

Weirton Christian Center: Providing for; Protecting; and Proclaiming the Good News to; Future Generations

*by Kim Weaver
Director, Weirton Christian Center*

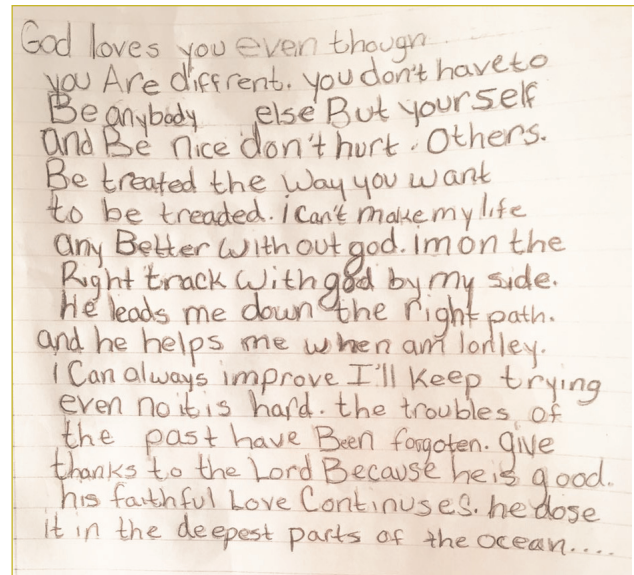
The Weirton Christian Center has been making a difference in the lives of children for almost 99 years, from being the place for immigrants to gain citizenship and receive immunizations to being the only kindergarten in town to now serving close to 300 children and their families every year. The Weirton Christian Center has been doing God's work with those who need it most.

With our steel mill workforce reduced from its starting point of 13,000 employees to now under 800, the community has changed to a culture of minimum wage jobs, gaming and drugs. We have had to change with it. We now offer a free Christian preschool for three and four-year olds as well as a free afterschool program for students from five to 18-years old. Each year we seem to fill more needs in the lives of these children. What used to be an afterschool hangout is now a place where we make sure homework is completed and sign off on it. We are in communication with teachers and make sure the children are getting time on the computers with Lexia Learning (technology based reading program) and IXL (immersive K-12 learning experience) to improve reading and math skills. We give them a snack when they come through the door and dinner before they leave. On long weekends or holidays, we send home blessing bags so our kids will be sure to eat. We provide literacy and fitness programs and lots of opportunities they otherwise would never have. When school supplies, clothing, coats or shoes are needed, the children know we will make sure those needs are met. If they want to play a sport and can't afford the shoes or uniform, they know we will help make it possible.

Most importantly, the children at Weirton Christian Center learn scriptures, learn to pray and know Jesus.

Their relationship with Jesus is the most important to me, and in light of recent drug busts in our neighborhood and families, I feel the need to share with you. We have an awesome little six-year old who was baptized at camp last summer and truly knows the Lord. He prays like a preacher and even teaches others to pray. He is an old soul. When the van took him home one night, there were six police cars at his home and the police took his parents away for drugs; he was living in a meth lab with

his two younger siblings. Our hearts ache for him. He is now unable to attend at the center, and we don't know where he is. Now we understand why he was losing weight and changing. The good news is he has Jesus with him. He knows how to pray and we have to trust God is taking care of him. Two days after this happened, a second grader, who had no homework, sat down and wrote the note you see here. I had been distraught over the situation and this second grader turned my day around and my hope back on.



God loves you even though
you are different. you don't have to
be anybody else But yourself
and be nice don't hurt others.
Be treated the way you want
to be treated. I can't make my life
any better with out god. Im on the
right track with god by my side.
He leads me down the right path.
and he helps me when am lonely.
I can always improve I'll keep trying
even no it is hard. the troubles of
the past have been forgotten. Give
thanks to the Lord Because he is good.
his faithful love continues. he dose
it in the deepest parts of the ocean....

With drug busts and uncaring families and adults all around us, our children truly need a safe place where they can be locked down under one roof with a secure entry system. We would like to thank our West Virginia Baptist churches for the commitment to help complete our **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT**. We are meeting with contractors and funders and we ask for your prayers for God's will in this project as well as the financial support. We would not be here or be able to do what we do without the support of our West Virginia Baptist family. Please keep our children and our ministry in your prayers. Every day could be our last opportunity with a child. Thank you for your partnership and support.



There's an App for That!

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

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Focus on our Focus

With all the challenges to our faith and faith-based organizations we need not be distracted from our focus. A crisis in a church is seldom what it seems. The real question behind the apparent question is an issue of identity and mission. Have we lost our inner compass as a culture? Will American Christians be the next persecuted minority group?



Dr. David Carrico

Some suggest America has been driven off course by leaders with a purely secular agenda. Other folks want the church and pastors to primarily address issues of the day. God reigns and He gives us the responsibility to be His agents of His spirit, focusing on spiritual issues. If we believe our nation has slipped into moral and ethical decay, we must stop the slide, *focus on our focus* and shine the light of truth on actions that produce peace and health. There are consequences for actions and at times for inaction. It is not fashionable today to hold someone accountable for what happens. We must look first to ourselves to do what is Godly before we point out the failures of others. Romans 12:18 reminds us, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (NIV) As we keep our *focus on our focus*, we are able to move beyond our fears about the future of our churches and allow those fears to become crucibles of hope. Many churches are dens of delusion and we spend our energy and resources rebuilding what is dysfunctional.

Change is a transition from same to different. In the past, observation of change is usually problematic because most change is gradual. We are not aware of it happening. During the past years, the speed of change has increased and the challenges are to be aware of what has changed. Our culture is obsessed with speed and convenience and this hits at

the church very hard. Many of our religious organizations are not designed for flexibility and easy decision making. As we *focus on our focus* we can have a new dynamic approach to doing church by establishing a mission that is both flexible and brings consensus to the body of believers. Change

challenges the assumption about the purpose of the church. One of the assumptions is when we bring in new members who are still in a post-Christian world the missional church says we also need to send them out. Worship is no longer seen primarily as evangelism, but rather as inspiring church members to do evangelism. Another way of *focusing on our focus* is to be a "doing" body of believers, which challenges our classic division of labor in a church. As Baptists, while we believe in the priesthood of believers, many of our church members would like to pay someone else to do our work for us. In the missional church, we serve and send out! Our focus is to be missional that other folks may come to know the greatest Servant of all, Jesus Christ. Too many Christians want to be in management rather than in labor in the church organization.

Phyllis Tickle, in her book, *The Great Emergence*, says every five hundred years the church has to have a house cleaning, a rummage sale. She cites this 500-year cycle in church history as the way we look at the world - the old pattern of institutions being out of sync with reality. Tickle says the good news is a more vital form of Christianity emerges from the chaos. Let us *focus on our focus*, not on the chaos.

Christ lived, died, rose from the dead and will return! The church must align itself with that reality. Our focus must be nothing less and a great deal more.

Blessings



Transformed Learning...Transformed Leading...Transformed Lives

Are you a leader in your women's ministry? Do you wish you had more leadership skills? Are you looking for ways to educate some of your women who have potential to be leaders? Would you like to grow as a leader in your women's ministry?

American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia is offering this very opportunity for women across our state. With funding from *Million Women Movement*, a Women's Leadership Academy is being established. With ten courses being offered over a two-year period, you will learn such things as the characteristics of a Christian leader, personal spiritual formation, developing visions, organization, communications, teamwork, mentoring, where to find resources, creating projects and activities and evaluating your ministry. Women completing all ten courses will receive a certificate of recognition at one of the annual women's events.

The first class of the Women's Leadership Academy will be offered at the Women and GIRLS' conference, June 3-5, 2016 at Parchment Valley Conference Center. *Characteristics of a Christian Leader* will be led by Sandra Lutz. Watch Seasons' newsletter and the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter for future classes being offered.

Become part of this new opportunity that will give you valuable information to help you grow your women's ministry. Use the registration form for the conference found in *Seasons'* newsletter and on the web at: www.wvbc.org and click on Partners.

Sions Called as Northern BCM Director



Rev. Kevin Sions has accepted the call to serve as the northern director for Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). The call was extended to him by the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in a specially called meeting by President Sandy Phares.

The Board of Directors for Baptist Campus Ministries served as the search committee and recommended Sions for the position. Acting upon the recommendation of Dr. David Carrico, Executive Minister, the Executive Committee received the recommendation and unanimously voted to extend a call to Rev. Sions.

Sions will serve as the campus minister for the Morgantown campus of West Virginia University and supervise and develop the other campus ministries in the northern part of the state. He joins the Student Ministries' team under the direction of Rob Ely.

As part of the professional staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Sions will be available to speak in churches, association meetings and other events in the region. He will be a member of the Christian Outreach Commission.

Sions comes to the Convention staff having most recently served as pastor of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen). He has served on the BCM Board of Directors. As a student at Alderson Broaddus University, he was active in BCM, serving on its leadership team. He later served as the Associate in Ministry for BCM at his alma mater.

After completing his BA in Christian Studies/Education at AB, Sions did his Masters of Divinity studies and graduated from Palmer Theological Seminary.

You may contact Kevin by email at: sions@wvbc.org.

Marshall BCM Active In "End It Movement"



Changing Lives that Change the World

Students from multiple Christian organizations on the campus of Marshall University participated in a 27-hour stand in to raise awareness of human trafficking and slavery. Each of the 27 hours represented a million enslaved people.

Students from Marshall University Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) were visible participants in this event. In a recent Parthenon front page story, Andrew Ely, a junior nursing major was quoted extensively saying, "Raising awareness of this issue can prompt people to donate to the cause in order to help those who are trapped in any form of slavery. We've heard mis-

sionaries talk before about how easy it would be to rid this with what is considered small amounts of funds, typically, Americans spend more on pet costumes than they do helping people that need what we consider to be the most important thing: the gospel."

Sophomore statistics and writing double major David Hannan said this movement was important to him because of his faith. He is quoted as saying, "A big reason why BCM and Christians want to support the End It Movement is because we believe Jesus has set us free and so we want to be about freedom in the world. There are people who aren't free, so we hope to shine light on that and be able to share a love of God through that."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was compiled from a story written by Nancy Peyton published in The Parthenon on March 10, 2016.

Hispanic Ministries: Local Churches Share God's Love with Migrant Workers - Iglesias Locales Compartir el Amor de Dios con los Trabajadores Migratorios

Hardly anyone would dispute the significant contributions that agricultural workers make to the United States economy. Because of their arduous labor we enjoy low-cost fruits and vegetables all year round. In spite of their hard work, these families and their children usually live in poverty, making them one of the most disadvantaged and at-risk groups in the United States. The fruit of their back-breaking labor is highly visible; they are not. An "invisibility shroud" has covered them. They are not seen, not heard and often forgotten.

A large majority of these farm workers are from southern Mexico and Guatemala. For many of them, Spanish and English are foreign languages. They speak indigenous languages such as Mam, Mixtec, Nahuatl, Quiche, Tzotzil and Zapotecan. As scores of migrants, they have come to the United States not only fleeing the dire conditions they face in their impoverished communities, but also seeking opportunities that will allow them to give to their families a more dignified life.

In the farms along the Ohio River, these workers are paid \$1.25 for every 25 pound box of tomatoes. To pick the tomatoes they use a large bucket which weighs about 32 pounds. They must choose only the best tomatoes; once they have picked enough tomatoes to fill the bucket they lift the bucket to carry it onto their shoulders. Then they make their way through the spongy and lumpy soil to the truck where they dump the tomatoes. They run back to the field to do the same thing over and over, sometimes for as long as 14 hours. They are possibly some of the hardest working people in the United States.

Several years ago, God led us to start Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope). And for the last five years, several churches from the Good Hope (Parchment Valley Baptist Church, Mill Creek Baptist Church, Spencer First Baptist Church and Ravenswood First Baptist Church) and Parkersburg Associations (Lifespring Jackson and Mason, Parkersburg First Baptist Church, Lubeck Community Baptist Church and City Soul Ministries) have partnered with Iglesia Bautista Comunidad Nueva Esperanza to respond to Jesus' mandate to share the good news and care for "the least of these."

With the support of these churches, each Saturday through the months of June, July and August we provide a meal and sometimes a hygiene kit containing basic toiletries. The

churches prepare a meal and then we go together to the fields where they work under the intense summer sun. We give them the meal, which they timidly receive and then, if time allows, we offer to pray for their needs. They hardly ever turn down a prayer. We usually make a circle and together in our own languages offer a prayer to our heavenly Father.

We are gearing up for the summer months and I want to ask you to please pray for Comunidad Nueva Esperanza as we seek to share God's love with the migrant workers. If your church would like to partner with us to demonstrate compassion to these migrant workers in a tangible way by preparing a meal or by donating a basic hygiene kit, please do not hesitate to contact me (aragon@wvbc.org or 304.488.1027).



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

If the Shoe Fits?



It was time to buy new work shoes. I went to the department store where I have bought my everyday work shoes many times. I looked at the selection on the wall and asked the clerk

to get me a pair from the back in my size. When I told him my shoe size he asked me if I was sure that was correct. I told him I had been wearing the same size for 45 years, so I was pretty sure of the size.

He then asked me when I had last had my feet measured and offered to measure my feet. So I took off my shoes and let him evaluate my foot size. I was in shock when he told me I needed to be wearing shoes two full sizes larger than I had been wearing. I had been measuring my foot by the length of my feet instead of the length of my arches. My feet and back sure feel better in the right shoes.

"What does this have to do with missions or the church?" you ask. The lesson I learned from this illustration is we often keep doing things the way we always have without evaluating what is needed today.

We will live and work in constant discomfort and lack of success wondering all the while why things are not working. We blame the culture, we blame the economy, we blame ... When all the while we do not take the time or effort to fully evaluate our surrounding ministry challenges and shape our ministries to meet them.

It took less than five minutes for someone who knew what he was doing to get me properly fitted. I can now work all day without pain. I have more balance. I can function the way God purposed.

I believe an honest, thorough evaluation of a church and its ministries can lead to changes that better promote mission; changes that improve ministry in the community; and changes that make for a healthier congregation that is working to fulfill God's purpose.

Committed to Missions

THANK YOU
for your
continued support of the
MOUNTAIN STATE
MISSION OFFERING.



**100% supporting the mission
and ministries of the
West Virginia Baptist
Convention.**

*Mountain State Mission Offering
materials will be mailed by
the middle of April.*

**Seats are still available to
travel with us to the**



"On Earth as it is in Heaven"

July 3-9, 2016

**Green Lake Conference Center
Green Lake, Wisconsin**

Invited missionaries include:

Bill and Ann Clemmer (South Sudan), **Jeff and Annie Dieselberg** (Thailand), **Madline Flores-Lopez** (Dominican Republic), **Susan Hegarty** (Costa Rica), **Mike and Jill Lowery** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), **Ketly and Vital Pierre** (Dominican Republic), **J.D. and Rhonda Reed** (Bolivia), **Ray Schellinger** (Mexico, Haiti, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic) and **Walt and Jeanine White** (global consultants, teaching and training team)

Cost for the week: \$800.00 double occupancy

Music Leader: Brian McClure -
vocalist, pianist, guitarist and song writer and former
Alderson Broadus University West Virginian

Contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or
hall@wvbc.org to register today.

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

Parchment Valley Receives Funding for Vehicles



Each year, the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia select a special project in which to channel financial support. In recent years, this ministry has provided the following for Parchment Valley Conference

Center: \$22,638.96 for playground equipment (2006), \$15,096.12 for kitchen equipment, internet enhancements and lighting (2010) and \$14,466.45 for kitchen equipment, new mattresses and showers (2013).

In 2015, they again selected Parchment Valley Conference Center as their special project and set a goal of \$12,000 to be designated for a new service vehicle. As many of you are aware, our old truck had served us well, but was in such a state of repair that it was dangerous to drive. The American Baptist Women again came through to help us with a great need. They not only reached their goal of \$12,000.00, but gave \$14,880.31 towards the purchase of a new vehicle. We were also able to purchase an additional truck for other uses here at Parchment Valley.

If you do the math, in the past ten years the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia have provided \$67,081.84 toward the needs of Parchment Valley Conference



Center. Words cannot adequately express my appreciation to them. Parchment Valley Conference Center thrives because of our caring West Virginia American Baptists. We could not survive without the monetary support of groups and individuals or the volunteers who give of their time and talents to improve and maintain this facility.



Frank Miller, director, Parchment Valley Conference Center, stands by the new vehicle provided by the ABWM Special Project.

To the American Baptist Women of West Virginia as well as all the others who support us in any way, Parchment Valley Conference Center thanks you and may God bless you.

Discipleship Ministries

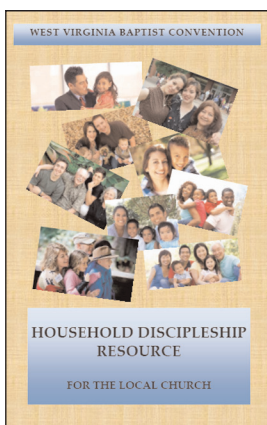
by **Lisa Simmons**, Director

Adult Discipleship: Household Discipleship Resources Available

Developed and produced with the help and guidance of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Discipleship Commission, a new local church resource, titled *Household Discipleship* is available. The Discipleship Commission is encouraging every church to set aside one month in 2016 to focus on discipleship in the home.

The Bible is very specific about the responsibility of parents in guiding their children as they grow in their faith and knowledge of God. Too many times the church is looked to as the main source of guidance and interaction with children and youth in the area of discipleship. Parents and guardians often "outsource" the work of discipleship to the church and hand

over their responsibilities. The Bible is clear the best way to reach, teach and disciple is first through the family with the church as partner.



The *Household Discipleship* resource includes recommended readings for parents/guardians, practical ideas for use with families, four sermon topics (includes scripture, main points and illustrations) and four print-ready bulletin inserts.

Church leaders may use the resource for a one month emphasis on Sunday mornings or evenings, for small group study or a Sunday school elective. A once a month emphasis for four months is also a possibility. The emphasis can serve as a starting point for a new church ministry focusing on teaching, encouraging and supporting families in home discipleship.

Copies of the resource can be obtained by contacting Valma Adams, administrative assistant for Discipleship Ministries at 800.879.9822 or online at www.wvbc.org, click Resources and download.

For consultation and assistance in this area or any area of Discipleship, please contact Lisa Simmons, director of Discipleship at lsimmons@wvbc.org.

Camp Cowen: *Where do you Fit into the Legacy of Leadership?*

The theme verse for the 2016 camping season is intended to encourage and inspire campers to study scripture with the purpose of understanding the beliefs they claim. By doing this, the hope is they may better explain why they believe what they believe.

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15

Preparation requires work and focus. Preparation stems from intensity. For instance, one would not make preparations over something for which there is no sense of urgency. As the theme of camp in 2016 spurs campers to understand why they believe what they believe, they will also begin to comprehend the sense of urgency in the world around them. The culture surrounding campers in their school and extracurricular settings is one of chaotic mess. Cowen is a safe haven in the mess of the surrounding culture where students can go to prepare to meet the challenges of the world around them. If you have been a camper or a counselor before, you know this to be a true statement.

COWEN SUNDAY

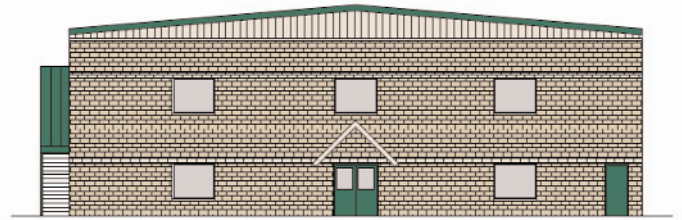
Where: Your Home Church

When: April 24, 2016

What: A statewide designated Sunday to celebrate, promote and support the ministry at Camp Cowen

Contact jennifer@wvbc.org for materials.

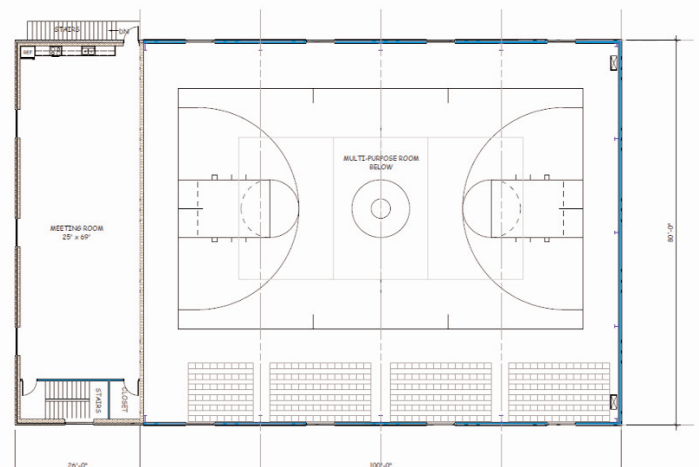
Campers leave Cowen changed by their experiences. Through wisdom and calling by God, Cowen leaders continue to look forward to challenging themselves and the campers with how they will be changed through their experiences at Cowen. The plans for the Sunny Day Leadership and Activities Facility have already been drawn up and announced. It is time to begin to put the plans into motion by raising the funds for the new facility.



Proposed front elevation

The Sunny Day Leadership and Activities Facility is being built with the intention of raising up leaders through the camp experience and to provide a place for indoor activities on days that would otherwise shut down the regular camp schedule. The naming of the new facility sprouts from the catchphrase of a young woman who grew in her love for Christ and in her leadership abilities for Him while at camp: Alissa Cantrell. The faith and leadership Alissa portrayed are the legacy meant to be continued through the new facility and the camp experience as a whole. With the ability to use this new facility to honor leaders who have gone before us and to teach youth Biblical leadership skills needed to counter the world around them, a new foundation can be established on which young leaders can rise up.

Please consider the opportunity laid out at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen and how you fit into the legacy of leadership there. Regardless as to whether you are able to sponsor or pray for a child going to camp, disciple a child returning or help fund the facility being built itself; what you do will make a lasting impact? With Cowen Sunday approaching (April 24, 2016) please remain in prayerful consideration to determine the role God has for you in the life at Cowen.



 MISSION SUPPORT		 PER CAPITA														 SUPPORT	
South Parkersburg	102,786	Send the Light Comm. Fell.	1,275	Fifth Avenue	77,568	Sutton	5,020	Simpson Creek	8,942	Hurricane First	20,128	Fifth Avenue	3,880	Hurricane First	22,682	Fifth Avenue	50,119
Simpson Creek	101,332	Bethel, Morgantown	782	South Parkersburg	58,450	Beulah, Grafton	4,887	Hurricane First	6,342	Simpson Creek	18,761	Gassaway	3,601	Ravenswood First	15,356	Crab Orchard Missionary	48,254
Fifth Avenue	95,315	Hopewell, Mount Alto	458	Charleston Baptist Temple	45,393	Williamson First	4,440	Harrisville	5,814	Saint Albans First	18,746	Hurricane First	3,426	New Baptist	13,000	Simpson Creek	47,293
Saint Albans First	89,320	Mount Pisgah	416	Lubeck Community	21,566	Madison	4,016	Charleston Baptist Temple	5,210	Emmanuel, Charleston	17,427	Williamstown First	3,125	Kenova First	12,079	Saint Albans First	46,125
Vienna	70,653	Charleston Baptist Temple	383	Oak Hill	20,873	Fifth Avenue	3,941	Fifth Avenue	4,543	Clearview Fellowship	15,000	Shuck Memorial	2,956	Barboursville	12,025	South Parkersburg	38,342
Crab Orchard Missionary	68,465	Willow Tree	378	New Martinsville First	18,449	Saint Albans First	3,723	Sand Fork	4,530	Vienna	13,868	Dunbar First	2,549	Wayne	10,974	Charleston Baptist Temple	29,451
Hurricane First	65,760	Auburn	327	Rainelle First	17,700	Crab Orchard Missionary	2,930	Saint Albans First	3,947	South Parkersburg	12,919	Sand Fork, Sand Fork	2,500	Parchment Valley	10,458	Vienna	27,641
Charleston Baptist Temple	61,249	Beckley First	322	Shuck Memorial	16,582	Guyandotte Missionary	2,828	Gassaway	3,388	Willow Tree	12,271	South Parkersburg	2,250	Summersville	7,333	Hurricane First	26,406
Beckley First	43,803	New Martinsville First	304	Madison	15,264	Open Arms	2,660	Vienna	3,067	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	8,864	Wilsonburg	2,150	Judson, Winfield	6,199	Beckley First	25,427
Gassaway	41,097	Wilsonburg	294	Weirton Heights Memorial	15,160	Beckley First	2,520	Sutton	3,035	Harmony, Southside	8,337	Indian Fork	1,888	Grass Lick	6,086	Elkins First	20,013
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	37,941	Harmony, Southside	288	Williamson First	14,292	Charleston Baptist Temple	2,480	Beckley First	2,500	Morgantown First	8,131	Saint Albans First	1,572	Pea Ridge	6,000	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	19,097
Madison	29,535	Dorcas	275	Judson, Belle	13,964	Racine First	2,405	South Parkersburg	2,299	Sabraton	7,921	Morgantown First	1,561	Beulah, Grafton	5,542	Ravenswood First	15,699
Emmanuel, Charleston	28,993	Shuck Memorial	267	Calvary, Oak Hill	13,566	South Parkersburg	2,260	Milton	2,150	Mill Creek, Leroy	7,719	Springdale First	1,445	Reynoldsville	5,449	Lubeck Community	14,444
Summersville	27,391	Simpson Creek	263	Highlawn	12,343	Vienna	1,923	Ravenswood First	2,100	Beckley First	7,526	Broad Run	1,379	Harmony, Southside	5,400	Summersville	14,236
Lubeck Community	27,107	Saint Albans First	260	Fayetteville	11,038	Kanawha City	1,892	Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,915	New Baptist	7,500	Romney First	1,305	Genesis Fellowship	5,265	New	13,320
New	26,776	Sistersville First	258	Summersville	10,609	Indian Fork	1,888	Indian Fork	1,888	Dunbar First	6,835	Vienna	1,286	Mill Creek, Leroy	5,254	Oak Hill	13,311
New Martinsville First	25,808	Dunbar First	256	Racine First	10,384	Milton	1,850	Shuck Memorial	1,784	Williamstown First	6,341	Diamond	1,206	Hopewell, Mount Alto	4,371	New Martinsville First	13,219
Williamson First	25,079	South Fork	253	Vienna	9,593	Bethesda	1,800	Guyandotte Missionary	1,760	Enon, Salem	6,331	Hanover Missionary	1,200	Parkersburg Baptist Temple	4,000	Rainelle First	12,186
Kenova First	24,829	Cooper Memorial	252	Dorcas	9,058	Shuck Memorial	1,761	Crab Orchard Missionary	1,597	Hopewell, Mount Alto	6,100	Spencer First	1,200	Gassaway	3,912	Kenova First	12,079
Fairmont Baptist Temple	24,792	Enon, Grantsville	252	Emmanuel, Charleston	8,861	Page	1,750	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,540	Matewan	5,997	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,174	Lacoma Missionary	3,757	Barboursville	12,025
Shuck Memorial	24,575	Madison	246	Meadow Grove	8,455	Petersburg First	1,431	Bethesda	1,500	Connolly Memorial	5,716	Elizabeth	1,167	Kanawha City	3,500	Parchment Valley	11,201
Willow Tree	24,565	Matewan	245	Gauley Bridge	8,154	Nutter Fort First	1,427	Petersburg First	1,497	Bethel, Morgantown	5,521	Oak Hill	1,141	Matewan	3,268	Shuck Memorial	11,092
Dunbar First	24,329	Flint Chapel	243	New England	8,055	Parkersburg First	1,425	Morgantown First	1,448	Highlawn	5,150	New Martinsville First	1,113	Toned Missionary	3,123	Wayne	10,974
Elkins First	23,708	Williamson First	239	Shinnston First	7,560	New Martinsville First	1,400	Sabraton	1,421	Cook Memorial	4,950	Kingwood	1,100	Buckhannon First	3,000	Madison	10,950
Oak Hill	23,572	Fifth Avenue	238	Gilboa	7,513	Dunbar First	1,358	Madison	1,346	Williamson First	4,847	Weston First	1,100	Forks of Coal	3,000	Weirton Heights Memorial	10,476
Rainelle First	22,482	Rainelle First	225	Grafton First	7,149	Sabraton	1,287	Sutton	1,344	Oakwood	4,800	Peterstown	1,088	Old Greenbrier	2,952	Williamson First	10,452
Ravenswood First	22,373	Dallas Pike	223	Salem	6,845	Wilsonburg	1,213	Racine First	1,315	Fairview, Forest Hill	4,800	Sabraton	1,085	Tallmansville	2,873	Crossroads Comm. Chapel	10,153
Clearview Fellowship	22,000	Fairmont Baptist Temple	221	Hurricane First	6,771	Hanover Missionary	1,200	Page	1,300	Crab Orchard Missionary	4,616	Little Capon	1,082	Open Arms	2,660	Fairmont Baptist Temple	10,056
Milton	21,910	Lauckport	220	Mount Zion	6,409	Pea Ridge	1,200	Dunbar First	1,290	Pine Grove, Parkersburg	4,497	Philippi	1,071	Broad Run	2,647	Beulah Ann Missionary	8,951
Harmony, Southside	21,573	Scarbro First	219	Cooper Memorial	6,310	Rainelle First	1,194	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	1,230	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	4,445	Rockcastle	1,000	Sand Fork, Sand Fork	2,500	Judson, Belle	8,846
Weirton Heights Memorial	21,411	Cook Memorial	215	Petersburg First	6,034	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,173	Wilsonburg	1,197	Wilsonburg	4,291	Buckhannon First	955	Sistersville First	2,371	Calvary, Oak Hill	8,808
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	20,968	Indian Fork	215	Hamlin First	6,027	South Fork	1,126	Harmony, Burton	1,132	Harmony, Burton	4,127	Fayetteville	946	New Hope, Parkersburg	2,250	Dunbar First	8,318
Highlawn	20,693	Rush Run	208	Hope, Frametown	5,909	Old Greenbrier	1,112	Bethesda	1,106	Bethesda	4,105	Crab Orchard Missionary	935	Pine Grove, Parkersburg	2,055	Highlawn	7,868
Hopewell, Mount Alto	20,590	Ravenswood First	207	Oakwood	5,795	Little Capon	1,025	Rainelle First	1,106	Milton	4,039	Beulah Ann Missionary	900	Parkersburg First	2,050	Beulah, Grafton	7,736
Petersburg First	19,906	Connolly Memorial	206	Philippi	5,717	Holly River	1,000	Goshen	1,100	Philippi	3,958	Hopewell, Mount Alto	874	Williamstown First	2,000	Romney First	7,475
Beulah Ann Missionary	19,555	Morgantown First	206	Diamond	5,648	Bethany	971	Gilboa	1,051	Beulah Ann Missionary	3,920	Mount Vernon, Hurricane	874	Simpson Creek	2,000	Shinnston First	7,418
Williamstown First	18,974	Racine First	205	Saulsville	5,493	Jordan Run	955	Weston First	1,001	Fairmont Baptist Temple	3,902	Willow Tree	873	Mannington First	1,970	Racine First	7,153
Parchment Valley	18,506	Sabraton	198	Sistersville First	5,205	Willow Tree	920	Dorcas	1,000	Romney First	3,853	Summersville	870	Indian Fork	1,888	Fayetteville	7,105
Calvary, Oak Hill	18,047	Parchment Valley	197	Page	5,202	Fairmont Baptist Temple	874	Old Greenbrier	1,000	New Hope, Parkersburg	3,770	Hamlin First	830	Crab Orchard Missionary	1,525	Clearview Fellowship	7,000
Fayetteville	17,856	Springdale First	193	Main Street	5,131	Buckhannon First	860	Rockcastle	1,000	Dorcas	3,733	Rainelle First	810	Wilsonburg	1,500	Judson, Winfield	6,600
Pea Ridge	16,920	Emmanuel, Parkersburg	187	Big Tygart	4,924	Weston First	854	Weirton Heights Memorial	963	Rockcastle	3,700	Gilboa	802	Spencer First	1,500	Clarksburg	6,534
Beulah, Grafton	16,539	Minden	186	Enon, Grantsville	4,506	Cowen First	842	Lubeck Community	950	Breckenridge	3,600	Weirton Heights Memorial	780	Sutton	1,500	Pea Ridge	6,360
Judson, Belle	16,223	Crab Orchard Missionary	184	Elkins First	4,310	Summersville	810	Little Capon	923	Pea Ridge	3,600	New Baptist	775	Springdale First	1,445	Harmony, Southside	6,337
Connolly Memorial	16,066	Forks of Coal	184	Olive Branch, Nettie	4,282	Sistersville First	791	Beulah Ann Missionary	906	Kingwood	3,600	Forks of Coal	775	Send the Light Comm. Fell.	1,400	Grass Lick	6,313
Cook Memorial	15,878	Vienna	184	Dallas Pike	4,158	Weirton Heights Memorial	780	South Fork	905	Broad Run	3,600	Fairmont First	720	Man First	1,300	Williamstown First	6,008
Sabraton	15,834	Meadow Grove	179	Little Laurel, Richwood	3,820	Forks of Coal	769	Kanawha City	854	Nutter Fort First	3,424	Fairmont Baptist Temple	717	Romney First	1,275	Sistersville First	5,897
Sistersville First	15,473	Romney First	177	Rockcastle	3,574	Grass Lick	758	Cyrus	850	Guyandotte Missionary	3,299	Ravenswood First	704	Shinnston First	1,200	Dorcas	5,725
Morgantown First	15,430	Bethel, Rio	174	Summit Missionary	3,560	Ravenswood First	755	Fayetteville	809	Charleston Baptist Temple	3,151	Mannington First	687	Helen	1,200	Gauley Bridge	5,536
Racine First	14,954	Mountain	174	Richwood First	3,502	Fayetteville	754	Forks of Coal	805	Summersville	3,120	Petersburg First	683	Concord	1,200	Emmanuel, Charleston	5,505
Spencer First	14,838	Independence	173	Mount Pisgah	3,371	Elizabeth	722	Shinnston First	791	Fayetteville	3,059	Calvary, Oak Hill	629	Sago	1,200	Milton	5,470

2015 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!

Love Gift

Love Gift Top 50 for 2015



Love Gift is a financial contribution over and above our regular giving. It is given out of a sense of LOVE, FAITH and GRATITUDE to God for all of His blessings, and in recognition of our need to share these blessings with others. One way to express our faith is by giving. We give of our time, talent, money and ourselves. As our faith grows, we realize our God, in whom we trust, really loves and cares for us. As a result, our desire to give grows, too. **Love Gift** is one of the ways we express our faith and love. It is an offering to God.

Take time to assess what you offer to God. How do you love God? Count the ways. Let your Love Gift offering reflect your love for God and Christ's Church and its ministries.

Less than 50 percent of American Baptist churches currently participate in **Love Gift**. Does your church support **Love Gift**? American Baptist mission needs your support!

Love Gift has great potential to empower American Baptist mission in this century. If your church does not have organized women's ministries, you can still participate in **Love Gift**! Meet with your region's Minister of Mission Support, to discuss and plan your **Love Gift** promotion.

Text taken from
http://www.abcusa.org/what_we_believe/mission/mission-giving/funding-the-mission/united-mission/love-gift/

Fifth Avenue	7,860
Hurricane First	6,771
Charleston Baptist Temple	3,822
Vienna	3,615
Milton	2,936
South Parkersburg	2,713
Emmanuel, Charleston	2,444
Everson	2,442
Racine First	2,384
Bethel, Rio	2,107
Fayetteville	2,063
Saint Albans First	1,832
Beulah Ann Missionary	1,729
Emmanuel, Parkersburg	1,716
Beckley First	1,675
Diamond	1,648
Oak Hill	1,623
Crab Orchard Missionary	1,545
Fairmont Baptist Temple	1,538
Main Street	1,531
Dorcas	1,502
Harmony, Southside	1,471
Summersville	1,442
Sabraton	1,350
Beulah, Grafton	1,325
Page	1,302
Mount Pisgah	1,271
Weirton Heights Memorial	1,243
Bridgeport	1,223
Kingwood	1,191
Lauckport	1,176
Wilsonburg	1,108
Oceana First	1,063
Morgantown First	1,046
Parchment Valley	1,035
Petersburg First	1,035
Judson, Belle	1,014
Goshen	1,005
Boothsville	967
Mount Vernon, Hurricane	917
Minden	892
New Martinsville First	862
Concord	850
Bethel, Morgantown	811
Auburn	783
Dunbar First	747
Philippi	717
Judson, Winfield	716
Danville First	713
Lubeck Community	690

American Baptist Women's Ministries
of West Virginia

Women and GIRLS' Conference

June 3-5, 2016

Parchment Valley Conference Center



Keynote Speaker: Dr. William R. Thomas

Celebrating Women Serving God

... love the Lord your God, walk in all his ways, obey His commands, hold fast to Him with all your heart and all your soul. Joshua 22:5

Women's Leadership Academy introductory session
Book sale, craft sale, like new flea market
Fun, food, fellowship and fact finding

For more information, visit www.wvbc.org or call Tracie at 800.879.9822.

American Baptist GIRLS' Conference

*Girls in Relationship,
Love and Service*

June 3-5, 2016

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Women of Christ, please encourage young ladies in your church to join us for this amazing weekend as the AB GIRLS are the future women, workers and leaders of tomorrow's church. *The AB GIRLS' Conference is open to all girls first grade through 12th.* We will be hosting this event the same weekend as the American Baptist Women's and GIRLS' Conference at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Age appropriate activities will include Bible study, games, crafts, swimming and much more. *Please remember you do not have to be part of an active or organized AB GIRLS' group to attend.*

Look for program details and registration in the April issue of Seasons. Please contact Shauna Dye at 304.731.5646 or dyeshauna@yahoo.com for more information.

Spring Golden'eers Conference

This conference is planned for adults who are at least 55.

May 2-4, 2016
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: "Going Fruity"
Galatians 5:22-23

Speaker: Flora Francis

Highlights: Monday - Gospel Quartet,
Tuesday - Banquet

The conference will begin on Monday in the Santrock Education Center with registration and pizza at 12 noon and will end on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

For a registration form, please visit www.wvbc.org, Commissions, Discipleship/Youth.

Full payment due by April 18, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.

Men's Work Weekend

April 29-30, 2016
Camp Cowen

Questions? Call Bill Wilson at 304.549.0709

Please bring: Weed eaters, shovels, basic carpentry tools

If you plan to join us for lunch on Friday, we will be eating at 12 noon with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Your meals will be provided both days.

Leadership Updates

MR. DOUG CYPHERS to Dent's Run Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on January 1, 2016

REV. MAX PALMER to Coon's Run Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on January 1, 2016

REV. HERMAN P. ROBINSON to Meadowdale Baptist Church (Good Hope) as interim pastor on January 1, 2016

MR. JASON SLEETH to Harmony Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on February 1, 2016

Northwest Area News

Wight Installed as Pastor of Parkersburg Baptist Temple

On January 17, 2016, Scott Wight was installed as pastor of Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg). After the choir sang *Holy, Holy, God Almighty*, West Virginia Baptist Convention Northwest Area Minister Mark Mc Cloy issued charges to Pastor Wight and the congregation. His message focused on Numbers 11:14-17, Jeremiah 29:11 and Isaiah 43:18-19 challenging both pastor and congregation as follows:

- Ministry cannot be done alone. It is a team sport.
- No one does it without God. Pray diligently to know God's will.
- God has a plan. The future is brighter than the past.
- No one gets anywhere without change.
- We have a purpose bigger than ourselves, bigger than our church - outside the building which is to be pursued with urgency - "The fields are white for the harvest."

After Scott and Melinda were received into membership to seal the ministry covenant, a soup and sandwich lunch/reception was held in the fellowship hall. Scott began his ministry at Parkersburg Baptist Temple on December 1, 2015.

Northeast Area News

Shields Attend Final Eastern Association Executive Board Meeting



Always a blessing, Dawn and Victor Shields (at left) attend their final Eastern Association Executive Board meeting on January 21, 2016 in Moorefield. After decades of service to the Lord and West Virginia Baptists, this dedicated couple look forward to God's blessing in retirement as they move to Pennsylvania. Everyone in the Eastern Association says, "Thanks for the memories and Godspeed."

Pruett Ordained into the Gospel Ministry



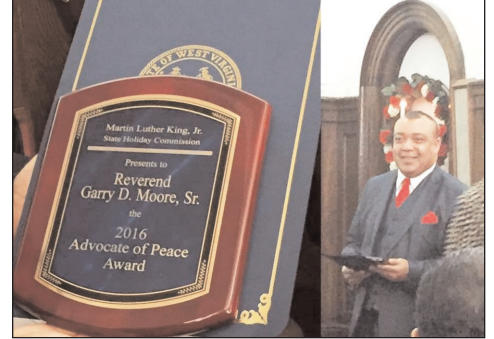
(left to right) Dr. Charles Drake, pastor of Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and member of the ordination committee; Rev. Scott Dameron, associate pastor of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and chair of the association ordination committee; Rev. Bryan Pruett, pastor of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh); and Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

On February 7, 2016, at Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Rev. Bryan Pruett, pastor of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church, was ordained into the Gospel ministry. (This was also the one-year anniversary of his being called as pastor of the church.)

Rev. Scott Dameron, associate pastor of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and chairman of the association ordination committee, opened the meeting. After a wonderful hour of songs and charges, Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, led the laying on of hands ceremony and presented the ordination certificate. Bryan shared his thanks and offered the blessing for the food and fellowship which followed.

Moore Receives Advocate for Peace Award

On January 18, 2016, Dr. Garry Dexter Moore, Sr., pastor of Scott Street Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), received the Advocate for Peace Award. This award is given to those creating social change in a community in a non-violent way by the Martin Luther King Junior State Holiday Commission.



In the Bluefield community, Dr. Moore is working to bring other churches and people of other faiths to his church for worship, and has a vision to make not just Bluefield, but the world, a more open minded place to live.

"Ignorance causes hatred. The root word of ignorance is ignore. When we ignore each other, that's when we start hating each other. The Bible says perfect love casts out fear. If I am loving you perfectly I don't care what you look like. I don't care what your creed is, your color is. I choose to love you because it is a choice. When you can say peace be unto you in three different languages and mean it, I think that is what it's about. Not just talking about peace, but actually doing the things that allow peace to come about," quotes Dr. Moore after receiving the award.

On the second Sunday in March 2016, Dr. Moore and Scott Street Baptist Church plan to host the Islamic community in their church for worship.

From all of our West Virginia Baptist Convention family, congratulations Garry on this well deserved award.

Southwest Area News

Riffle Ordained into the Gospel Ministry

On February 20, 2016 at Old Pleasant Baptist Church (Twelve Pole), Rev. L. Scott Riffle, pastor of Old Pleasant Baptist Church, was examined and ordained into the Gospel ministry. Approximately 30 people, representing at least seven churches participated in the ordination council and in the inspiring ordination service which followed.

American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfasts held in Six Southwest Area Associations

On February 27, 2016 several American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfasts were held in the six associations of the Southwest Area. Area Minister Max Hill attended the Coal River Association breakfast at Olive Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River). There were 34 men present to enjoy a delicious breakfast, a time of fellowship and a season of prayer. Deacon Robert "Scooter" Browning, of the host church, presented a powerful devotion on legacy.

Three Guyandotte Association Churches to hold Revival in March

From March 15-19, 2016 three Guyandotte Association churches: Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church, Hope Christian Center and Union Baptist Church, along with former Guyandotte Association member, Mud River Baptist Church will hold an area revival.

Teens “Recognize” at West Virginia Baptist Convention Youth Events

“Recognize!” That word has been used to challenge the youth of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The youth events are focusing on I John 4:6, **“We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”**

Senior High Convention was a great event at Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). Grant Partrick from Passion City Church was the speaker. His teaching was excellent in helping the students recognize they are forgiven and free in Christ. He continued to challenge them to live their faith individually and corporately to glorify God. Noah Cleveland and his band led worship in a Christ honoring way. The Youth Ministry

Planning Team (YMPT) wanted to challenge their peers to recognize needs of the world around them. They created a poverty simulation that challenged each youth group to make Christ-honoring decisions. During this time they also prayed for ministry around the world as they made blankets for the **Huntington City Mission**. The youth stepped up to the challenge by making 30 blankets and collecting \$1,308.83 for the **Night Light Ministry** in Thailand.

On April 23, 2016 at New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), the YMPT will host **Omega**. The focus of the event will be worship. Bring the youth of your church to experience worship, learn about worship and have a great time with youth from across the West Virginia Baptist Convention!

Join us for a new experience!

Omega

We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of falsehood. I John 4:6

April 23, 2016

New Baptist Church, Huntington

610 28th St, Huntington, WV 25702

Come join us for a day filled with worship and the study of how to worship! Rather than focusing on the teaching by one teacher, the students will be directed through a series of four sessions to help develop an understanding of worship and what that means for God as well as us. Omega is a one-day event designed for outreach and fellowship among the youth in grades 6-12.

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Sessions include: Knowing the Story of God, Personal Disciplines, Telling Your Story, Corporate Worship/Acts

For more information, please contact Jennifer at 800.879.9822 or jennifer@wvbc.org.

Omega Registration • April 23, 2016

Complete the information below, clip and mail, along with check(s) payable to WVBC and mail to: Omega, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Registration fee is \$10.00 per person. Please mail by April 18, 2016. If you plan to register at the door, please call Jennifer at 800.879.9822 no later than 3 p.m. on April 22 so she may add you to the lunch count.

YOUTH

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

ADULTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

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

BETTY RAE (WHITE) BOGGS, 87, died January 24, 2016. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and the wife of Rev. Jake Boggs.

SHIRLEY A. GROVER COLLINS, 80, of Nitro, died January 29, 2016. She was a member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served on the Board of Deaconesses.

ROBERT ARTHUR CUPPETT, SR., 80, of Kingwood, died February 19, 2016. He was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen).

LARRY B. ELLISON, 65, of Buckhannon, died February 2, 2016. He had served as the Maintenance Manager for the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen.

DON EDWARD FLANIGAN, 84, of Salem, died January 12, 2016. He was a member of Welcome Baptist Church (Judson) and had served as their pastor for many years. He had served many churches as a pastor for a total of 48 years.

PAUL FREDERICK HASEL, 94, died December 31, 2015. He was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Burma.

ASEL P. HATFIELD, M.D., 94, of Harrisville, died February 19, 2016. He was a longtime and active member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville), serving in numerous positions throughout the years.

JEAN WOODRUM-JOHNSON died February 9, 2016. She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) since 1942 where she taught Sunday School.

BERNICE EILEEN ABBOTT KIRKPATRICK, 84, of Parkersburg, died February 29, 2016. She was a member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for more than fifty years and had served as Sunday School secretary. She also assisted with the preparation and serving of Wednesday

night suppers for the church and community, benefitting many hungry children.

ELIZABETH (BETH) ANNE TYNDALE LIVINGSTON, 87, of Bellingham, Washington died January 22, 2016. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan.

WILLIAM M. MARSHALL, 63, of Oak Hill, died January 31, 2016. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette). He had a love for young people as shown by those he taught at Calvary Baptist Church in the Awana Program. He helped wherever there was a need, such as driving the church bus, cutting lawns for the elderly and church. He was involved in the jail ministry, filled in as pastor and preached funerals.

VELMA ANN LITTERAL MCCLANAHAN, 79, of Marmet, died, March 5, 2016. She was a member of Chesapeake First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she was a Sunday School teacher. She had also taught Sunday School at Healing Stream Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River).

SAMUEL CECIL MCCORMICK, 97, of Bloomingrose, died February 27, 2016. He was the last charter member of Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River).

JILL A. NOSTADT MUSSEL, died February 13, 2016. She fulfilled her passion for helping others by working in International Ministries with the American Baptist Churches, headquartered in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

ERMA LEE PICKENS, 83, of Charleston, died February 8, 2016. She had been a member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 50 years and a member of the Ladies' BYKOTA Sunday School Class.

RODNEY JOE SANDY, 70, of Reynoldsville, died February 12, 2016. He was a member of Little Rock Camp

Church, Wallace. He was a pastor in the West Virginia Baptist Convention and had served on the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board. He was the assistant director of the Judson Baptist Camp for several years.

WILMA DOLORES (JOLLIFF) SCOTT, died February 1, 2016. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo.

HAROLD THOMAS "TOMMY" SKAGGS, SR., 77, of Ansted, died January 21, 2016. He was a member of Lover's Leap Baptist Church (Hopewell), where he was a choir member and a former deacon and trustee.

ROBERTA MAE HAYES SKIDMORE, died March 1, 2016. She was an active member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 50 years, where she taught Sunday School, worked with youth, children and was active in American Baptist Women's Ministries.

JAMES DARRELL STEELE, 81, died February 7, 2016. He was a member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as deacon, Sunday School superintendent and teacher.

LOUISE WIREMAN VILLERS, 83, died January 25, 2016. She was a member of Handley Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). She was the wife of Rev. Lewis Villers, pastor, Handley Baptist Church.

EDDIE E. WHITT, 86, of Hico, died February 26, 2016. He was a faithful member of Sunday Road Baptist Church (Hopewell). He was a trustee, member of the building fund committee, choir member and van driver for the youth ministry.

CORA ALICE OSBURN WITHERS, 79, of Fayetteville, died March 6, 2016. She was a member of Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette) and the Son Shine Mission Circle. She was the widow of Rev. Bill Withers.

April 2016

APRIL 1 - Women's Camp this weekend at Camp Cowen
APRIL 2 - The ministry of Calvary Baptist Church; Archie Snedegar, interim pastor (Kanawha Valley)
APRIL 3 - The ministry of Mannington First Baptist Church; Greg Roth, pastor (Fairmont)
APRIL 4 - Mark Shaffer, vice chair and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
APRIL 5 - Judith Butta, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
APRIL 6 - Rebecca Stanton, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Liberia
APRIL 7 - Grace Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary (ABFMS) (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 missionary (ABFMS)
APRIL 10 - The ministry of Curtis Baptist Church; Danny Thomas, pastor (Rockcastle)
APRIL 11 - Stephen James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti
APRIL 12 - The ministry of Sistersville First Baptist Church; Darrell Mayfield, pastor (Panhandle)
APRIL 13 - The ministry of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church; William Bryan, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
APRIL 14 - The ministry of Mount Carmel Baptist Church; Leon Brown, pastor (Union)
APRIL 15 - Ginny Prunty, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
APRIL 16 - Beth Kellar, clerk/treasurer, Broad Run Association
APRIL 17 - The ministry of Spencer First Baptist Church; William Thomas, interim pastor (Good Hope)
APRIL 18 - Eric Hayslett, Baptist Campus Ministries' Chair and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
APRIL 19 - The ministry of Rainelle First Baptist Church; David Bush, pastor (Hopewell)
APRIL 20 - The ministry of Parkersburg Baptist Temple; Scott Wight, pastor (Parkersburg)
APRIL 21 - The ministry of Milton Baptist Church; Allen Stewart, pastor (Guyandotte)
APRIL 22 - Jeff Branham, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
APRIL 23 - Omega youth event today at New Baptist Church, (Guyandotte)
APRIL 24 - The upcoming camping season at Camp Cowen as you celebrate Camp Cowen Sunday at your church
APRIL 25 - The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; John Vannoy, pastor (Little Kanawha)
APRIL 26 - The ministry of Mount Olive Baptist Church; John Elder, 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 - American Baptist Men's Work Weekend at Camp Cowen
APRIL 30 - Ministers' Wives' Retreat this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

May 2016

MAY 1 - The ministry of Sand Fork Missionary Baptist Church; David Vickers, pastor (Coal River)
MAY 2 - The Spring Golden'eers' Retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 3 - The ministry of East Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union)
MAY 4 - The ministry of Fayetteville Baptist Church; Ron George, Jr., pastor (Fayette)
MAY 5 - Tom Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bulgaria
MAY 6 - The ministry of Cook Memorial Baptist Church; Keith Reed, pastor (Rockcastle)
MAY 7 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 8 - The ministry of Clearview Fellowship; Roger Adams, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
MAY 9 - The ministry of Oakwood Baptist Church; David Moutz, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
MAY 10 - Jill Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 11 - Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach Week this week at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
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 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; John Vetter, pastor (Eastern)
MAY 15 - The ministry of Crossroads Community Chapel; Bryan Cantrell, pastor (Teays Valley)
MAY 16 - The ministry of Harrisville Baptist Church; Robert Perine, pastor (Harrisville)
MAY 17 - The ministry of Coon's Run Baptist Church; Max Palmer, pastor (Judson)
MAY 18 - Hermelinda Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the United Kingdom
MAY 19 - The ministry of Pine Grove Baptist Church; Bryan Knight, pastor (Parkersburg)
MAY 20 - Youth Work Party at Camp Cowen
MAY 21 - Lee Ann Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
MAY 22 - Patsy Wyatt, moderator, Panhandle Association
MAY 23 - The ministry of Lover's Leap Baptist Church; Milburn Pack, pastor (Hopewell)
MAY 24 - Kevin Emerick, site maintenance manager, Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 25 - The ministry of Masontown First Baptist Church; William Winston, 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 Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (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 missionary (ABFMS) (youth) to Bolivia
MAY 30 - The ministry of Sago Baptist Church; Wease Day, pastor (Broad Run)
MAY 31 - The ministry of Fola Missionary Baptist Church; Daniel Tanner, pastor (Elk Valley)

Coming Events

APRIL 2016

April 1-3
Women's Camp
Camp Cowen

April 16
School of Christian Studies Worship and Music (E-03) One-Day Class
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 23
Omega
New Baptist Church, Huntington

April 23
School of Christian Studies
ADVANCED The Book of Exodus
One-Day Class
Parchment Valley Conference Center

April 24
Cowen Sunday
Your Church

April 29-30
American Baptist Men's Work Weekend
Camp Cowen

April 29-May 1
Ministers' Wives' Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

MAY 2016

May 2-4
Spring Golden'eers' Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

May 3
School of Christian Studies
Church History (H-01) Six-Week Class
Various Locations

May 7
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board
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.

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2016 Camp Cowen Schedule

www.campcowen.org

APRIL

American Baptist Men's Work Weekend
April 29-30

MAY

Youth Work Party
May 20-21

JUNE

Older Midler
(grades 3-4)
June 5-8

Younger Midler
(grades 2-4)
June 10-12

Junior 1
(grades 5-6)
June 12-18

Junior High 1
(grades 7-9)
June 19-25

Junior 2
(grades 5-6)
June 26-July 2

JULY

High School 1
(grades 9-HS Grads)
July 3-9

Junior High 2
(grades 7-9)
July 10-16

Senior Day
2016 High School Graduates
July 16

High School 2
(grades 9-HS Grads)
July 17-23

Family Camp
July 29-August 1

SEPTEMBER

Camp Global
September 2-4

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