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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA





Hispanic Ministries: **Project Hope**/ **Proyecto Esperanza**

See I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?

"Only those with a sense of adventure and a passion to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit need apply," said Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. This was the challenge given to those invited to join a new venture between the West Virginia Baptist Convention and the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. Project Hope/Proyecto

Esperanza involves a team of five young adults from each convention in

a year-long commitment to engage in a discipleship program aimed at enhancing and developing spiritual and relational vitality. strengthening Baptist identity and cross-cultural leadership and organizational skills. "My hopes for **Project Hope** are that we come together as one group to



The Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza team: (front row, left to right) Valerie Motta-Varona, Kim Lupton, Erin McClure and (kneeling) Heriberto del Valle. (Back row, left to right) Meredith Crislip, Wilfredo Mercado, Abner Cotto, Todd McClure, R.L. Ely and Adamarie Castro.

break down walls, start lifelong relationships that will continually grow and proclaim the Good News in all we do," said Kim Lupton, member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention group.

Simmons shares, "Project Hope/Proyecto Esperanza is another part of the partnership activities we

standing with the group easily in an online setting. Through using internet capabilities, the team can meet every month or more often if needed," said Simmons.

Project Hope/Proyecto

Esperanza began on June 30, 2013, with the first face-to-face meeting Continued on page 2 ...

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



are engaging in with the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. Our conventions are very much alike; both are mission focused, with very strong commitments to discipleship. There is much we can share and learn from each other. What better way to start than with our young adult leadership!"

The *Project Hope/Proyect*

Esperanza team will be involved in face to face and online encounters.

> "Using the internet and other technologies are the 'norm' for young adults. They do not find communicating online a challenge. By having online meetings we can bring in other trainers, who might not be able to meet the group and teach at a specific venue, but can share the knowledge and under-

COMMENTARY



Dr. David L. Carrico

What a Concept

In life there are concepts we have learned along the way and there are times when we need to revisit them. During the days of summer, I have rediscovered the concept of the NAP. As post-lunch drowsiness sets in, I fight to recover a level of mental awareness to fully function as I did just a few hours before. Other cultures understand this special need as many

Hispanic cultures celebrate the siesta. In our popular media culture, Uncle Si Robertson of *Duck Dynasty* has turned the nap into an art form. There are times you must reboot your brain and get a power boost for your body. In church life, we all know folks who sleep during the church service. If you must take a nap, I cannot think of a better place to sleep ... and if someone asks, tell them you were praying. But beware, if you are person who snores ... it can be disruptive!

Our culture is now going through a time of rapid change with many cultural shifts never before seen in the recent history of our nation. The church seems to be enjoying a nap, while the culture is shifting, much like the story of Rip Van Winkle. When he fell asleep there was a portrait of King George of England on the wall and when he awoke the portrait was that of George Washington. Much had changed and he slept through it!

With the challenge of a media that promotes the worst behavior among our people and an expectation of political correctness (even when it is not correct), it may be past time for the church to wake up! Ephesians 5:14-16 tells us to wake up and celebrate Christ and He will give you light to live your life, redeeming the time because the days are evil. The church must not get lost in the sea of political correctness and avoid acclimating itself to the ways of the world to survive. Rather, the church needs to be leading change within its social context - change that is positive, life-giving and spiritually affirming through God's plan of salvation. That plan takes into account the lost, the last and the least of our world. Each person should be held accountable for his/her own behavior - we are not always victims. We, as Christians, should consider what we are promoting and tolerating as the church.

During the Mission Summit gathering of American Baptist Churches in Kansas City in June, the worship and interactive discussions again reminded us the church is a spiritual workshop, not merely a dormitory for saints. My prayer is what we are learning will give us tools to continue to transform our churches by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The *Transformed by the Spirit* movement is a journey of discovery and renewal. It is an ongoing process to meet the challenges of the day with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our dialogue and networking must lead to action and the church must wake up and act! Naps are good if they provide energy for action. Our culture does not take the church seriously for we have napped too long and neglected to serve the Lord. There is hope for this world if we wake up and become the hands and feet of Jesus, proclaiming the Good News through outreach and evangelism. Let us wake up to a renewed concept of missions and be the people of God!

> Blessings, Dr. David L. Carrico Executive Minister

... Continued from page 1.

being at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico sent 24 "missionaries" to West Virginia earlier in June to assist with outreach activities in the Moorefield and Ravenswood areas. The group worked with West Virginia Baptist Churches in those areas to reach out to Hispanics and non-Hispanics through camps, Vacation Bible School and community festivals.

The West Virginia Baptist Convention team includes: Kim Lupton, Bethel Baptist Church (Eastern); Meredith Crislip, Lubeck Baptist Church (Parkersburg); Todd and Erin McClure, Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley); and R.L. Ely, Lifespring Community Church - Jackson (Parkersburg). Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support, and Juan Aragon, Hispanic Ministries' Strategist, are serving as resource persons to the team.

> Lisa Simmons Associate in Mission Support

Baptist Campus Ministries: An Incredible Circle

It is understood if you are going to be involved in college ministry, you are going to attend many weddings. One of the elements of the wedding is the exchanging of the rings. Typically, during this part, the minister will explain the meaning of the ring. They will explain how the ring has no ending; it is a perfect circle. As I am packing for Senior High Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen, I am overwhelmed with thankfulness for the West Virginia Baptist Convention and how it too is like a circle.

I accepted Christ in college and immediately got involved with Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). Through BCM, I became a member at one of our local churches and was then asked to counsel at Senior High Camp. At Senior High Camp, I met some students that had grown up in the convention and some that were brand new to camp. Many of these students were already eager to get involved in Baptist Campus Ministries when they headed to college.

At Baptist Campus Ministries, it is our heart to prepare students for a lifetime of ministry in the local church, so they too can raise up the students and leaders that will get involved! It is truly an incredible circle. I am so excited to meet students at Senior High Camp this year that will be part of this cycle. I love that through our convention there are many facets where students, and adults alike, can grow in their faith and be challenged with the truth of scripture. I pray that, like a circle, we also continue to serve Christ for the glory of His name.

> Adam Goodwin Baptist Campus Ministries' Director



Growing Together in God's Time

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

Received Year to Date

as of July 8, 2013:

\$122,135.

- Area Ministry
- Baptist Campus Ministries
- Camp Cowen
- Parchment Valley Conference Center
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Hispanic Ministries
- Mission Support
- Missionary Deputation
- Mission Education
- Camp Global
- MPT/MPN Coordination
- Mission Partnerships
- Stewardship
- American Baptist Men
- American Baptist Women's Ministries
- Retired Ministers and Mates
- Ministers' Wives

- Golden'eers
- Youth and Children's Ministries
- YMPT and YLC
- Coaching

Adult Discipleship - Embedding the Word

by Mary Beth McCloy chairperson, Christian Discipleship Commission

Recently, my tech-savvy husband started up his electronic Bible and discovered his NIV 1984 was now the NIV 2011. Someone, somewhere, with the click of a button, had decided what version of the Bible should be on his e-reader and had changed it without bothering to ask his permission. This troubled me. It also reminded me of the words of Psalm 119: "I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You." While someone else can alter an electronic Bible or destroy a print Bible, no one can steal the word of God you have hidden in your heart.

Learning and studying the Bible is crucial to the disciple of God. Studies show meaningful, personal interaction with the word of God is the number one catalyst to spiritual growth. We mature in Christ when we read the Bible and apply it to our lives. It is that simple. While service, worship, small groups, church programs and Christian movies can all draw us closer to God, we all know people who participate in these things and still do not seem to "get it." There is a difference between being "busy in Christ" and being "mature in Christ." We cannot become mature without digging deeply into the word and then putting it into action. Notice that I said "personal interaction" with the word of God. Too often we settle for second hand interaction with the word of God. I have been surprised at the number of people who have told me, "We are studying this new author in our Bible study." While there are many wonderful Christian books out there, they are not as good as "The Good Book." There is no substitution for the Bible, and we should not let our enjoyment of other Christian writing replace our study of God's word. When we read a Christian book, we are blessed with the words and thoughts God shared with our brother or sister. When we read the Bible, God's word speaks directly to us.

For years, I have studied the Bible with commentaries, Bible dictionaries and lexicons to help me understand the difficult parts. This month I was given a new tool called a Journible. I am studying the book of James by writing it out word for word. It is so easy when we read the Bible to speed along through the familiar words without really letting them sink in. Writing the verses out forces me to slow down, let the phrases and their meanings linger in my brain and dwell in the word.

Taste the word of God and see that it is good. Savor it. Enjoy it. You will be richly blessed.

Church Conflict
Church Development
West Virginia Baptist Historical Society
West Virginia Baptist Education Society
Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council
WVBC Foundation, Inc.

STATE GOAL: \$260,000

Weirton Christian Center: Summer News

by Kim Weaver director, Weirton Christian Center

Summer attendance at the Weirton Christian Center averaged 85 children per day in the kindergarten readiness



The Weirton Christian Center group helps out at the Brooke County Community Garden.

cindergarten readiness class, except during the weeks of church camp when there were 34 away at camp.

Free transportation for our programs and for the energy express program increased expenses this year. It was a juggling act with our summer reading at the library, weightlifting program, community garden and fitness walks needing transportation also. We were blessed to find a Christian CDL bus driver to drive our new 24-passenger bus, donated by Lumberport Baptist Church (Judson).

As our numbers continue to grow, God continues to bless the Weirton Christian Center with wonderful, qualified adults who want to be part of our program.

Each day through the summer started with praise and worship time and ended with devotions. We held Bible study each Thursday. Our Christian Fellowship Park is a busy place as we use it for part of our program each day.



The Weirton Christian Center group recognizes 28 veterans at the Wyngate Senior Community Center.

Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as well as God's direction and will for the growth of our ministry.

Retired



Ministers & Mates' Fall Balance Meeting October 1, 2013 Parchment Valley Conference Center Noon

> A complimentary luncheon will be served. Sponsored by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.

Please reserve your space by contacting Mrs. Linda Carpenter at 304.863.8890 or llecgrandma@yahoo.com.

Parchment Valley Conference Center: Where Lives Really are Changed for the Kingdom

Brothers' Keeper '13

Our dedicated volunteers and donors continue to be the hands and feet of Christ that enable us to be a lighthouse of



God's grace in the valley. In July 2013, 204 youth and crew leaders canvassed Jackson County as part of the Brothers' Keeper ministry. This was a banner year of building projects including wheel chair ramps, porches, home repair and painting. I was blessed visiting some of the recipients, who stood on their wheel chair ramps

crying and praising God for sending someone who cared! Although the week was quite extensive for my staff, the youth were incredible. We saw their love, compassion and teamwork in action. The evidence of the Holy Spirit is so beautiful and compelling to finish the work that is before us.

New Groups

This summer brought new groups to Parchment Valley Conference Center, resulting in many first-time decisions for Jesus Christ. We were honored to host 26 guests from Puerto Rico, under the tutelage of Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support, and Juan Aragon, Hispanic Ministries'



Breakdowns and Challenges

This summer, we were constantly faced with mechanical breakdowns and infrastructure challenges. In June, our zero turn mower went down and left us in a predicament. One of our guests stepped up and purchased Parchment Valley a new seven foot mower! Recently, we discovered the roof on Hill Hall has outlived its 40 years of purpose. Through much prayer, great resourcing and an empowered board of colleagues, we are moving forward with a

Old and New Friends

new roof.

Quite often, individuals will stop by to visit and reminisce about great times and lifelong friends made at Parchment Valley. One of our previous directors came by to return a couple tools he had borrowed - 25 years ago. We had a good chuckle and praised the Lord for this blessed place.

We welcome back, out of retirement, Cookie Hall. Cookie is so instrumental with knowing the office business cycles, and it is such a joy to have her back.

It is always a blessing to hear from those spending recreational time with us. John Simms, a community business owner, heavy equipment operator and volunteer at Parchment Valley says, "What a wonderful and safe environment to bring my wife and two young daughters to for camping. We are blessed with such a great facility."

Your prayers, sponsorship and friendship are of tremendous value to us and the lives of future leaders at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Thank you for caring, serving and being a part of changed lives.

> Frank Miller Director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center

Strategist, both of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

American Baptist Women's Ministries 35th Annual AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMENS MINISTRIES Spiritual Growth Retreat October 11-13, 2013 Parchment Valley Conference Center

God has a plan for you! Along your life path real *life happens. At the crossroads you have many* choices in order to continue on your life journey. What controls these choices? What controls your *life? What does your life stand for?*

Join us to examine the forks in your road.

WORKSHOPS: prison ministry, breadmaking, prayer wagon, prayer walk and prayer bead making



Isaiah 30:21 "This is the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Facilitator: Karen Hargett

Interim Pastor, Two Runs Baptist Church and *Guest Services and Event Manager, Parchment Valley* Conference Center

Song Leader: Judy Prater

Minister of Music, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg

Special Testimonial: Tracy Greenleaf Miller

Singer/Songwriter, Gilboa Baptist Church

A registration form is available in the current issue of Seasons and at www.wvbc.org.

Strengthening the Core

The sports talk world is known for overstating the obvious and often over simplifying. In baseball, you often hear the adage that to have a winning team you must be strong up the middle. In football, they talk about winning the battle of the trenches and controlling the center of the field. In individual sports, the focus is often on the athlete's conditioning - especially the strength of the core muscles - the muscles around the middle of the body.

As someone who enjoys the game of golf, I have read for years the key to hitting the ball correctly is to have a strong core. The older I get, the more I realize those muscle groups are not what they once were and I have to be very intentional if I am to keep my core strong. I have also learned the more I neglect keeping the core strong, the more aches and pains I have all over my body. Neglecting my core causes me pain in my hip, knees, back and even my feet. I need to be more intentional about taking care of my core so I can better enjoy an active life.

Strengthening the core is also critical in the body of Christ - the church. Far too often, churches get distracted by the urgent and lose focus on the important. We spend our time nursing the aches and pains (conflict and division) instead of working on the core (missions, evangelism and discipleship) ministries that keep the church strong.



THINKING MISSIONS

I have never seen a church that was focused on making disciples lack sufficient leaders. I have never known a church that was fully engaged in supporting missions suffer financially. I have never heard of a church that was committed to reaching the lost not see people come to know Jesus.

There are many, many things we can do in the church. But as it has been said many times: "We must keep the main thing the main thing!" We must always be working on keeping the core strong.

I invite you to take a serious look at your church. As vou look at vour budget, is it focused on maintenance or mission? As you look at your weekly programming, is it focused inward or outward? As you look at your ministry vision, is it about surviving or thriving? When you look at your ministry and meeting time usage, are you making decisions or disciples?

The core of the church is its Christ given mission to make disciples. When we focus on keeping the core strong, the body is strong. I pray each of us will help our congregations strengthen the core so we can be strong in the work to which God has called us.

> Committed to Missions. John Simmons Associate Executive Minister Missions and Administration

For more information, please contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.



Eastern Baptist Association Church Camp, celebrating our God.



Devotional Time! Photos provided by J.R. Figueroa Photography.



Vacation Bible School with Lifespring Community Church - Jackson (Parkersburg)



Victor Shields, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention (3rd from right), with the praise team on the stage at the Festival Celebracion de Vida y Esperanza.

Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto **Rico Joins West Virginia Baptist Convention to Perform Mission Outreach**



What an exciting time we are living in mission work in partnership with the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico! This summer, a team of 24 youth and young adults joined hands with churches from the West Virginia Baptist Convention to do a variety of mission outreach projects from June 23 - July 3, 2013. It was a powerful testimony to what God is doing in other nations by raising a new generation of young disciples to share His love.

The youth and adults from the Eastern Baptist Association experienced the passion for Christ this team had as they collaborated with the Eastern Baptist Association Church Camp. Myra White, camp coordinator, in gratitude said, " 'LOVE OUT LOUD' was a good theme for camp because all of your group personified this love all of the time. It was so easy for our campers to see God in so many ways. Theirs was a generous love and caring, which was always present in each person in the group. They showed them that Christians can have fun and laugh without the use of worldy ways (and we did a lot of that)."

This crew was very gifted, passionate and creative in using art to reach others in the gospel. Their bilingual skills enabled them to minister to Americans as well as Hispanics by leading a Vacation Bible School in Moorefield, where Comunidad Luz y Vida reaches out to Hispanic immigrants who live in this community. The group ended the week in the Eastern Panhandle with "Celebration d Vida y Esperanza," a festival to share the message of Christ with immigrants in Moorefield.

Then the team headed to Jackson County, where the mission work was diverse. In partnership with Lifespring Community Church - Jackson (Parkersburg), the group lead a Vacation Bible School. They also had a Vacation Bible School outreach at Hutton's Trailer Park. Some of the group members worked in the fields with migrant farm workers, others learned how to can food and they also painted "La Casa de la Amistad."

This team of young missionaries was impacted by the hospitality, the delicious meals West Virginians shared with them and how God's love overthrew barriers of language, culture and race.

> Juan Aragón Hispanic Ministries' Strategist



Christopher Velasquez leading at the Eastern Baptist Association Church Camp. Photo provided by J.R. Figueroa Photography.



Abner Cotto (center), president of the Puerto Rico Baptist Union with John and Donna Vetter.



Members of the Puerto Rico team working in the fields with Noemi Roblero (right) from Comunidad Nueva Esperanza.



Members of Comunidad Luz y Vida and the Eastern Baptist Association with the Puerto Rico team.



The Puerto Rico team. Photo provided by J.R. Figueroa Photography.



Eastern Baptist Association Church Camp. Photo provided by J.R. Figueroa Photography.



Painting "La Casa de la Amistad."



Luis Diaz (left) and Yeidy Santiago enjoying a potluck dinner at Petersburg First Baptist Church



Praying for people who gave their lives to Christ in the Festival Celebracion de Vida Esperanza.



Puerto Rico team members performing the "Set Me Free" sketch. Photo provided by J.R. Figueroa Photography.



Youth and adults from the Eastern Baptist Association playing games with the Puerto Rico team.



Painting faces in the Festical Celebracion de Vida y Esperanza.



The convention mission project for 2013 is collecting canned goods for The Shepherd's Corner and Clarksburg Mission.

Please use a separate form for each person. (Copy as needed.)						
Name						
Name on Tag						
Address						
City, State, Zip						
Email	Phone () -					
Church						
Association						
Delegates MUST Clerk or Pastor S	have this form signed by church clerk or pastor.					
Clerk or Pastor S Please check the n	· · ·					
Clerk or Pastor S Please check the n	Fignature: neal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with ion. Registration packet and meal tickets will be available fo					
Clerk or Pastor S Please check the n your total registrat	ignature: neal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with ion. Registration packet and meal tickets will be available fo al meeting registration area.)					
Clerk or Pastor S Please check the n	iignature: heal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with ion. Registration packet and meal tickets will be available for al meeting registration area.) \$20.00 Delegate and Visitor Fee (REQUIRED) \$25.00 - Members - Ministers' Council Event					
Clerk or Pastor S Please check the n	ignature: heal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with ion. Registration packet and meal tickets will be available for al meeting registration area.) \$20.00 Delegate and Visitor Fee (REQUIRED) \$25.00 - Members - Ministers' Council Event (Includes lunch) \$35.00 - Non-Members - Ministers' Council Event					

: Child Care

Please check appropriate box(es).

Names and ages of children:

Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4	WVBC Session 5
L	L	l	l	l	l

Pre-Convention Activities

Thursday, October 17

Women's Day

American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia **Theme:** *Designed to Serve* Speaker: Lauran Bethell Place: Simpson Creek Baptist Church Registration: 9:00 a.m. Lunch: Sack lunches can be purchased for \$6.00.

Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council

Theme: Discipleship and Family Ministry **Place:** Bridgeport Presbyterian Church 1 John Calvin Drive, Bridgeport Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Cost:** *\$25.00 for members; \$35.00 for* non-members. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Eric Hayslett (304.562.9281 or 304.638.7349; email: eric@fbcoh.com)

American Baptist Men

Place: *Prickett's Fort* Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Cost:** *\$12.00* R.S.V.P. to Harry Drake at 304.462.7933 or hdrake@wv.net. Shuttle available, but limited space



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

of the **West Virginia Baptist Convention**



Annual Meeting Brochure:

- **Delegate Registration**
- Fellowship **Opportunities**
- Letter from Host Pastor
- Local Arrangements Committee
- Lodging Options
- Pre-Convention
- Activities
- Schedule
- Worship Leaders

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

Worship Leader: Pamela McClain Director, Choral Department, Parkersburg High School

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13



Theme:

Christ In You. The Hope of Glory

Thursday, October 17 -Friday, October 18, 2013

Simpson Creek Baptist Church, 231 West Philadelphia Avenue, Bridgeport

Featuring: Guest Speaker: Lauran Bethell

Global Consultant with International Ministries. American Baptist Church in the U.S.A

Annual Sermon Speaker: Lee Boso Associate and Youth Pastor, Summersville Baptist Church

Schedule Thursday, October 17

L0:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

American Baptist Women's Ministries Women's Day - Simpson Creek Baptist Church Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council Event -Bridgeport Presbyterian Church American Baptist Men's Event - Prickett's Fort

2:45 p.m. Session 1 - Sanctuary

Mission Moment - Juan Aragon **Annual Sermon** - Lee Boso Ward Hibbs Award **Business Meeting 1**

5:30 p.m. Session 2 - Sanctuary **School of Christian Studies' Graduation**

Mission Moment - Kim Weaver Keynote Speaker - Lauran Bethell

Friday, October 18

8:45 a.m. Session 3 - Sanctuary **Mission Moment** - Rob Ely **Executive Minister Address** Workshops

> 1:45 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Meet and Greet**

2:45 p.m. Session 4 - Sanctuary **Mission Moment** - Herman Robinson **Business Meeting 2 Recognition of New Ministers Recognition of Retiring Ministers** Installation of Officers

6:45 p.m. Session 5 - Sanctuary **Mission Moment** - Frank Miller Keynote Speaker - Lauran Bethell Communion

Mike

To the West Virginia Baptist Family:

It is time for the West Virginia Baptist Convention to convene once again in the North Central part of our beautiful state. And October is the perfect month to do that. This year's sessions are on Thursday and Friday, October 17th and 18th.

Simpson Creek Baptist Church in Bridgeport is this

year's location. As senior pastor, I am looking forward to seeing good Baptists from all over West Virginia gathering and having a great time in our facilities. Susan Paugh is heading up our local arrangements committee and has put together an effective team of over 150 people to make sure your visit goes smoothly and is one to remember.

Plan on coming! This area has beautiful hotels, restaurants and being near I-79 makes travel easy. Convention sessions will be filled with good music, speakers ... and you know our fellowship is unbeatable. We are so blessed to be part of a good state convention!

If you need help regarding travel or local information, call the church office at 304-842-3589. Our staff will be happy to assist you. We cannot wait to see you!

Dr. C. Michael Hopkins, Senior Pastor Simpson Creek Baptist Church



Front Row: Debbie Mount Tandra Freed Jan Bozarth Susan Paugh Nancy Cleghorn Sue Glover Jane Riley

Mike Hopkins

Lodging Options:

Hampton Inn

1515 Johnson Avenue, Bridgeport 304.842.9300 2 miles from church - near Bob Evans

Wingate by Wyndham

350 Conference Center Way, Bridgeport 304.808.1000 Exit 124 off I-79 - 5.4 miles from church

Best Western

100 Lodgeville Road, Bridgeport 304.842.5411 Route 50, Exit 119 off I-79 - 1.7 miles from church

Towne Place Suites 201 Conference Center Way, Bridgeport

101 Platinum Drive, Bridgeport 304.842.3600 Exit 119 off I-79 - 1.7 miles from church

250 Emily Drive, Clarksburg

Exit 119 off I-79 - 2.0 miles from church

Will honor tax exempt forms with tax number of

866.726.2322

church.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites **Sutton Inn**

20 Sweetbrier Lane, Bridgeport 304.979.9022 Exit 124 off I-79 - 5.4 miles from church

Exit 124 off I-79 - 5.4 miles from church

Microtel Inn & Suites

Sleep Inn

304.808.2000

115 Tolley Drive, Bridgeport 304.842.1919 Exit 119 off I-79 - 1.8 miles from church

Worship Leaders

Guest Speaker:

Lauran Bethell Global Consultant with International Ministries, American Baptist Church in the U.S.A



Annual Sermon Speaker: Lee Boso Associate and Youth Pastor,

Summersville Baptist Church



Executive Minister: David Carrico West Virginia Baptist Convention



Worship Leader: Pamela McClain Director, Choral Department, Parkersburg High School

Workshops

My Hope with Billy Graham

Donald Matolyak, Regional Coordinator

Hope in Adaptive Change

Ed Rogers, Lead Pastor, South Parkersburg Baptist Church

Celebrate Recovery

Lou Ortenzio, Central West Virginia State Representative

Compensation Responsibilities for Church Employers

Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board

Adult Discipleship

Lisa Simmons, Associate in Mission Support and Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention

Directions

From US Route 50:

- Turn left onto CR-24 / North Virginia Avenue
- Turn right onto West Philadelphia Avenue
- Church is on the right

Rick Scott

Local

Arrangements

Committee

Rick Garavaglia Bob Paugh Tim Alfred Dan Glover

Second Row: Linda Barnes Carol Trickett Darlene Scott John Carter

Third Row:

Fellowship Opportunities

Thursday, October 17

Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet Bridgeport Methodist Church Time: 5:00 p.m. **Cost:** \$10.00 Purchase tickets on registration form or in the registration area.

Alderson Broaddus University Reception Simpson Creek Baptist Church Time: 8:30 p.m. Cost: FREE Musical groups will be there to perform and refreshments will be served.

Friday, October 18

West Virginia Baptist Education Society Eat N' Park, 100 Tolley Drive, Bridgeport

Time: 8:00 a.m. For members only.

West Virginia Baptist Historical Society Bridgeport Baptist Church Time: 12:00 p.m. **Cost:** \$10.00 Program: Dick Hepler, presentation on General Lightfoot, Civil War general and pastor of Broad Run **Baptist Church** For reservations, contact Sally Cyrus at 304.522.1030. Shuttle available, but limited space.

Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon Oliverio's, 507 East Main Street, Bridgeport Time: 12:00 p.m. **Cost:** \$10.00 Choice of Soup/Salad or Lasagna/Salad Purchase tickets at the Annual Meeting. Shuttle available, but limited space.

Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon Simpson Creek Baptist Church Time: 12:00 p.m. **Cost:** \$10.00

From I-79:

- Take the US-50 exit, Exit 119 •
- Turn right onto US-50 East
- Turn left onto CR-24 / North Virginia Avenue
- Turn right onto West Philadelphia Avenue
- Church is on the right

Leadership Updates

Rick Garavaglia to Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on June 24, 2013

Grover Morris to Spruce Grove Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as pastor on May 20, 2013

Carl "Buck" Ramsey to Long Run Fellowship (Union) as bivocational pastor on April 1, 2013

Meadow Dale Baptist Church to Celebrate 130th Year

Please join Meadow Dale Baptist Church (Good Hope) on August 4, 2013 as they celebrate their 130th year. The church was established in 1883 and is still worshiping the Lord in the original sanctuary. There will be regular church (9:30 a.m) and Sunday school services in the morning, with a covered dish lunch (1:00 p.m.) in the fellowship hall. Afternoon services include a message from church pastor, Mike King. Attendees will also be sharing their memories and special singing will be provided as well. For more information, please contact Mike King at 304.927.1610.

Trading Post

FREE: 100 Wooden Children's Chairs in good condition. For more information, contact Jim Butcher of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River) at 304.369.1061.

FREE: 15 Office Cubical Dividers, tan in color. For more information, call Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) at 304.295.4578.

The Teays Valley Association: This is God's Work

The Teays Valley Association celebrated their 200 anniversary in 2012 with a mission experience, and with announced intentions of future trips to occur. As anticipated, 2013 marks the beginning of a new century and a renewed desire to do ministry and mission together.

In the fall of 2012, Craig Coster, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, learned that a member of Concord Baptist Church (Teays

Valley) had some significant housing issues. Yvonne's home, located in Mason County, had a leaky roof that was leading to other issues.

In December, the men of Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) purchased a large tarpaulin and covered Yvonne's home. After seven months

with a tarp, her new red metal roof will be installed in August, with the men of Main Street Baptist Church serving as primary laborers with possible help from Zion, Concord and Harmony Baptist Churches (Teays Valley).

However, there were other issues to address. On July 2, 10 youth, their youth pastor, Eric Hayslett, and five senior adults from Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays



Josh Boehm, of Hurricane First Baptist Church, paints the foundation on the side of the house.

old front porch and replaced it with a new deck.

Do you remember why our associations exist? And why the West Virginia Baptist Convention exists? "To do together what we cannot do alone." This work of love is too large for most churches to do by themselves. But with the combined efforts of no fewer than

> six churches, Yvonne will find herself with a freshlypainted home, a new deck and a new roof by this fall!

Valley), painted the front

and left side of Yvonne's

home. The siding on the

back of the house and the

right end needs replaced,

labor this summer. He has

so Coster is working to

find someone to do the

spoken with men's min-

istry coordinators from

Saint Albans First and

Mount Vernon Baptist

Baptist Church (Teays

Churches (Teays Valley).

24, the youth of Highlawn

Valley) removed Yvonne's

During July 22-

The choice is ours. When the work is too large, we maintain an individualized mindset that leads to defeat, or we embrace those other servants of our Savior and "do together what we cannot do alone!" This is the work of the association. This is God's work!



Jacob Bradley, of Hurricane First Baptist Church, painting the soffit.

New Baptist Church Attends Bible Conference and Completes Mission Projects

Thirty youth and six adult leaders from New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) recently attended a Bible conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. While this filled their mornings and evenings, their afternoons were not spent on the beach. Instead, they completed five mission projects.

• Weeding and cleaning the community garden and distributing Gatorade to the people of Street Reach, a non-profit, ecumenical ministry, founded on the conviction that we have been commanded to serve the poor.

• Leading Vacation Bible School at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls'

Club. As one of the youth who did the Bible teaching said, "I went out with a plan on how to teach and my plans soon went out the window." The greeting each day was, "Who here loves Jesus?" To this, by the end of the week, the children would stand up and scream in response.

• Descending upon the Goodwill Store to dust shelves. The store manager thought the task would take hours, but when 15 youth showed up with dust cloths in hand, the job got done faster. The entire store's inventory and display racks were cleaned by the end of the third hour. • Visiting a nursing home and playing games with the residents. In addition, the group tried to lead music for the residents, though they struggled to see this happen. It wasn't until they began singing a song from the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen that this became a holy moment.

• Visiting a local food pantry to stock and organize the food on the shelves.

Trent Eastman, pastor of New Baptist Church stated, "This is what God is doing. He is raising up a generation of young people who know Him."



Obituaries

JAMES FRANKLIN AMOS, 70, of Dunbar, died July 7, 2013. He was a long-time member of both Dunbar First and Starcher Baptist Churches (Kanawha Valley). He served as a deacon and was on the

board of trustees.

GM. "MAX" ARNOLD, 91, of South Charleston, died June 16, 2013. He was a member of South Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and served as a trustee and later as a head usher.

KELLI DISNEY BARTON, 52, of Scott Depot, died May 15, 2013. She was a former member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and actively served as a board member of Cross Roads Community Chapel (Teays Valley).

CHARLES MICHAEL "MIKE" BASS, 62, of Crab Orchard, died June 10, 2013.

He was a member and deacon of Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh).

NOAH SAMUEL BRANNEN, 89, died April 11, 2013. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in Japan. *EDITH HALSEY BROOKS*, 92, of

Pineville, died May 23, 2013. She was an active member of Rockcastle Baptist Church (Rockcastle). She greatly enjoyed working with the youth, especially at church camps. *JAMES LLOYD BURCHETTE (BUD)*, 82,

of Pineville, died June 4, 2013. He was a member of Rockcastle Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where he served several years as a trustee and deacon and sang with the choir.

JOHN LEROY CALDWELL, 81, of Ona, died May 21, 2013. He was a member of Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church (Guyandotte). He was a member of Gideons' International.

EDWIN "FRANK" EDWARDS, 91, of Mineral Wells, died June 29, 2013. He was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a deacon. *SANDY ESCHBACHER*, 71, of Davisville, died June 25, 2013. She was an active member of Murphytown Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she had been church pianist, choir director and Sunday school teacher.

RUTH (GLOVER) GARRETT, 81, of Bridgeport, died June 27, 2013. She was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), where she taught Bible school classes and was a member of the Jessie Johnson Barnes Circle.

WILMA EARLDINE GERRARD, 94, of Buckhannon, died May 5, 2013. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

RONALD G GILMORE, 79, of Washington, died June 7, 2013. He was a member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as deacon.



GEORGE R. PAULEY, 99, of Scott Depot, died May 21, 2013. During his ministry, he was the pastor of Handley Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), Old Kanawha Baptist Church in Pratt and Eskdale Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) from 1937 to 1944. He served Judson Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) from 1944 to 1958 and Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) from 1958 to 1984. He was an interim pastor for 15 churches in West Virginia after his retirement at age 70. He had been ordained since October 1940. He baptized approximately 2,000 people and conducted hundreds of funerals and marriage ceremonies. He helped start the Baptist Church in Sissonville and was instrumental in the development of Parchment Valley Conference Center.

He served on the executive board of the American Baptist Convention, Kanawha Valley Ministers' Association and helped start the chaplain ministry at Thomas Memorial Hospital.

LEONA ROBERTS HEINEY, 91, died July 4, 2013. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) since 1950 and also served as Sunday school teacher.

LINDA JANE HUDSON, 75, of Nitro, died May 15, 2013. She was a member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served as secretary.

ROBERT N. (BOB) LINGER, 84, of Weston, died May 19, 2013. He was a life member of Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he served as deacon, Sunday school superintendent and was on the board of trustees. He was a member of Gideons' International.

WILLIAM CLYDE LOWTHER, 77, of Parkersburg, died, June 25, 2013. He was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he sang in the sanctuary choir and was a Sunday school teacher. He was a member of the Gospel Music Reunion Choir and Gideons' International.

GRACE ESTHER WEST NEEL, 93, died July 3, 2013. She was a member of Goshen Baptist Church (Goshen), where she served in many capacities. She was elected treasurer in March 1957, an office which she held for 36 years. She taught kindergarten through second grade Sunday school for 38 years as well as Vacation Bible School. She enjoyed singing with the choir for many years. She served many years as a deaconess and then was an honorary deaconess for life. She was honored by the church in October 1992 on "Grace Neel Day." Her service was again recognized by Goshen Baptist Church on her 90th birthday, June 27, 2010, at which time the Grace West Neel Library was dedicated in her honor.

WILLIAM RUDOLPH "RUDY" POOLE,

76, of Vienna, died June 26, 2013. He was a member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served in many areas of the church.

LYNNE GRAY QUISENBERRY, 70, of South Charleston, died June 14, 2013. She was a long-time faithful member of South Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). She helped teach kindergarten children in Sunday school for many years.

GERTRUDE (TRUDY) BLOSS RECTOR, 79, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died May 9, 2013. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in Japan. **PETE RODES**, 89, of Fayetteville, died June 3, 2013. He was a lifelong member of Gatewood Baptist Church (Fayette), where he served as deacon and Sunday school teacher. He belonged to Gideons' International.

ELLA SHADE, 98, of Hurricane, died June 28, 2013. She was the oldest member of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley).

M. JEAN WILES SLAGLE, 90, of Kingwood, died May 21, 2013. She was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen), where she served as Sunday school teacher for over 50 years.

WALTER KINTON SMITH, 92, of Forest Hill, died May 16, 2013. He was a member of Fairview Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where he was an ordained deacon for 62 years. Other leadership roles in the church included Sunday school superintendent, member of the church choir and men's Bible class teacher.

OLGA MARIA SPARKS, 86, of MacArthur, died June 11, 2013. She was a member of Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for over 60 years, serving in many capacities, including former member of the deaconess board, Guild Girls' leader, member of the Friendship Sunday School Class, prayer group member, member of circle #2, quilting group member and member of the church choir.

FRANKLIN "FORREST" STALNAKER,

age 79, of Buckhannon, died April 14, 2013. He was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he had served as a deacon.

WANDA CARR THOMPSON, 90, of Nitro, died June 30, 2013. She was the longest serving member at Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). She joined the church in 1939 and continued to work and serve until her death. She belonged to the Elsie Kittlitz Circle, served as the church secretary for 15 years, taught Sunday school classes and served on many church boards and nursery school.

JAMES O'NEAL "JIM" UMPLEBY, died May 20, 2013. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was a member of the choir and served as deacon and usher. He had also been a member of the choir at North Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

PRAYER CALENDARS

August 2013

August 1 - Little Kanawha Association celebrates its annual meeting August 2 - Max Hill, associate executive minister, Missions and Ministry, West Virginia Baptist Convention August 3 - Older Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen August 4 - Debra Mulneix, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to India August 5 - Harrisville Association celebrates its annual meeting tomorrow August 6 - Keith Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico August 7 - Earl Ryan, vice moderator, Coal River Association August 8 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley); Randal Bratka, pastor August 9 - American Baptist Men's Camp begins today at Camp Cowen August 10 - The ministry of Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern); James Ash, pastor August 11 - Bailie Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Mexico August 12 - Ron Adams, member, West Virginia Baptist **Convention Christian Outreach Commission** August 13 - The ministry of Fola Missionary Baptist Church (Elk Valley); Daniel Tanner, pastor August 14 - The ministry of Baileysville Baptist Church (Rockcastle); Ronald Harvey, pastor August 15 - Broad Run Association celebrates its annual meeting August 16 - Angela Johnson, treasurer, Parkersburg Association August 17 - David Carrico, executive minister, West Virginia **Baptist Convention** August 18 - Good Hope and Goshen Associations celebrate their annual meetings August 19 - Anthony Pratt, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Racine Baptist Church (Coal River) August 20 - Colleen Folger, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission August 21 - Deliris Carrion-Rosa, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti August 22 - Scott Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand August 23 - The ministry of Belington First Baptist Church (Union); Herbert Bledsoe, pastor August 24 - Elk Valley Association celebrates its annual meeting August 25 - Eastern Association celebrates its annual meeting August 26 - The ministry of Saint Paul Baptist Church (Fairmont); Larry Harker, pastor August 27 - Mary Beth McCloy, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission August 28 - The ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church (Coal River) August 29 - The ministry of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run); Jay Teodoro, pastor August 30 - Jorge Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Great Britain August 31 - Camp Global begins today at Camp Cowen

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

September 2013

September 1 - Rhonda Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia September 2 - Linda Ramsey, clerk/treasurer, Fayette Association September 3 - The ministry of Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette); Bryan Knight, pastor September 4 - The ministry of New Hill Community Baptist Church (Goshen); Stephen Dodrill, pastor September 5 - Jeremy Myers, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission September 6 - Adam Goodwin, director, Baptist Campus Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention September 7 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meets today at Parchment Valley Conference Center September 8 - Fairmont Association celebrates its annual meeting September 9 - Fall Golden'eers Retreat begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center September 10 - Michael Sisson, first vice-president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) September 11 - Miriam Noyes, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo September 12 - Timothy Underwood, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and pastor, Mount Pisgah Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) September 13 - The ministry of Mount Union Baptist Church (Guyandotte) September 14 - Greenbrier-Raleigh and Hopewell Associations celebrate their annual meetings September 15 - Judson, Kanawha Valley and Panhandle Associations celebrate their annual meetings September 16 - The ministry of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell); Stephen White, pastor September 17 - Parkersburg Association celebrates its annual meeting September 18 - Lauran Bethell, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS), Global Specialist September 19 - Teays Valley Association celebrates their annual meeting September 20 - Fall Youth Rally happens tomorrow September 21 - Twelve Pole Association celebrates its Annual Meeting September 22 - L. Jean Westfall, moderator, Harrisville Association September 23 - Mercy Gonz'alez-Barnes, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico September 24 - Kim Kushner Dominguez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Cuba September 25 - Dwight Bolick, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Chile September 26 - The ministry of West Point Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh); Ronald Miller, pastor September 27 - The ministry of Mill Creek Baptist Church (Good Hope); Robert Keen, pastor September 28 - Coal River Association celebrates its Annual Meeting September 29 - Logan Mingo and Union Associations celebrate their annual meetings September 30 - John Vetter, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, Bethel Baptist Baptist Church (Eastern)

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2013

<u>August 1</u> Little Kanawha Association Annual Meeting Bethlehem Baptist Church, Grantsville

<u>August 3-6</u> Older Midler Camp (grades 3-4) *Camp Cowen*

<u>August 6</u> Harrisville Association Annual Meeting Goose Creek Baptist Church

<u>August 9-11</u> American Baptist Men's Camp *Camp Cowen*

<u>August 12</u> Bowen Trust Parchment Valley Conference Center

<u>August 15</u> Broad Run Association Annual Meeting Buckhannon First Baptist Church

<u>August 17</u> School of Christian Studies Making Peace (Mod-4), formerly Conflict Management, one-day class Parchment Valley Conference Center

<u>August 18</u> Good Hope Association Annual Meeting Grass Lick Baptist Church

<u>August 18</u> Goshen Association Annual Meeting Sabraton Baptist Church

<u>August 24</u> Elk Valley Association Annual Meeting Birch River Baptist Church

American Baptist Men's Camp

August 9-11, 2013 at West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen

Men's Camp Registration Form

Use a separate form for each person. Be sure to bring your own bed linens/sleeping bag, pillow, towels and wash cloths. Date: _____ Age: _____ Name: Address: City/State/Zip: Home Phone: E-mail. Church Name: Roommate: Please Mark One: _____Cabin _____Bringing RV/Camper Bringing Tent First Time Attendee: _____Yes ____No T-shirt Size: Special Needs: Special needs accommodations available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please make requests on this form. Fee scholarships are also available if needed. Contact Cowen registrar for additional information: 800.754.1549. Registration Fees: Please mark one. _____\$60.00, includes full weekend lodging, meals and snacks Early Bird : (postmarked by July 27, 2013) ___\$45.00, includes one night's lodging, meals and snacks (postmarked by July 27, 2013) Walk-In: \$70.00, includes full weekend lodging, meals and snacks __\$50.00, includes one night's lodging, meals and snacks Standard: ___\$45.00, AB Boys and Young Men (18 and younger) _\$25.00, One Day, includes meals, snacks and program fee Pre-registration must be accompanied by full payment. Make checks payable to: Camp Cowen and mail to:

Make checks payable to: Camp Cowen and mail to: Cowen Registrar, 276 Baptist Camp Road, Cowen, WV 26206.

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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