

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter



April-May 2015

From Where He Sat - Remembering the Life of Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Hill April 11, 1927 - February 21, 2015

Dr. Doug Hill served on the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention for 26 years. In the years he served as executive minister, 1978-1992 he wrote a monthly column titled, "From Where I Sit." Seven years after his retirement, he took the time to reflect upon his time on the staff of the Convention and published a 100 page summary of that time that he titled, "From Where I Sat." The citations that follow are from that document.

When the Convention was celebrating 100 years of ministry, it was reorganized to reflect the desire to be more than merely a series of auxiliary groups and projects (2). The reorganization was comprehensive creating the basic structure we still use 50 years later.

Dr. Hill was hired as area minister for the Capital District in 1967. Area ministry was a new concept for the American Baptist Churches, and Dr. Hill was among the first group of staff filling this new role for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. In addition to serving an assigned number of churches, each area minister would also have another ministry portfolio for which he would be responsible. The Convention having expressed a vision to establish ministries on college campuses assigned the staff responsibility for this new ministry to Dr. Hill. So in 1967, as he began his time on staff, he became the first to serve as the director of Campus Ministries.

The workload was tremendous. As an area minister he was required to make two visits annually to each of his 120 churches. And in his spare time, he directed campus ministries on the campuses in Huntington and Morgantown, where we had begun active ministries.

Dr. Hill was instrumental in helping the North Hills Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) get its start. He helped the plant from the very beginning, even driving a few nails as they built. As the area minister, he provided counsel and even found some funding to help get the church started.

In 1978, he was called to serve as executive minister. Having been on staff for a decade, he had seen much change in the denomination. He was also uniquely qualified to lead the Convention through the always present challenges of ministry. In those days, regional staffs were much more closely aligned and spent much more of their time with the denomination agenda and program. The executive minister and regional staff were expected at national meetings. They were also expected to take

the national programs and provide regional leadership for them to be successful. Having served and spent significant time with the rest of the family leadership, Dr. Hill was more than capable of making sure the interests of the West Virginia Baptist Convention churches were represented.

Dr. Hill was fully committed to the promotion and support of missions. He said, "Unless we are reaching beyond the walls of the local church and the state in which we live, we are proclaiming only a part of the glorious Gospel with which we have been entrusted." (39) This passion for missions would define his leadership of the Convention. It would also take him around the world exploring God's work through Baptists of many countries.

As the programmatic glue that held the denomination together began to fail, relationships between regions and the ABC-USA took on new meaning. Dr. Hill had long held to the autonomy of regions and churches, though often he was the voice of a minority. He was a principle

writer of "Autonomy and Interdependence Within the American Baptist Denomination: A Declaration." The defining document became the lens through which all other denominations were to be viewed. Dr. Hill believed this document was his most significant contribution at the national level. (51)

Dr. Hill loved Parchment Valley. He was a part of its development from the very beginning. Under his leader-

ship, the Hyre Farm was developed into a wonderful conference facility. Buildings, lakes, roads, dorms ... were developed during his tenure on the Convention staff.

Dr. Hill leaves behind a great legacy of ministry. He was privileged to serve the Convention for 26 years and his work continues to make a difference. The view from where he sat was not always pleasant. He led the Convention through many difficult storms. His dedication to Christ and his commitment to missions never wavered.

A celebration of his life and ministry will be on April 11, 2015 in Hill Hall at Parchment Valley Conference Center at 3:00 p.m. His family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 p.m. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to the "Hill Hall Fund" P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102 or to the BSA Allohak Council Endowment Fund, 1340 Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

***"Unless we are reaching
beyond the walls of the local
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Powerful Words



Dr. David Carrico

The nature of words is fascinating ... their background and meaning, plus the context in which they are used. Words have all kinds of social and emotional impacts on us we might underestimate. Churches and pastors are in the word business. What we communicate is important, but how we communicate it is also very important. We are witnesses to the Word, the person of Jesus Christ!

Words are powerful as they reveal who we are and who we are becoming. The story is told of an elder Native American teaching his grandchildren about life. He shared with them that there was a terrible fight going on inside every person between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other wolf represents joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith. One of the children asked, "Grandfather, which wolf will win?" The wise elder replied, "The one you feed!" What do you feed? Every thought you have can feed one wolf or the other.

As a young pastor, I learned very early on what the phrase, "I am saying this in Christian love," really meant. Some of the criticism was correct and helpful, but the way the message was delivered was hurtful and fed the wrong wolf. While you learn to love and grow through negative messages and messengers, words are very powerful and should be shared in an honest and caring matter. Jesus said in Matthew 5:37, "Let your yes be your yes and your no be your no" and James reiterated the same thought in James 5:12.

Dishonesty has become so prevalent in our society we often don't think anything about it when it is revealed. Meryl Runion cites in the preface to her book, *Powerful Phrases*, an observation about contemporary truth-telling. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director George Tenet, in the

summer of 2004, announced he was resigning his post due to personal reasons. It was after only 15 minutes of speculation by a commentator about why he resigned that one person suggested, "I think he is resigning for personal reasons." It is a commentary on our day that we are so accustomed to spin we don't consider the possibility we are being told the truth.

There are other power words to consider. In a recent survey, it was found that two-thirds of the population has trouble saying **NO**. The word **NO** is a complete sentence, and yet we still have trouble with that one little word. There are appropriate places where **NO** is the needed response. Be careful with this power word because a flat refusal can brand you as rude and uncooperative. When you refuse a request, acknowledge the request, clarify your circumstance and transfer your refusal into a positive response. Suggest alternatives or make a comment that affirms your relationship with the individual you are addressing.

In the church, there is one last powerful word and its concept touches the heart of our faith: **WHY**. The power of **WHY** is what carries us through the mundane jobs and difficult issues. Not much of anything else has meaning without the **WHY** question being addressed. Salvation answers the **WHY** question for the mission-minded believer.

During the season of Easter, we must celebrate the issue of Jesus Christ, the living **WORD** of God. The gospel of John proclaims the concept so perfectly. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (1:1) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (1:14) The gospel of John has much more to say about Jesus the Word and His character. As we live out our faith, we show the world Jesus. As we use powerful words, let us remember the name of Jesus and speak of His character with the actions of our lives.

Blessings

"Making Friends ... Making Disciples"

West Virginia Baptist Convention *Evangelism* Conference

April 18, 2015

**Parchment Valley Conference Center
Ripley, West Virginia**

Cost: \$15.00 per person, includes lunch

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

**To register or for more information, go to www.wvbc.org or
contact Ginny at 800.879.9822.**

A conference for pastors, leadership and members
creating a culture of friendship and discipleship.

Create Community, Create Disciples,
Create Growth

This first 100
registrations will receive
a complimentary copy of
the book Making
Friends, Making
Disciples.

Conference
Leader:



Dr. Lee Spitzer
Executive Minister
of ABC of New Jersey

**Become a congregation that grows not only in the number of people, but also in the
maturity of disciples who participate in the life of the body of Christ.**

**"Making Friends, Making Disciples" will help you enrich your friendships in your home,
your congregation and your community.**

**This conference is focused toward pastoral leadership, deacons, church staff and key church leaders.
All pastors and members will be blessed by attending this missional church conference!**

2015 Evangelism Conference: "Making Friends, Making Disciples" **Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Parchment Valley Conference Center**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Church: _____

**Please complete form and mail, along with your check for \$15.00 to: West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn:
Ginny, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.**

If you have any questions, please contact Ginny at prunty@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.

High Impact Community Ministry Training

One-Day Training Event

May 11-14, 2015



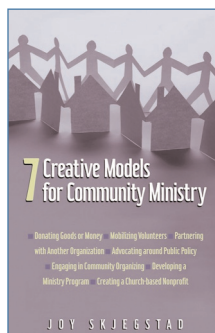
Joy Skjegstad

Joy Skjegstad, author of Seven Creative Models of

Community Ministry, Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry and Starting a Non-Profit in Your Church will be presenting a one-day training event for each of the areas of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The goal of these training events will be to assist pastors and church leaders in moving out to the mission fields in their communities with high impact ministries designed to meet needs in the community and share the good news of Christ with others. Our 2015

convention theme *“From Survive to Thrive”* gives focus to the need for the church to get involved in providing leadership and vision for their town and city in a way which is Christ honoring and glorifying to God.

Joy has more than 20 years of experience starting and growing non-profit organizations, with a special focus on faith-based groups and youth and community development. She has served as the executive director of the Park Avenue Foundation at Park Avenue United Methodist Church and is the founder of the Institute for Ministry Leaders, a university-based training program that builds the management capacity of churches and other ministry organizations. She also served as the president of Sanctuary Community Development Corporation and has held a variety of other leadership positions with non-profit in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area.



Joy's book, Seven Creative Models for Community Ministry

The one-day events will focus on training and high energy discussion in the morning session and the afternoon session will include a “walk-about” in the area, discussing needs and ways to meet those needs. This is a practical training experience! Come prepared to learn, discuss, process and ask questions. Dress is casual.

Participants will return to their local congregations with information to begin new ministries or ramp up existing ministries that will have an impact for Christ in the community.

Registration is needed for lunch for this event. Please register by contacting your area minister. Below are locations, dates, time, etc.

Northwest Area

(Good Hope, Harmony, Harrisville, Little Kanawha, Panhandle and Parkersburg)

Contact: Mark McCloy at mccloy@wvbc.org

Location One - Date: Monday, May 11, 2015

Place: Agape Baptist Church, 99 14th Street, Wheeling, 304.232.1156

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., lunch is included

Location Two - Date: Monday, May 11, 2015

Place: South Parkersburg Baptist Church, 1655 Blizzard Drive, Parkersburg, 304.422.7722

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Northeast Area

(Broad Run, Eastern, Fairmont, Goshen, Judson and Union)

Contact: Victor Shields at shields@wvbc.org

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015

Place: Clarksburg Baptist Church - 501 West Pike Street, Clarksburg, 304.624.6536

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., lunch is included

Southeast Area

(Elk Valley, Fayette, Greenbrier-Raleigh, Hopewell and Rockcastle)

Contact: Jim Anderson at anderson@wvbc.org

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Place: Oak Hill Baptist Church, 613 Lundale Drive, Oak Hill, 304.469.3455

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., lunch is included

Southwest Area

(Coal River, Guyandotte, Kanawha Valley, Logan-Mingo, Teays Valley and Twelve Pole)

Contact: Max Hill at hill@wvbc.org

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Place: Madison Baptist Church - 426 Second Street, Madison, 304.369.1061

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., lunch is included

The Finished Table

Recently three of our former staff members entered heaven: Rev. Jim Crouch, Rev. Dr. Mike Derry and Rev. Dr. Douglas Hill (see obituaries on page 14). They served the Lord faithfully throughout their ministries and leave lasting legacies for Christ. I will certainly miss them as I was privileged to have them count me among their many friends.

Several years ago, Mike built a custom table for the conference room at the Convention office. While Mike had been “making sawdust” as a hobby for many years, this was the first large table he had made. After a few months of being in the office, the table began to warp as the grain in the wood dried and twisted. While we attributed these changes to “character,” Mike believed he could do better. “It has my name on it, I want it to be right,” he said. So he came to the office and removed the table, promising to bring it back when he was satisfied with his work.

The table was gone for many weeks. Then one cold morning, last February, Mike pulled up in his pickup with Lawrence Hoptry in the front seat and the wrapped table in the bed. It was with great pride that the table was carefully taken

off the truck and carried into the conference room. The smell of fresh finish filled the room as we cut away the protective plastic. Mike was grinning from ear to ear as we moved the table into its place.



“I had to get this done,” he said. “Don’t know how many more projects I have in me.” A few weeks later Mike learned his cancer had returned and his treatment options were going to be limited. The need for aggressive treatment compromised the immune system so Mike could not get out among people. Visits from outside his family were very limited. But those of us who got to visit were always blessed by his faith, his joy and his confidence that his victory was certain in Christ.

He had told us many times his desire was to “finish strong.” There is no doubt he finished his race strong and never lost sight of the Savior.

The finished table sits as a beautiful reminder of a beautiful life.

Committed to Missions

Adult Discipleship: Spiritual Formation is about God



During 2015, this article will be dedicated to the spiritual formation of adults through corporate study and through individual effort. Five facets of spiritual formation will be explored with an eye to what the church can do to assist in the process and what each individual must do to continue spiritual growth in Christ.

John R. Thorpe, writer for *Christianity Today* shares that “Spiritual formation is the process of growing up in Christ. We do this by engaging in spiritual practices and disciplines that draw us closer to God and focus less and less on self.” (*Christianity Today*, May 24, 2011)

This is a tall order in today’s society when according to *USA Today*, people are taking more than one million selfies (self-portraits, usually taken with a smartphone) every day. This is not just a teenage phenomenon, but includes adults and children. There is debate whether selfies are just pure narcissism or another way to express yourself. Either way it is about self.

Spiritual formation is about God. Dallas Willard has shared that it is the process of transformation of the most inner dimension of ourselves, it is the transformation of the heart and will. Spiritual formation is not about how many years you have

attended Sunday school, how many committees you have been on, how many times you have read the Bible, how many meals you have delivered or how many times a week you pray. It is not about the “how many,” but more about “from where” do your words and deeds come. Are they a natural expression of your closeness to God? Inward transformation is the goal.

Take time this month to read and study Proverbs 4:20-24 and Luke 6:43-45. Who was speaking in these passages? Who was the audience? What is the common thread running through these verses? What are the good things we can receive? What are the warnings, written or assumed? What are these passages saying to you in terms of who you are listening to and what kind of spiritual fruit you are producing.

Suggested for reading and study:

Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit
by Henri Nouwen

The Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis

Invitation to the Jesus Life: Experiments in Christlikeness
by Jan Johnson

Lisa Simmons
Associate in Mission Support

Weirton Christian Center: Spring and Summer Plans Underway

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

The winter weather prevented our children and staff from coming in much of the time in the past couple months. This is when we worry about whether our kids are getting enough to eat, with no school breakfast or lunch, plus our afterschool snack and most days, dinner. When school is in session, they are coming to both centers and we are usually transporting four vanloads home.

We are excited about spring and the camp retreats and plans for summer are now underway. We had a large group attend the Elkhorn Valley Camp Overnighter at the Millsop Center. Every year, we send almost 100 children to camp, for the designated weeks, with the help of the Christian Fellowship Foundation. This year, we are also able to take all of our children out for a Weirton Christian Center week, Sunday, July 26 - Wednesday, July 29, 2015. We are looking for volunteers to go with us as we will have to staff that camp and plan the program. As always, we welcome camp supplies such as sleeping bags, hygiene kits, beach towels and Walmart cards for swimsuits and shoes for our campers. Transportation expenses really go up in the summer with all the 45-minute twice a week trips to camp. We truly appreciate any support you can provide.

For years, Weirton Christian Center has been getting ready for a major expansion effort, and for this school year it has been an amazing blessing to be in the Boys and Girls' Club facility, compliments of the Weirton Housing Authority. However, as we look to the end of the school year, we have to decide our next

steps: to purchase or lease in order to keep the property or expand on our own property. At this point, staying where we are seems to be the best financial decision. Several years ago, the American Baptist Men offered to build a separate building next to the current facility and we are once again exploring that possibility, keeping everything on one campus. Available funds are the issue, but we at least have start-up funding for the project. Please keep our situation in prayer as you always do. We do not know what we would do without the love, financial and in-kind support and prayers of our West Virginia Baptist family. Thank you for being partners in our ministry.



The Weirton Christian Center group at the Elkhorn Valley Camp overnighter at the Millsop Center.

Baptist Campus Ministries: Using Everyday Places and Opportunities



BCM
Changing Lives that
Change the World

The Great Commission has no stipulations. It does not say "Go when it is convenient or safe." There is no clause that states once you have gone on your

two-week trip you have fulfilled your lifetime duty of "missions." No, missions is not a trip. While mission trips are extremely valuable for multiple reasons, our view of missions cannot be limited to a specific time or place. Our missional mindset cannot end once we get off the airplane. Missions must be woven into the very tapestry of our lives as followers. The Great Commission is a description of life as a Christian.

The students of Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) are embracing this concept. While many are gearing up to spend their summers abroad for the sake of the gospel, they understand that living life for the sake of the Gospel is a continuous, everyday opportunity. It has been a joy to watch students make decisions based on how they can use their lives as a billboard to spread the great news of Jesus.

Katelyn is a junior. Her heart beats for the gospel and for the unreached. Katelyn intentionally chose to spend her semester studying abroad in an African country in desperate need of the gospel. While she is fulfilling requirements for a secular university, she is spreading the joy of Jesus to people who have never heard it.

Luke has the opportunity to study medicine in America and have a very safe and financially stable life. While he sees value in helping people wherever he is, he also understands millions around the world have never heard the name of Jesus. So Luke has joined the United States military. He will spend years training to be a combat medic. Because then, as he journeys to remote parts of the world most Americans are not allowed into, he will take Jesus with him. Luke understands he wants to help people physically, but more importantly, he has what can save people for eternity.

Matt has been talking with a friend for years about Jesus. He has been patiently walking with Andrew. As a senior Biology major at a secular school, Matt understands his life is not just about Microbiology and Organic Chemistry. Matt understands God has gifted him with the opportunity to study at a university surrounded by people lost in the darkness of sin so he can take the Light wherever he goes. Three weeks ago, Matt led Andrew to Christ. Andrew's life and eternity are drastically changed because God used Matt and his everyday surroundings to preach the gospel.

May we also use the everyday places and opportunities God has given us to spread the love and joy of Christ. May our hearts constantly beat with a missional purpose for the sake of gospel.

*Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

Parchment Valley Conference Center Veterans' Therapeutic Programs



The Parchment Valley Board of Directors has announced a new partnership with the Veterans Therapeutic Programs, partnering with West Virginia Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture. We will bring the therapeutic piece to veterans through agriculture while helping to train them to be farmers. It is a blessing to have this opportunity to serve those who have served. Through much prayer and blessed connections with our state commissioner of Agriculture, Walt Helmick, we are planting vegetables. These products will be United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) certified and served through the conference center and made available to the Jackson County Board of Education, another new partnership we solidified through Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H and the Roane-Jackson Technical Center. Our vision is to be a model veteran's therapeutic facility for the United States, emphasizing on training and creating jobs that will generate a substantial economical boost for the economy. We have several conferences scheduled through 2018 for the east coast folks. In turn this program, Parchment Valley Veteran's Program (PVVP) will bring hundreds of families to Parchment Valley Conference Center, which is forecasted to generate more facility bookings which means more ministry opportunities.

A dynamic committee is assimilated and utilizing an unlimited amount of grants and resources to equip and train these men and women to be farmers. Also, we are growing cane to produce sorghum. In the fall, we are planning to bring on a molasses festival, pumpkin patch and corn maze for the youngsters. Last week, a major supporter of veteran's therapeutic programming donated a 55 horsepower Ford tractor to Parchment Valley Conference Center and Berea Christian College committed a \$17,000 grant towards the program. Commissioner Walt Helmick is donating the seed potatoes.

Remember this: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6 (NIV)

Don Loudermilk Society Reaches Minimum Goal



I would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership in the Donald M. Loudermilk Society in 2014 - we reached our minimum goal! And we are raising the bar in 2015. If you are not a member of the Loudermilk Society, we invite you to become one. It is a great way to honor the memory of Don Loudermilk, who was instrumental in the development of Parchment Valley Conference Center and a long-time supporter with his time, talent and resources. Perks of joining the Loudermilk Society are receiving a Cat's Meow Brand wooden Farmer Barn, being added to the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter and *Parchment Valley SCROLL* mailing lists, invitation to the annual member picnic and free lodging for one weeknight each year!



The March winter storm covered the valley with a blanket of heavy snow and ice, and extreme cold temperatures caused several pipes to freeze. The maintenance staff and volunteers worked many hours in difficult conditions to repair and restore the damaged areas.

West Virginia Baptist Convention

2015 Worship and Music Conference

with Guest Clinician Heather Sorenson

June 18-20, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: "My Alleluia"

More information will be included in the June-July issue of the
West Virginia Baptist Newsletter.

 MISSION SUPPORT		 PER CAPITA														 SUPPORT	
Fifth Avenue	118,286	Send the Light	805	Fifth Avenue	84,351	Sutton	6,430	Simpson Creek	10,083	Hurricane First	24,467	Williamstown First	4,650	Hurricane First	22,782	Fifth Avenue	54,497
Simpson Creek	98,044	Bethel, Morgantown	606	South Parkersburg	56,004	Saint Albans First	4,655	Fifth Avenue	7,830	Emmanuel, Charleston	22,420	Crab Orchard Missionary	2,923	Ravenswood First	16,899	Crab Orchard Missionary	50,741
South Parkersburg	95,246	Fairmont Baptist Temple	487	Charleston Baptist Temple	34,345	Beulah, Grafton	4,598	Harmony, Southside	5,315	Simpson Creek	20,155	Beulah, Grafton	2,566	New Baptist	13,000	Saint Albans First	45,800
Saint Albans First	88,938	Center Branch	417	Oak Hill	25,433	Williamson First	4,500	Hurricane First	5,102	South Parkersburg	19,997	Sand Fork	2,500	Barboursville	11,031	Simpson Creek	44,595
Crab Orchard Missionary	83,021	Willow Tree	416	Rainelle First	17,700	Fifth Avenue	4,145	Sutton	5,000	Saint Albans First	18,144	Beckley First	2,500	Parchment Valley	9,852	South Parkersburg	36,800
Hurricane First	66,314	Beckley First	352	New Martinsville First	16,509	Nutter Fort First	3,831	Crab Orchard Missionary	4,311	Willow Tree	13,874	Fifth Avenue	2,420	Wayne	8,740	Vienna	29,857
Vienna	60,119	Fifth Avenue	296	Calvary, Oak Hill	16,294	Enon, Salem	3,023	Saint Albans First	4,262	Vienna	13,180	Philippi	2,336	Summersville	8,000	Beckley First	29,308
Fairmont Baptist Temple	55,965	Auburn	291	Weirton Heights Memorial	15,543	Crab Orchard Missionary	2,502	Charleston Baptist Temple	3,571	Crab Orchard Missionary	12,000	South Parkersburg	2,300	Grass Lick	6,246	Hurricane First	26,394
Beckley First	51,004	Charleston Baptist Temple	290	Madison	15,462	Beckley First	2,501	Beckley First	2,500	Williamstown First	10,008	Hurricane First	2,239	Genesis Fellowship	6,163	Charleston Baptist Temple	22,449
Charleston Baptist Temple	46,388	Dorcas	279	Lubeck Community	15,050	Open Arms	2,481	Sand Fork	2,500	Milton	9,060	Charleston Baptist Temple	2,073	Pea Ridge	6,000	Elkins First	19,705
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	37,770	Matewan	275	Shuck Memorial	13,784	Charleston Baptist Temple	2,443	South Parkersburg	2,355	New Baptist	9,000	Romney First	2,017	Judson, Winfield	5,656	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	18,395
Emmanuel, Charleston	37,100	Harmony, Southside	275	Highlawn	13,613	South Parkersburg	2,255	Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,970	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	8,959	Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,835	Harmony, Southside	5,400	Ravenswood First	17,409
Summersville	31,332	New Martinsville First	272	Williamson First	13,233	Fairmont Baptist Temple	2,189	Milton	1,790	Beulah Ann Missionary	8,174	Sutton	1,825	Mill Creek, Leroy	5,067	Oak Hill	16,099
Oak Hill	28,506	Saint Albans First	266	Summersville	11,662	Page	1,894	Albright	1,732	Sabraton	7,716	Indian Fork	1,716	Reynoldsville	5,022	Summersville	15,530
New Baptist	27,305	Hopewell, Mount Alto	255	Glenville First	11,635	Cyrus	1,856	Indian Fork	1,716	Mill Creek, Leroy	7,660	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,627	Kanawha City	4,900	New Baptist	13,106
Williamstown First	26,625	Simpson Creek	254	Judson, Belle	11,256	Shuck Memorial	1,800	Little Capon	1,586	Beulah, Grafton	7,526	New Martinsville First	1,502	Williamstown First	4,008	New Martinsville First	12,616
Milton	26,341	East Clarksburg	252	Vienna	10,630	Milton	1,800	Vienna	1,564	Pine Grove, Parkersburg	7,374	Springdale First	1,488	New Hope, Parkersburg	3,750	Rainelle First	12,146
Madison	25,078	Emmanuel, War	252	Emmanuel, Charleston	10,449	Philippi	1,795	Gassaway	1,520	Enon, Salem	6,798	Charleston First	1,360	Danville First	3,750	Barboursville	11,032
New Martinsville First	24,991	Mount Vernon, Salem	250	Racine First	10,250	Vienna	1,747	Shuck Memorial	1,487	Connolly Memorial	6,311	Hanover Missionary	1,330	Lacoma Missionary	3,596	Weirton Heights Memorial	10,742
Willow Tree	24,988	Enon, Grantsville	249	Logan First	9,550	Indian Fork	1,716	Philippi	1,444	Dunbar First	6,219	Shuck Memorial	1,291	Toned Missionary	3,489	Parchment Valley	10,672
Williamson First	23,308	Logan First	247	Fayetteville	9,485	Guyandotte Missionary	1,540	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,385	Philippi	6,009	Newark	1,275	Beulah, Grafton	3,300	Calvary, Oak Hill	10,638
Beulah Ann Missionary	23,274	Lauckport	235	Dorcas	9,428	Morgantown First	1,489	Morgantown First	1,383	Matewan	5,999	Saint Albans First	1,259	Hopewell, Mount Alto	3,279	Lubeck Community	12,236
Elkins First	22,730	Cooper Memorial	229	Main Street	8,558	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,355	Petersburg First	1,354	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	5,897	Willow Tree	1,224	Tallmansville	3,036	Madison	9,998
Ravenswood First	22,689	Flint Chapel	228	New England	8,299	Dunbar First	1,354	Racine First	1,320	Wheeling First	5,148	Spencer First	1,220	Buckhannon First	3,000	Williamson First	9,782
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	22,362	Mount Pisgah	228	Shinnston First	8,114	New Martinsville First	1,348	Goshen	1,310	Hopewell, Mount Alto	4,957	Old Greenbrier	1,126	Parkersburg Baptist Temple	3,000	Fairmont Baptist Temple	9,731
Rainelle First	22,351	Buckhannon First	227	Gauley Bridge	8,004	Bethesda, Barrackville	1,332	Bethesda	1,300	Pea Ridge	4,800	Summersville	1,093	Peterstown	2,952	Shuck Memorial	9,324
Beulah, Grafton	22,188	Wilsonburg	227	Oakwood	6,795	Wilsonburg	1,260	Summersville	1,240	Fifth Avenue	4,759	Oak Hill	1,075	Matewan	2,621	Wayne	8,740
Weirton Heights Memorial	21,681	Rainelle First	224	Hurricane First	6,569	Parkersburg First	1,200	Wilsonburg	1,129	Rockcastle	4,600	Madison	1,054	Emmanuel, War	2,590	Highlawn	8,657
Philippi	21,173	Crab Orchard Missionary	223	Olive Branch, Nettie	6,491	Pea Ridge	1,200	Guyandotte Missionary	1,122	Harmony, Southside	4,577	Mannington First	1,038	Center Branch	2,500	Beulah Ann Missionary	8,600
Harmony, Southside	20,645	Shuck Memorial	222	Salem	5,876	Racine First	1,200	Harmony	1,100	Broad Run	4,541	Diamond	1,015	Sand Fork	2,500	Sand Fork	8,361
Sutton	20,572	Madison	222	Philippi	5,729	Old Greenbrier	1,125	Highlawn	1,100	Cook Memorial	4,509	Bethesda, Barrackville	1,009	Open Arms	2,481	Williamstown First	8,016
Shuck Memorial	20,463	Sutton	219	Page	5,700	Buckhannon First	1,100	Ravenswood First	1,085	Fairview, Forest Hill	4,400	Weston First	1,000	Pine Grove, Parkersburg	2,251	Glenville First	7,738
Lubeck Community	20,069	Scarbro First	218	Meadow Grove	5,695	Harmony	1,100	Elizabeth	1,080	Wilsonburg	4,272	Buckhannon First	1,000	Mannington First	2,107	Judson, Belle	7,390
Dunbar First	20,001	Sistersville First	217	Gilboa	5,671	Mount Carmel	1,078	Old Greenbrier	1,072	Bethel, Morgantown	4,057	Rockcastle	1,000	Sistersville First	2,063	Romney First	7,348
Calvary, Oak Hill	19,639	Rush Run	215	Hope, Frametown	5,611	Rainelle First	1,060	Weston First	1,070	Williamson First	4,000	Elizabeth	923	Simpson Creek	2,000	Racine First	6,718
Petersburg First	18,934	Ravenswood First	214	Cooper Memorial	5,570	Weston First	1,029	Madison	1,042	Oakwood	4,000	Little Capon	910	Broad Run	1,835	Shinnston First	6,527
Parchment Valley	18,545	Romney First	212	Mount Zion	5,501	Spencer First	1,000	Buckhannon First	1,013	Romney First	3,886	Beulah Ann Missionary	900	New Martinsville First	1,721	Emmanuel, Charleston	6,513
Highlawn	18,313	Meadowdale	211	Petersburg First	5,293	Holly River	1,000	Rockcastle	1,000	Poca	3,800	Rainelle First	836	Indian Fork	1,716	Clarksburg	6,499
Pea Ridge	18,310	Racine First	210	Summit Missionary	4,701	Rockcastle	1,000	Beulah Ann Missionary	1,000	Spencer First	3,800	Goshen	800	Parkersburg First	1,520	Petersburg First	6,438
Spencer First	17,560	Independence	207	Enon, Grantsville	4,622	Little Capon	1,000	Kanawha City	956	Fairmont Baptist Temple	3,772	Fayetteville	763	Spencer First	1,500	Pea Ridge	6,360
Main Street	17,011	Enon	205	Diamond	4,528	Jordan Run	974	Rainelle First	875	Hanover Missionary	3,700	Poca	750	Sutton	1,500	Grass Lick	6,320
Pine Grove, Parkersburg	16,992	Philippi	202	Sistersville First	4,503	Point Pleasant, Troy	969	Grass Lick	867	Beckley First	3,700	New Baptist	707	Poca	1,500	Genesis Fellowship	6,163
Gassaway	15,795	Gauley Bridge	201	Big Tygart	4,378	Newark	921	Oak Hill	863	Genesis Fellowship	3,698	Ravenswood First	706	Springdale First	1,488	Main Street	6,145
Fayetteville	15,586	Springdale First	198	Elkins First	4,274	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	876	South Fork	827	Sutton	3,633	Lauckport	700	Wilsonburg	1,398	Logan First	6,106
Barboursville	15,322	Parchment Valley	197	Hamlin First	4,151	Judson, Belle	806	Elkins First	810	Highlawn	3,600	Forks of Coal	700	Forks of Coal	1,250	Dorcas	6,057
Romney First	15,050	Williamson First	196	Saulsville	4,046	Willow Tree	787	Fairmont First	744	Breckenridge	3,600	Tallmansville	699	Lovers Leap	1,200	Judson, Winfield	6,042
Enon	14,937	Mountain	193	Emmanuel, War	3,411	Petersburg First	778	Shinnston First	734	Everson	3,600	Hopewell, Mount Alto	656	Shinnston First	1,200	Fayetteville	6,030
Cook Memorial	14,565	Oak Hill	191	Old Greenbrier	3,273	Ravenswood First	756	Willow Tree	700	Dorcas	3,533	Union, Simpson	640	Sago	1,200	Harmony, Southside	5,923
Connolly Memorial	14,514	Main Street	191	Olive	3,129	South Fork	740	Mannington First	695	Bethesda, Barrackville	3,480	Kingwood	600	Page	1,200	Kanawha City	5,653
Racine First	14,485	Judson, Winfield	187	Bethel, South Charleston	3,120	Kanawha City	723	Weirton Heights Memorial	665	Parchment Valley	3,466	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	599	Sabraton	1,200	Gauley Bridge	5,450

2014 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	8,126
Hurricane First	6,569
Vienna	3,865
Emmanuel, Charleston	3,449
Charleston Baptist Temple	2,947
Milton	2,866
Oak Hill	2,767
South Parkersburg	2,431
Everson	2,273
Fayetteville	2,260
Racine First	2,250
Beckley First	2,112
Crab Orchard Missionary	2,028
Beulah Ann Missionary	2,000
Bethel, Rio	1,976
Bridgeport	1,852
Page	1,800
Summersville	1,662
Dorcas	1,423
Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,388
Sabraton	1,363
Main Street	1,358
Lauckport	1,301
Weirton Heights Memorial	1,276
Wilsonburg	1,165
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,137
Parchment Valley	1,128
Petersburg First	1,081
Boothsville	1,077
Goshen	1,027
Breckenridge	928
Nutter Fort First	865
Mount Pisgah	863
Harmony, Southside	842
New Martinsville First	834
Dunbar First	828
Danville First	825
Emmanuel, War	821
Hope, Frametown	816
Kanawha City	800
Concord	800
Minden	775
Welch First	741
Philippi	729
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	722
Judson, Winfield	702
Auburn	699
Bethel, South Charleston	698
Hepzibah	677
Lubeck Community	667

2014 TOP 50

AB GIRLS' FESTIVAL 2015

Girls in Relationship, Love and Service

(Kindergarten - 8th Grade)

May 2-3, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Look, See and Serve

Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

I Peter 4:10-11

During the weekend, the girls will learn about spiritual gifts, what their individual gifts are and how to use them. Dramas depicting various women of the Bible will also be presented to the girls. The girls will have the opportunity to put together hygiene kits for the children at Weirton Christian Center and we will be collecting an offering for the quarters for good grades program at Weirton Christian Center.

A registration form is available in the April issue of SEASONS.

For more information, please contact Kathy Wince at kathy.wince@gmail.com or 304.481.4145.

American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

A Time to Serve and Thrive

WOMEN AND GIRLS' CONFERENCE



But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV

June 5-7, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Inspirational Speaker and Bible Study Leader: Lisa Simmons

Worship Leaders: Marsha Raker and the Praise Team
from Oakwood Baptist Church

A registration form is available in the April issue of SEASONS.

Hispanic Ministries: How God is Using Our Immigrant Brothers and Sisters - Cómo Dios se Utilicen Nuestros Inmigrante Hermanos y Hermanas

Through the Bible, we find numerous narratives in which God not only shows compassion and mercy toward foreigners, but He also uses people in their condition of immigrants to fulfill His divine purposes in the world. For instance, God's own people came into being as a result of a migrant's obedience to God's call to leave his land, family and people. Abraham embarks on a pilgrimage to a land God promises to show him. He becomes a pilgrim, a stranger and immigrant through whom God covenants to bless all nations of the earth (see Genesis 12:1-2).

Another example is Joseph. After he is sold as a slave by his brothers, he is sent to Egypt where he is forced to become an alien, a stranger, an immigrant. In Egypt, as an immigrant Joseph faces rejection, false charges, ill-treatment, undeserved imprisonment and loneliness. God breaks into the life of this forgotten immigrant and rescues him. And He gives him wisdom to save his family, all of Egypt and surrounding nations from famine (see Genesis 37; 39-47).

In 2 Kings 5:1-19, we find the story of Naaman. There was a slave girl in Naaman's household who was taken captive to serve the household of this powerful military officer. She was a seemingly insignificant immigrant woman. We hardly ever reflect on the fact God uses the faithful witness of this nameless immigrant woman to point Naaman to a prophet of God who can help him. God demonstrates He cares for and loves Naaman. He receives healing and turns to faith in the God of Israel.

Esther serves as another example of how God uses immigrants for His redemptive purposes. As a descendent of immigrants and a woman, she was likely regarded as a second-class citizen without social status or wealth. But her beauty and skillful cultural assimilation helped her to be chosen as part of the king's harem (see Esther 2:7). She became queen in one of the most powerful nations of the earth (see Esther 2:17, 18). And from her position, she made herself available to God and risked her life to save her people from annihilation (see Esther 4:11-14).

We find another example in the life of Daniel. Although he was forced into exile as a prisoner, in exile, and as an immigrant, he becomes a trusted counselor for the king of Babylon (see Daniel 2:48).

Matthew's gospel tells us when King Herod threatens to kill Jesus, an angel urges Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus (see Matthew 2:13-14). Jesus and his family become immigrants, refugees, in the land of Egypt. Later in His life, Jesus identifies himself with immigrants: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (see Matthew 25:35) Once more, Jesus' followers are regarded as pilgrims - they are a community of immigrants (see 1 Peter 2:11 and Hebrews 11:13-16).

It seems as if God delights using those who are seemingly weak and marginalized in their positions of immigrants to carry out His mission and purposes in the world. How is God

using Hispanic immigrants in West Virginia to fulfill His purposes across the globe today?

Let me briefly share with you two stories on how God is using your immigrant brothers and sisters.

Abraham immigrated to the United States a few years ago. He is from San Cristobal de las Casas in the Mexican state of Chiapas - the most impoverished state in Mexico. He is a descendent of indigenous people and speaks Tzotzil. He works as a cook at a Mexican restaurant. With his hard work as a cook, he has supported the planting and construction of new churches in rural communities of San Cristobal de las Casas where there are no churches. "God has blessed me so much," he says. "I know what I do is a little, but I do it because I am thankful to God."

Alexander is another immigrant from Chiapas. "One afternoon," he relates, "I was thoughtful and stared at the zinc sheets that made up the walls of our kitchen. At that time, my dad was an alcoholic ... I was alone, I was 16 years-old and I stared at the sides of the walls. I thought about how we lived. I wanted a house made out of better materials. That was what I saw. So I set that goal. God willing, I would try to come to the United States and do the things I had on my mind."

After years of backbreaking labor as farm workers, Alex and his wife achieved their dream of building their house in Chiapas. But that's not all. As numbers of rural communities in Mexico, their community lacked a high school. Those who wanted a high school degree needed to travel to the nearest city, which was about four hours away. That required significant economic resources not available to most people in the community. Last year, the department of education in Chiapas approved the position of a high school teacher for the community, but there was a small problem: there was no building. Parents and students were disappointed their dream would fall apart. When Alex and his wife learned of the need, they selflessly made the house they built available, at no charge, to shelter the high school. For the first time in the history of the community, 18 youth will have the opportunity to obtain a high school degree.

Abraham and Alex's stories are only two examples of how God is using immigrants, brothers and sisters, to impact their communities. Undoubtedly, there are scores of other stories of immigrants across the United States, who with their generosity have blessed their communities in spite of the perils and challenges they face as undocumented immigrants.

Can we imagine what God is up to with the moving of people across borders? Can we envision what God might want to do through the Hispanic immigrants across the United States?

Thank you for your financial support and prayers as we continue to make a difference in the lives of Hispanic immigrants across the Mountain State.

*Juan Aragon
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

Camp Cowen: Built on Solid Rock

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



The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen will open June 5, 2015 ready to do God's work! It is difficult to think about camp when West Virginia is currently in a state of emergency and almost every county is covered with snow. Yes, that is a concern for the early camps and how the ever-changing school calendar will affect the campers. Please pray as everyone involved makes decisions about attendance, mission trips and family vacations. The Camp Cowen Board made several changes in the previous posted calendar and our prayer is all needs of the campers are met.

Matthew 7:24-25 says "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." The challenge to the campers and counselors alike will be to make sure their faith is built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. All ages and campers, Younger Midler through American Baptist Men need a foundation to stand strong when the storm arrives. Whatever issue campers are dealing with, a relationship with Jesus will strengthen us for the battles.

We ask you to be praying for the counselors and staff who will be the hands and feet of God at Cowen. Pray for a child in the church you attend, offer to pay their way at camp or give them money for the Camp Cowen store. The ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen is strong because of people like you who care, pray and give their resources to do ministry at Cowen. The Camp Cowen Board greatly appreciates the prayers and many contributions to camp.

*Rob Ely
Director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth*

2015 Camp Cowen Schedule

Due to changing school schedules, the Camp Cowen Board has approved a revised schedule for the 2015 West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen summer program. Please mark these dates on your calendar as you plan your agenda for the coming year.

MAY

**American Baptist Men's
Work Weekend**
May 1-2

Youth Work Party
May 15-16

JUNE

Hopewell
June 5-7

Older Midler
(grades 3-4)
June 10-12

Younger Midler
(grades 2-4)
June 12-14

Junior I
(grades 5-6)
June 14-20

Junior High I
(grades 7-9)
June 21-27

Junior II
(grades 5-6)
June 28-July 4

JULY

High School I
(grades 9-12)
July 5-11

Junior High II
(grades 7-9)
July 12-18

Senior Day
2015 High School
Graduates
July 18

High School II
(grades 9-12)
July 19-25

**Raleigh/Rockcastle
Teays Valley**
July 26-31

Family Camp
July 31-August 3

Men's Camp
August 7-9

SEPTEMBER

Camp Global
September 4-6

Reflections on Jim Crouch

Jim Crouch was my friend. Each day, he showed up at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen I knew I would laugh. We had so much in common: our love for Marshall University, sports and especially, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. That gave us a lot to talk about. Since beginning as the director of Camping in 1996, many people, including Wade Coffindaffer and Lloyd Hamblin have helped me so much, but Jim held my hand the entire time. He would listen to me complain, offer his wisdom and ride off on the lawn mower. We had great discussions about the costs of everything; he could tell me how much the garbage bags and light bulbs cost when he was the director. He was also quick to remind me it was Baptist Camp, not Camp Cowen. He never broke me of that habit, but would just smile as he corrected me.

The contributions Jim Crouch has made to the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen since 1943 are the components of a legacy. He participated in the first camps in 1943 to take

care of his brother; he was in on the foundation. Jim was instrumental in the planning of the new Alice Randall Dining Hall. The Crouch Retreat Center has a beautiful center room, kitchenette and two dorms that house 40 people and is named in honor of his brother, Bob Crouch and the love of his life, Gloria. Campers and winter retreats will see the names of Jim, Gloria and Bob.

I am personally thankful Jim Crouch invested in me as Paul did Timothy. The Ely family lives in "The Crouch House" during the summer. The constant reminder of his service has encouraged me for almost 20 years. I will miss his grass cutting, his bad jokes, but most importantly, I will miss my friend, the Rev. James G. Crouch.

*Rob Ely
Director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth*

CARL "GOOCH" ADKINS, 84, of Midway, died February 3, 2015. He was a member of Sunset Hills Missionary Baptist Church in Coal City, where he served as a church trustee. He was a 12-year veteran of the United States Air Force.

WAYNE ANDERSON, 86, of Ripley, died February 21, 2015. He was a member of Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he served as a trustee and in many other areas. He served in the United States Army.

MAUDE ATKINSON, 88, of Point Pleasant, died February 27, 2015. She was a member of Concord Baptist Church (Teays Valley).

PATRICIA ANN WILLIS "PAT" BAKER, 83, of Elkins, died February 6, 2015. She was a member of Elkins First Baptist Church (Union) for 57 years, where she was a member of the JOY Sunday School Class and the Good Morning Circle.

ANN MARGARET SNYDER BAUGHAN, 47, of Parkersburg, died January 15, 2015. She was a member of North Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a deaconess.

HERMAN LEE BISHOP, North Matewan, died February 21, 2015. He was a member of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo). He was a United States World War II Army Veteran who had proudly served during the Korean War.

ESTHER ELIZABETH BRYANT BRAGG, 98, died February 18, 2015. She was a member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she was a deaconess, Kindergarten Sunday School teacher, Chancel Choir member and soloist and Dynamic Adults Sunday School Class member.

DONALD LEE "DONNIE" BROWN, died February 3, 2015. He was a member of Beulah Baptist Church (Union).

THOMAS E. BUMGARDNER, 85, died February 5, 2015. He was an active member of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he loved to sing in the choir. He served his country as a soldier in the United States Army.

RUTH B. VANWAY BUSCH, 87, of Parkersburg, died January 31, 2015. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she had been a member of Soul Sisters.

MARILYN PHILLIPS CARPENTER, 86, of Penney Farms, Florida, died January 19, 2015. She was an active member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she participated as singer and soloist in the choir, which she often directed. She also directed the ViBaChu Singers Youth Choir.

BILL G. DAVIS, of Williamson, died January 23, 2015. He was an active

member of Williamson First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), where he served in multiple capacities over the last several years. He served as a deacon and choir member. He served in the United States Army for five years.

REBECCA LYNN SIMMONS DRENNON, 57, of Parkersburg, died February 8, 2015. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she taught two and three-year-olds for many years and directed the Cherub Choir. She was a member of the Seekers Sunday School Class and the Lesley Turley Circle.

BETTY E. HATFIELD, 90, of Harrisville, died February 17, 2015. She was an active member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville), where she had been a member for 61 years and held numerous positions.

ROBERT PAUL JOHNSON, 97, of Diamond, died January 23, 2015. He was a member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served as deacon and usher. He was also a World War II veteran.

THOMAS "TOM" G. MASON, 81, of Salem, died February 18, 2015. He was very active with Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run) where he was trustee, former deacon and current Christian Education Board member.

WILMA GAIL (WOODFORD) MCVICKER, 69, died February 15, 2015. She was an active member of Mount Olive Baptist Church (Union), where she had been church clerk.

ERMA N. O'DELL, 100, of Vienna, died February 13, 2015. She was a member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and was active in the Harvester Sunday School Class, crafters and served on the Hostess Board.

A. MICHAEL PERRY, 78, of Huntington, died February 25, 2015. Mike had been an active member of Beverly Hills Baptist Church, now known as New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), serving on most every committee, singing in the choir and teaching his beloved Berean Sunday School Class for over 34 years. He served as interim president of Marshall University.

BONNIE JEAN ALTMAN PRITCHARD, 85, of Bridgeport, died February 9, 2015. She was an active member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) for 60 years, serving as Sunday school and Bible school teacher and enjoying the fellowship and service of women's circles.

WILLIAM H. "BILL" REED, 83, of Charleston, died February 13, 2015. He was a faithful member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a lay minister and taught Sunday school over 30 years. He was a deacon, parliamentarian and sang in the

church choir. He was also honored by the church as father of the year in 1992. He was a veteran of both the United States Marine Corps and United States Navy, serving during the Korean War.

VERLIN RICHARD SECRIST, 85, of Edmond, died February 10, 2015. He was a member of Sunday Road Baptist Church (Hopewell). He pastored churches in North Carolina, Sharon Baptist Church and Cape Fear Baptist Church and West Virginia, Graydon Baptist Church and Lovers Leap Baptist Church (Hopewell). He also served several churches as an interim pastor. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

GENE EARL SHAFFER, 83, died January 23, 2015. He had been a member of New England Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a trustee, deacon and Sunday school superintendent.

R. DOYLE SKINNER, 83, died February 7, 2015. He was a long-time member of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where he had served as a trustee.

RUBY MARIE RILEY SNIDER, 90, of Weston, died February 9, 2015. She was a member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where she was a Sunday school teacher and served on several boards and committees.

FREDONA "FREDDIE" EAMES STENGER, 80, of Morgantown, died February 15, 2015. She was an active member of Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen). She was also a short term missionary in Cuba.

GILBERT PAUL "GIB" WEBB, SR., 72, of Belleville, died March 3, 2015. He was a member of Belleville Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a deacon. He also served in the United States Army (National Guard).

ERNEST "ERNIE" LEE WHITE SR., 79, of Charleston, died January 26, 2015. He served as the pastor of Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 27 years.

ADAM FAY WILSON, 99, of Point Pleasant, died January 24, 2015. He was a member of Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) since 1938. He has served the church in leadership positions, including Board of Deacons, Board of Christian Education, superintendent of Sunday school, Sunday school teacher and Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) leader. He was a member of the United States Army.

PHYLLIS HATCHER WINTER, 97, died February 19, 2015. She was a 50-year plus member of Judson Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and was a member of the Lydia Sunday School Class.



JAMES G. CROUCH, 84, of Summersville, died January 15, 2015. Crouch was a former pastor at Mount Carmel Baptist Church in

Kentucky, Bethel Baptist Church in Parkersburg, Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell), Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), Maryvale Baptist Church in Arizona and Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell). He was a member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention staff, director of World Mission Support and volunteer staff member of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. He was director of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen from 1985-1993, where he served as "head grass cutter" for 30 years. Upon retirement, he was interim pastor at Weston First Baptist Church, Frametown Baptist Church, Summersville Baptist Church and Summersville Presbyterian Church as well as filling numerous pulpits throughout the state.



MICHAEL "MIKE" DERRY, 67, died January 18, 2015. Derry was immersed in the Christian community that would be his lifelong sup-

port and vocation from an early age. He followed in his father's footsteps and surrendered to the call of the ministry. He was a beloved minister and leader to six congregations in Ohio and West Virginia: Darby Baptist Church in Plain City, Ohio (1970-1974); Alexandria Baptist Church in Alexandria, Ohio (1974-1979); Ada First Baptist Church in Ada, Ohio (1979-1983); Ironton First Baptist Church in Ironton, Ohio (1983-1990); Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) (1990-1999); and Poca Baptist Church (Teays Valley) (2009-2014). He served as an area minister for nine years in West Virginia from 1999-2009. He faithfully served the Lord for 44 years, retiring in June of 2014. His legacy is the love, kindness, spiritual direction and leadership that he provided to all who came in contact with him.



DOUGLAS W. HILL, 87, of Marietta, Ohio, died February 21, 2015. Hill began his ministry at Delaware Avenue Baptist Church, in

Buffalo, New York, then organized the South Hills Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1957 before moving in 1962 to Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte). In 1967, he began work as an area minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. In 1978, he became the executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention until his retirement in 1992.

Hill was the first director of the West Virginia Baptist Campus Ministry program and was a long serving member of the board of the Allohak Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). His service to the BSA was evidenced when he and his father, Eric Hill, became the first father-son combination to receive the prestigious American Baptist Good Shepherd Award for service to the BSA in 1983.



Biennial Mission Summit 2015

American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit will be returning to Overland Park, Kansas June 26-28, 2015.

Additional events occur before and after the official Mission Summit dates.

Check out the website www.americanbaptists2015.com for additional information.

Leadership Updates

REV. MICHAEL MARTIN to Wellsburg First Baptist Church (Panhandle) as pastor in January 2015

REV. LESLIE (LES) MULLENS to Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell) as interim pastor on February 1, 2015

REV. BRYAN PRUETT to Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as pastor on February 1, 2015

Trading Post

FREE: CHOIR MUSIC. Madison Baptist Church (Coal River) has a significant amount of choir music. Much, but not all is older, traditional church choir music that requires a larger and/or more advanced level of musical expertise from both the choir and the accompanist. Willing to donate some or all of this music to any of our sister churches. Complete list of music is available. Also have extra music storage boxes. Please contact Constance Brammer at dzbutterfly5200@gmail.com or 304.369.1061.

WANTED: MAPS OF THE WORLD, UNITED STATES AND STATE FOR CAMP GLOBAL 2015. Please mail your map(s) to West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn: Joan Hall, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.

April 2015

APRIL 1 - Donna Dingus, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
APRIL 2 - The ministry of Handley Baptist Church; Lewis Villers, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
APRIL 3 - The ministry of Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont)
APRIL 4 - Sheila Chipps, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
APRIL 5 - Thank you, Lord, for sending Your Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins
APRIL 6 - Rebecca Stanton, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Liberia
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 - Matt Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
APRIL 10 - The ministry of Oceana First Baptist Church; Jerry Cook, pastor (Rockcastle)
APRIL 11 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting at Parchment Valley Conference Center
APRIL 12 - The ministry of Gatewood Baptist Church; Harry Fuller, pastor (Fayette)
APRIL 13 - The ministry of Fort Spring Baptist Church; Jonathan Hunt, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
APRIL 14 - The ministry of Middleville Baptist Church; Paul Boyles, pastor (Union)
APRIL 15 - Ginny Prunty, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
APRIL 16 - Marie Delong, clerk/treasurer, Good Hope Association
APRIL 17 - The ministry of Hill Grove Baptist Church; William Stutler, pastor (Good Hope)
APRIL 18 - The Evangelism Conference at Parchment Valley Conference Center
APRIL 19 - The ministry of New Hope Community Baptist Church; Adam Hanna, pastor (Hopewell)
APRIL 20 - The ministry of Reynoldsville Baptist Church; Jon Hayes, pastor (Judson)
APRIL 21 - The ministry of Hope Christian Center; Mike Lewis, pastor (Guyandotte)
APRIL 22 - Dan Chadwick, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, West Union Baptist Church (Broad Run)
APRIL 23 - The ministry of Jordan Run Baptist Church; Rick Bergdoll, pastor (Eastern)
APRIL 24 - Corenne Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil
APRIL 25 - Omega at Gassaway Baptist Church
APRIL 26 - The ministry of Freeman's Creek Baptist Church; Philip Heater, pastor (Broad Run)
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 - Joyce Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
APRIL 30 - Don Biram, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and pastor, New Martinsville Baptist Church (Panhandle)

May 2015

MAY 1 - AB GIRLS' Festival this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 2 - American Baptist Men's Work Weekend at Camp Cowen
MAY 3 - The ministry of Grafton First Baptist Church; Orville Wright, pastor (Union)
MAY 4 - The Spring Golden'eers Retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 5 - Tom Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bulgaria
MAY 6 - The ministry of Highland Avenue Baptist Church (Rockcastle)
MAY 7 - Nora Kalkman, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Czech Republic
MAY 8 - The ministry of Scott Street Baptist Church; Garry Moore, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
MAY 9 - The ministry of Chesapeake First Baptist Church; John Reed, 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 this week at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
MAY 15 - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; Benjamin Simmons, pastor (Teays Valley)
MAY 16 - Youth Work Weekend at Camp Cowen
MAY 17 - The ministry of Shinnston First Baptist Church; Kevin Nuzum, pastor (Judson)
MAY 18 - Pastors 4 Pastors' Spring Retreat at Camp Cowen
MAY 19 - The ministry of City Soul Ministries; Luke Easter, pastor (Parkersburg)
MAY 20 - Hemelinda Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to United Kingdom
MAY 21 - Lee Ann Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
MAY 22 - Tracy Mills, moderator, Guyandotte Association
MAY 23 - The ministry of Millbrook Baptist Church; Steve Martin, pastor (Hopewell)
MAY 24 - Kevin Emerick, site maintenance manager, Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 25 - The ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; Michael Harriman, pastor (Goshen)
MAY 26 - Wayne Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 27 - The ministry of Beulah Ann Baptist Church; Paul Meadows, pastor (Guyandotte)
MAY 28 - Kyle Williams, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 29 - Abie Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia
MAY 30 - The ministry of Ten Mile Baptist Church; Bradley Tenney, pastor (Broad Run)
MAY 31 - The ministry of Pleasant Dale Baptist Church; Wayne Litton, pastor (Elk Valley)

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

Coming Events

APRIL

April 3

Good Friday

West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

April 11

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board**

Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 11

Dr. Douglas W. Hill Memorial Service
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 18

"Making Friends, Making Disciples"
Evangelism Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 25

Omega

Gassaway Baptist Church

April 25

**School of Christian Studies
Weddings and Funerals (E-05)
One-Day Class**

Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 28

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

Various Locations

MAY

May 1-2

American Baptist Men's Work Weekend
Camp Cowen

May 1-3

American Baptist GIRLS' Festival
Parchment Valley Conference Center

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

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Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

OMEGA 2015

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.

April 25
Gassaway Baptist Church

Cost: \$15.00 per person



SPEAKER:
Ray Sydnor



BAND:
Render the Hearts

For a registration form and/or more information, visit www.wvbc.org
or contact Valma at 800.879.9822.

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