13</b> Psalm 23:2-3 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
<b>April 20</b> Psalm 23:4-5 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.	<b>April 20</b> Psalm 23:4-5 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
<b>April 27</b> Psalm 23:6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	<b>April 27</b> Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## Challenge 52 - May 2014

NIV	KJV
<b>May 4</b> 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!	<b>May 4</b> 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
<b>May 11</b> Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.	<b>May 11</b> Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.
<b>May 18</b> Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.	<b>May 18</b> Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and have done all, to stand.
<b>May 25</b> Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.	<b>May 25</b> Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



## Adult Discipleship: A Slow Fade

I certainly get lots of messages when listening and observing children's story sermons in local churches. Sometimes the brief message for the children touches me deeper than the adult sermon! While in a local church, I observed a young boy hesitantly coming forward to sit in the choir loft with the other children for the children's story sermon. He was not too enthused about leaving his seat and facing an audience of grown ups.

While the leader of the story shared with the children the young guy VERY slowly rose from his seat and tried to walk away. The leader, seeing him, gently tried to encourage him to stay, but could not give much attention to him as she was leading. The youngster stood by the teacher as she continued on with the lesson. However very, very slowly he began to back up. He quietly and in perfect slow motion moved away from the teacher and step by quiet step backed his way to the side of the stage area, down the steps and back to his seat in the audience. The teacher never noticed as she continued her lesson. While those of us watching found the situation comical, the teacher was surprised when she noticed he was gone. He had slowly faded away!

The incident reminded me of how we in the local church experience and allow the slow fade of adults from our community of faith. For various reasons, many people slowly fade from our groups, Sunday School classes and activities. At first we notice and try to encourage them to keep involved and be present. However, as we are busy with this and that, sometimes we don't notice them again or don't follow up on them. They slowly step by quiet step fade away.

So what can we do to remedy this situation? Here are some ideas:

- *Intentionally make note each week of who is missing from activities of your church, small group, Sunday School class or worship opportunities.*
- *Check to see if it is because of illness, weather, trips etc. Perhaps others know the reason.*
- *Make a call. People respond more to voices of encouragement and invitation than a card.*
- *Make it simple. Let the person know they were missed. Be genuine. Offer help when appropriate.*
- *Be ready to contact them again if needed.*

Don't be known for the "slow fade" in your church.

*Lisa Simmons  
Associate in Mission Support and Adult Discipleship*



**NATHAN ADKINS**, 76, of Greenville, died January 21, 2014. He was a retired Baptist minister serving 43 years as a pastor at Scarbro Baptist Church (Fayette), Gentry Baptist Church, Oceana First Baptist Church (Rockcastle), Page Baptist Church (Fayette), Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River) and Gordon Baptist Church. He came to Monroe County in 1986 and served as the pastor at Ballard First Missionary Baptist Church, Sweet Springs Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and Flint Chapel Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). At the time of his retirement, he was pastor at Flat Mountain Baptist Church near Alderson. At the time of his death, he was a member of Ballard First Missionary Baptist Church. He served in the United States Army for four years.

**JERRY ALLEN ALAWAT**, 71, of Parkersburg, died January 20, 2014. He was a very active member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for many years, serving as a Sunday school teacher and faithful congregational caregiver, focusing his ministry on the sick and elderly. He also served as a Gideon. He served his country in the United States Navy.

**ROBERT HALL BAKER**, 84, of Elkins, died February 16, 2014. He was a member of Elkins First Baptist Church (Union) where he served as deacon, trustee, church moderator, men's fellowship president and men's chorus. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean Conflict, with the 2nd Aviation Field Depot Squadron, with his overseas duty being Security in England.

**JAMES "JIM" BALLENGER**, 69 of West Union, died February 23, 2014. He was a member of Faith Baptist Church and was currently serving as the minister of Troy Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

**JERALD "JERRY" BRIGGS**, 70, of Lumberport, died January 27, 2014. He was a member of Lumberport Baptist Church (Judson) where he was a gifted Sunday school teacher and served as trustee and stewardship team leader. He was a Vietnam War veteran, having served in the United States Navy.

**E. LANTZ CARRICO**, 90, died January 20, 2014. He was a former member of 7th Street United Methodist Church since 1953, and current member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He held many church positions and had also taught Sunday school. He was a World War II Army veteran who fought at the Battle of the Bulge with the 254th Field Artillery.

**JOANNA HENTHORNE CARSON**, 80, of Weston, died February 27, 2014. She was a faithful member of Weston First Baptist

Church (Broad Run) where she taught Sunday School, led a prayer group and served as a deacon.

**WANDA B. COFFINDAFFER**, age 93 of Clarksburg, died January 28, 2014. She was a very active member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) where she had been involved in many activities.

**RUBY JEAN COOK**, 84, of Rainelle, died January 28, 2014. She was a member of Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell) where she worked as secretary.

**HENRY WILLIAM CUMMINGS**, 97, of Spring Hill, died January 7, 2014. He was a longtime member of Bethel Baptist Church, Spring Hill. He served as pastor to Ivydale, Hilltop, Yawkey and Big Chimney (Kanawha Valley) Baptist Churches.

**BILLY JOE FERRELL**, 86, of Cary, North Carolina, died February 10, 2014. He was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). While serving in deacon and trustee positions as well as Sunday school teacher, he also served an important role in home visitations, building campaigns, minister search committees and in various state Baptist convention roles. After his retirement, he worked at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

**MYRON RAYMOND FIELDS**, 45, of Tazewell, Virginia, died February 25, 2014. He has served as pastor of Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run), Isle of Hope Baptist Church, Savannah, Georgia and Tazewell, Virginia First Baptist Church.

**KELLIS MARION GILLESPIE**, 86, of Hurricane, died January 27, 2014. He was a member of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and was very active in church activities. He taught a Sunday school class of young people, sang in the church choir, served on the music committee, became treasurer of the church and later became a deacon. He was on the board of directors for the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society.

**ROBERT HAROLD GRUESER**, died January 30, 2014. He was a member of Poca Baptist Church (Teays Valley) where he was a youth leader, taught Sunday school class and especially loved to sing in the choir. He was in the Army National Guard, and was awarded the Sergeant Major Award in 1984.

**HOWARD ALLAN HAIR**, 94, of Weirton, died February 2, 2014. He was an active member of Weirton First Baptist Church (Panhandle), serving as a deacon emeritus and past finance chairman. He was a veteran of the United States Army, having proudly served his country during World War II in the Pacific Operations, where he was First Sergeant in the 153rd Engineering Construction Battalion.

**MARIE THORNTON HUGHES, "POMMY,"** 86, of Belva, died February 3, 2014. She was a member of Dixie First Baptist Church (Hopewell) for over three decades, where she was president of the Ladies' Missionary Circle and the adult Sunday school teacher for 26 years.

**PHILLIP DAN LUSK**, 80, of Fairmont, died January 12, 2014. He was a member of Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) where he participated on several church committees and was a deacon on the church board. He was a United States Army veteran.

**DOROTHY GERALDINE "JERRY" LUTZ**, 97, of Parkersburg, died January 20, 2014. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), the Alice Fountain Circle and attended the Excelsior Class.

**THOMAS (TOM) MCDANIEL**, 82, died February 6, 2014. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan.

**PHILEDA MAE CAROL (OGREN) NELSON**, 97, died December 19, 2013. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Burma.

**JOAN S. POHLMAN**, 73, of Weirton, died October 3, 2013. She was a longtime faithful member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle).

**MARGARET "PEG" JONES REES**, 98, of Weirton, died September 15, 2013. She was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle).

**ALICE MAE (SIMMONS) SHAE**, of Penney Farms, Florida, 87, died January 22, 2014. She was a former Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (WABFMS) missionary in Burma.

**JOAHN (JODY) VAUGHN**, 79, of Bakersfield, California, died February 2, 2014. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan.

**JOHN WADE WALKER JR.**, 93, died November 11, 2013. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Belgian Congo (now the Democratic Republic of Congo).

**RUTH ALLEN WARWICK**, 87, of Williamstown, died February 10, 2014. She was a pianist and organist at Cheylan First Baptist Church for many years, and most recently attended Boaz Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She was a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**MARJANET A. "JAN" WORRELL**, 87, of Pasadena, Maryland, died June 23, 2013. She was a former Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (WABFMS) missionary to South India.

## April 2014

**APRIL 1** - The ministry of Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church; Michael Sisson, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)

**APRIL 2** - The ministry of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church; Danny Mitchell, pastor (Logan Mingo)

**APRIL 3** - The ministry of Mannington First Baptist Church; Gregory Roth, pastor (Fairmont)

**APRIL 4** - Dana Gatewood, president, West Virginia Baptist Education Society and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission

**APRIL 5** - Norene Young, treasurer, Greenbrier-Raleigh Association

**APRIL 6** - Karen Radcliff, Bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**APRIL 7** - Grace Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia

**APRIL 8** - Susan Hegarty, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Costa Rica

**APRIL 9** - The ministry of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church; William Stout, pastor (Panhandle)

**APRIL 10** - The ministry of Big Cub Missionary Baptist Church; Glenn Hatfield, pastor (Rockcastle)

**APRIL 11** - Stephen James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti

**APRIL 12** - The ministry of Deepwater Baptist Church; Thomas Skaggs, pastor (Fayette)

**APRIL 13** - The ministry of Cairo Baptist Church; Frank Vannoy, pastor (Harrisville)

**APRIL 14** - The ministry of Elkins First Baptist Church; Marvin Parli, pastor (Union)

**APRIL 15** - Ginny Prunty, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**APRIL 16** - Koneda Devrick, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission

**APRIL 17** - The ministry of Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope)

**APRIL 18** - Thank you, Lord, for sending Your Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins

**APRIL 19** - The ministry of Cowen First Baptist Church; Michael Brown, pastor (Hopewell)

**APRIL 20** - The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Todd Jarman, pastor (Judson)

**APRIL 21** - The ministry of Good Hope Baptist Church; Chad Clark, pastor (Guyandotte)

**APRIL 22** - Gary Bolyard, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission

**APRIL 23** - The ministry of Dorcas Baptist Church; Steve Davis, pastor (Eastern)

**APRIL 24** - Corenne Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil

**APRIL 25** - The ministry of Sutton Baptist Church; Allan Copenhaver, pastor (Elk Valley)

**APRIL 26** - Omega youth event at Parchment Valley Conference Center

**APRIL 27** - Laura Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua

**APRIL 28** - Thelma Nambu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Philippines

**APRIL 29** - Daniel Chetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Lebanon

**APRIL 30** - Katie Linderman, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission

## May 2014

**MAY 1** - Darrell Farley, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission

**MAY 2** - American Baptist Men's work weekend at Camp Cowen

**MAY 3** - The ministry of Flemington Baptist Church; Christopher Mullett, pastor (Union)

**MAY 4** - Judi Funk, chair, Camp Cowen Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission

**MAY 5** - Tom Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bulgaria

**MAY 6** - Spring Golden'eers Retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center

**MAY 7** - Ed Noyes, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**MAY 8** - The ministry of Tabor's Creek Missionary Baptist Church; Denny Brown, pastor (Twelve Pole)

**MAY 9** - The ministry of Genesis Fellowship; Mark Jarrell, pastor (Kanawha Valley)

**MAY 10** - Jill Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) 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 (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti

**MAY 13** - Frank Miller, director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center

**MAY 14** - Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach Week at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

**MAY 15** - The ministry of Highlawn Baptist Church; Mark Stauffer, pastor (Teays Valley)

**MAY 16** - The Youth work weekend at Camp Cowen

**MAY 17** - American Baptist GIRLS' Festival this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center

**MAY 18** - The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Spencer Oxford, pastor (Rockcastle)

**MAY 19** - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Tom Gribble, pastor (Parkersburg)

**MAY 20** - Hemelinda Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Great Britain

**MAY 21** - Lee Ann Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan

**MAY 22** - Susan Paugh, clerk of the Union Association

**MAY 23** - The ministry of Little Laurel Baptist Church; Jack Cole, pastor (Hopewell)

**MAY 24** - Kevin Emerick, site maintenance manager, Parchment Valley Conference Center

**MAY 25** - Kenneth Miller, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission

**MAY 26** - Wayne Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**MAY 27** - The ministry of Pea Ridge Baptist Church; Gregory Creasy, pastor (Guyandotte)

**MAY 28** - Michael Grose, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission

**MAY 29** - Abie Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia

**MAY 30** - The ministry of Liberty Baptist Church; Robert Marino, pastor (Broad Run)

**MAY 31** - The ministry of Big Union Baptist Church; Kenneth Adkins, pastor (Elk Valley)



# Coming Events

## April 2014

April 3-4

**Palmer Theological Seminary West  
Virginia Program Class - D. Min.  
Program Orientation**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 5

**West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Executive Board**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 12

**School of Christian Studies Hospital  
Ministry (E-04) One-Day Class with  
Terry Holley**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 18

**Good Friday**  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

April 22

**School of Christian Studies  
Communicating God's Word (M-01)  
(formerly Sermon and Lesson Prep.)  
Six-Week Class Begins**  
Various Locations

April 26

**Omega 2014**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

## May 2014

May 2-3

**American Baptist Men's Work  
Weekend**  
Camp Cowen

May 5-7

**Spring Golden'eers Retreat**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

May 5-7

**Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers'  
Council Spring Retreat**  
Camp Cowen

May 12-19

**Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach  
Week**  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

May 16-17

**Youth Work Weekend**  
Camp Cowen

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

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# OMEGA

*OMEGA is a one-day event designed for outreach and fellowship among the youth in grades 6-12. The day is filled with great fellowship among believers, outside activities and a challenging message.*

## 2014

### April 26, 2014

Parchment Valley Conference Center

**Cost: \$15.00**

*Please mail by Monday, April 21, 2014.*

*If you plan to register at the door, please call Valma at 800.879.9822 no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25.*

**Speaker: Jason McLeod**



**Band: Torn in Two**

*For more information and a registration form, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org).*

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