

Weirton Christian Center Kicks Off Its BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT

by Kim Weaver
director, Weirton Christian Center

Weirton Christian Center recently celebrated its 98th anniversary by having an alumni reunion for all those who grew up at the center. It was a time to reunite with old friends and look through hundreds of pictures. It went so well, we are planning for another event next year. By our 100th anniversary, our plan is to compile all the alumni's stories into a book about the history of the center, and we hope to kick off our second centennial in a new facility.

At the 2015 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting it was great to see many of our Baptist friends. It was exciting to be able to announce the kickoff of the **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT**. God has been moving and orchestrating things so we are closer than ever to providing a safe and secure facility under one roof for all our children.

Our children are at risk. I recently learned the state of West Virginia has had 60,000 drug overdoses and there are only 750 beds for treatment. Our area is leading those numbers. Actually, the drug problem is not limited to our downtown area, incomes or status of any kind. It is everywhere. However, our neighborhood is a low-income, rental property area that seems to have a higher crime rate. Our children are living in homes where drugs may be the everyday experience, and if they aren't in the same house, it seems every family is affected.

In order to keep our children safe in a facility that has a security system for

coming and going, we need this construction to happen. Currently, there are ten doors and four buildings - nine areas, and we are going into the new year with 100 children in the afterschool program and 26 in the preschool program. Our new facility design will allow for kindergarten through sixth grade on one floor and seventh through twelfth grade on the other. This will create a manageable operation pattern with a safe and secure system.

This **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT** is being supported by a 40% donor contribution of up to \$300,000, if the other 60% is raised. We also have a local foundation willing to make a major contribution to the project. And with the decision of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board to allow us to ask for church support totaling \$150,000, we are hoping to be able to break ground by spring. Of course, we are also working on other grants and our community partners as well, but our Baptist family is crucial to the success of this venture. We need the financial support of your churches, but we also count on you for your prayers for this ministry. As I always say, we could not do what we do without our Baptist family. We hope your church will be able to make a onetime contribution to the **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT** as you continue to support us with your mission budgets, special offerings, quarters' collections and all the other things you do for us. Please designate your donations when they are made. Besides the regular donations, we are also selling donor bricks that may be used to honor or memorialize someone - \$75 each or two for \$100.

Our website has been revamped, and we can now take online donations. You may also order bricks online. Our larger donors will be designated on a wall in the center with engraved tiles, based on the level of sponsorship. Please earmark donations to the **BUILD-A-BUILDING PROJECT**, whether sent to the center or through West Virginia Baptist Convention. Thank you in advance for your support.

WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER
BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT

BUY A BRICK PROGRAM



In Memory of
Betty Killian
Director 1961-2006

ONE 4 x 8 Brick \$75.00

TWO 4 x 8 Bricks \$100.00

DONOR LEVELS OF SPONSORSHIP

 Bronze Level \$500	 Gold Level \$5,000
 Silver Level \$2,500	 Platinum Level \$10,000

Donors will be accordingly recognized with laser-engraved tiles on the entry wall of the new building.



www.weirtonchristiancenter.com



There's an App for That!

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



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Table of Contents

There's an App for That/Commentary: The Watchman Legacy	2
Christmas Greetings/Retired Ministers and Missionaries' Offering 2015	3
Hispanic Ministries: Building Bridges to Share God's Love - Construyendo Puentes Para Compartir El Amor De Dios	4
Thinking Missions: A Legacy of Mission/Mountain State Mission Offering/Retired Ministers and Missionaries' Offering	5
Adult Discipleship: Powerful Prayer/World Mission Conference 2016/Senior High Convention	6
Huber Hired as Assistant to Student Ministries/Future Looking Bright for the Sunny Day Leadership and Activities Center/2016 Camp Cowen Schedule	7
Annual Meeting Review	8-10
Church News/Leadership Updates	11
Parchment Valley Conference Center: Awesome Gifts and Answered Prayers	12
2016 Church Officers' Training	13
Obituaries	14
Prayer Calendars: December 2015 and January 2016	15
Coming Events	16



The Watchman Legacy

The purpose of a watchman is to be aware of the world around him. As the good folks sleep in the city, the watchman is awake and aware. He is the guard or sentinel on the wall and in the tower. The watchman is one who sounds the alarm when danger approaches or occurs. The Bible addresses the watchman job with 51 verses of scripture. Ezekiel and Isaiah speak directly to the job description of the watchman, emphasizing the fact that the watchman was appointed and very honored in those cultures. He had two responsibilities ... to observe and to sound the alarm.



Dr. David Carrico

In more modern times, the concept of the watchman has included all kinds of dangers, not only physical invaders, but anything perceived as a threat. The legacy of pastors and churches has been to "call them as we see them" in a situation, to call out the danger to society, whatever it may be. In some situations, the concept of watchman includes the role of prophet, announcing the end times. As we look at scriptures, we must never take the text out of the context. The watchman speaks to the present situation, the word of God now and forever. While we as watchmen are to sound the alarm, we must not become alarmists. There are those who needlessly and habitually sound alarms. As watchmen, we are to be wise and observant and to sound the alarm clearly and loudly at the appropriate times.

We have just celebrated the 150th anniversary of our West Virginia Baptist Convention. We stressed our legacy, not only from a historical point of view, but from a future-casting desire as well. The worship, speakers and

workshops all pointed to new appreciation of the future of our ministry and mission and creating a legacy of being the people of God and serving to advance the kingdom. As we celebrated together, we acknowledged ministry is hard work. We became aware of how important our ministry is to people who are hurting today. Individuals, couples, families and churches are under incredible stress and the evil one is busy blinding and binding the hearts and minds of many good folks. Our churches and her leaders need to be encouraged as they minister to their congregations. As we face an ever-changing and complex world, the need for God-fearing believers who will be watchmen is greater than ever before. As we stand on the edge of a new year and prepare to celebrate the holidays, we have a grand opportunity to be the watchmen, looking around us to make a difference both outside and inside our communities of faith. A watchman has to have this gift of situational awareness to see the people who could cause hardship to the community. We must call attention to the situation and destroy the threat. Changing the situation is one of the responsibilities of the watchman, and as the church, we can impact those situations with the saving love of Jesus Christ. The heart of missions is changing the hearts of the creatures to reflect the love of the Creator. This holiday season, be a watchman, celebrating what God has done with great thanksgiving and pointing to the Advent event of His ongoing revelation of Himself through the incarnation of our Lord. Be a watchman. Tell those looking for hope in some very hopeless situations about Jesus.

Blessings

David Carrico

Valma Adams

Jim Anderson

Juan Aragon

Rob Ely

Kevin Emerick

Tracie Emerick

Andy Fling

Joan Hall

Max Hill

Filled with God's Peace

Jennifer Huber

Mark McCloy

Steve McCartney

Frank Miller

Teresa Miller

Ginny Prunty

Victor Shields

John Simmons

Lisa Simmons

Donna Snyder

Koreen Villers



**This Christmas,
though there may
not be peace on
earth, may your
heart be filled
with the everlasting peace
of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ,**

The West Virginia Baptist Convention Staff

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27 (ESV)

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries' Offering

R M M O c o n n e c t s g e n e r a t i o n s



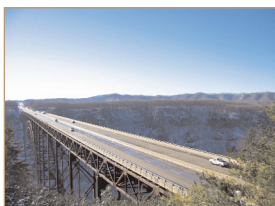
remember with **LOVE**
give with **GRATITUDE**

Remember our ministers and missionaries this holiday season.

The "Thank You" offering is received during the month of December.

2015 State Goal: \$120,000

Hispanic Ministries: Building Bridges to Share God's Love - *Construyendo puentes para compartir el amor de Dios*



In a recent road trip, my wife and I had the opportunity to travel across the George Washington Bridge (GWB) in New York City. As we drove over the bridge, I was fascinated not only by the stunning view of the Hudson River, but also by the bridge itself. It is impressive. The GWB is an imposing double-decked bridge with 14 lanes extending almost 1.5 miles over the Hudson River to connect New York City to Fort Lee, New Jersey. Since 1931, the GWB has rendered an extraordinary service helping to connect the millions of people traversing over it. Every year over 106 million vehicles travel through it making it the busiest motor vehicle bridge in the world. A bridge's purpose is to span over a gap to make a physical connection between two things.

The times and culture we live in require our commitment to be bridge builders to share God's love. We need followers of Jesus who are intentional about making real and meaningful connections with people from different languages, beliefs, values, behaviors, customs and attitudes. God is the Master Bridge Builder. Because of His unfailing love and grace, God sent His Son to die for us, and in doing so He bridged the gap separating us from Him (John 3:16). As the Father, Jesus was a Master Bridge Builder. He invested lots of time building relationships. He overcame ethnic, social, gender, cultural, political and religious barriers separating us from each other and from God (Galatians 3:28). He connected to and transformed the lives of the unwanted of His time: lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors.

To share God's love with people from Spanish speaking cultures, and even with those from other cultures, building real and meaningful relationships will help you overcome the following obstacles:

1. LANGUAGE OBSTACLE:

"No hablo Español." How could I share the gospel?

This is the most common obstacle, but you can overcome it by learning Spanish! Learn a few basic Spanish phrases to connect with Spanish speakers. You could even start a basic English as Second Language (ESL) class and as you teach English ask them to teach you Spanish.

2. CULTURAL OBSTACLE:

"What could we have in common, besides enjoying some good ethnic or Mexican food?"

We are drawn to those who demonstrate genuine love, respect and interest in us. At times people from other cultures face discrimination and feel alone. You can make a difference in their lives by learning about their culture. Always be sincere! Ask questions about their countries, their hopes and challenges. Your interest will make them feel welcomed, accepted and cared for. This may be the bridge the Lord uses for you to share the gospel.

3. SOCIOECONOMIC OBSTACLE:

"They won't feel comfortable in our church."

Hispanic immigrants are hardworking people. Most left their countries because they long for a better tomorrow. Some may not speak English or have the same education you do, but they want to be respected. When you invite them to your church, treat them with dignity and introduce them to your pastor and others in the church. Offer them the hospitality you would offer to Jesus.

4. LEGAL OBSTACLE:

"What if the authorities find out?"

First, remember not all Hispanics are undocumented. Second, to know their legal status should not be your primary concern, establishing a true and sincere relationship, a bridge, to share God's love should be your goal. No matter your views about the immigration issue remember all human beings are created in God's image. Thus, we all must be treated with dignity and respect. Jesus died on the cross for you and them.

I realize building relationships is a time-consuming, messy and risky process. And we neither want to invest the time, nor do we want to go through the perplexing and unpredictable process of relating to people who are different from us. But the more we become like Jesus, the closer we move to God's heart, the closer we will move to other people - particularly those unlike us. Relationships are the bridge God will use for you to share His love not only with Hispanics, but with everyone you encounter.

A Legacy of Mission

Though many of the early Baptists who formed the West Virginia Baptist Convention were opposed to missions, the majority ruled the day and missions became the foundation of Convention life. In October we celebrated 150 years of doing mission together as Baptists of West Virginia.

It is true several of our churches are much older than the Convention, having been organized when this part of the country was still Virginia. It is also true missionaries were being sent out from American Baptists 50 years before the West Virginia Baptist Convention was organized.

The first overseas missionary from West Virginia was sent out in 1888. William Hall served as a missionary in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire) for 18 years. Hall was the first of at least 50 missionaries we know of that have served God overseas through the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS - International Ministries).

It is clear we have a strong legacy of mission. Men and women have answered God's call and we have supported them with our prayers and with our giving. GOD IS STILL CALLING!

I have had the opportunity to spend significant time with several of our International Ministries' missionaries the past few months. We can be proud of the people God has called to serve overseas. Each one is dedicated to the Lord and to the

mission to which he/she has been called. Our missionaries serve selflessly, giving each day of themselves to their work. The work is hard. The ministry is challenging. The sacrifices are real!

Far too often, our missionaries suffer stress due to lagging levels of financial support. Some have had to make emergency appeals to close the funding gap so they could continue serving. Several have taken retirement or changed jobs because the stress of finding support was so great. This should not be!

My prayer is our missionaries never have to worry that we do not adequately support them. As you pray about and adopt your church's budget for 2016, I challenge you to adopt a missionary and add them to your mission giving.

I also challenge you to personally consider a monthly gift to one of our missionaries. If you go to www.internationalministries.org, you can find information about all of our overseas missionaries as well as where they are in their personal support goals. You can also set up your giving through International Ministries if that is more convenient for you.

God is still calling us to go. May we continue our legacy of missions by making sure those who are called are supported by our prayers and our finances.

Committed to Missions



**Received
as of
November 6, 2015:
\$212,753**

**2015 State Goal:
\$270,000**

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

Adult Discipleship: Powerful Prayer

During 2015, we have been concentrating on facets of spiritual formation for adults based on writings of John R. Throop. In past issues, we have explored reflective reading, active repentance and total stewardship.

Personal, regular, heartfelt prayer is a “must” for those persons seeking to mature in their spiritual formation. It is through honest, open communication with God and attentive listening to God that we are given the power to continue the molding process of Christian spiritual formation. Through prayer we present our whole selves to God, including our bumps, scars, blemishes and handicaps. We are to “come clean” with God and trust He will forgive, assure, encourage and transform us. Through prayer we are readied for service with Him. We receive His grace, mercy, love and direction.

Volumes have been written on prayer, however there is not one method or way to pray. A study of the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) is a good place to begin learning the elements of powerful prayer.

George Buttrick, a well-known writer on the spiritual life and prayer shares the following about prayer:

- *We should recognize the sovereignty and holiness of God and His great and genuine love for us.*

- *We need to deliberately remember and call out His blessings and mercies to us. This is personal and specific.*
- *Personal and true confession to God is important. This allows inward peace and inward power from the Holy Spirit to inhabit us.*
- *Intercession is talking to God on behalf of others. True intercession is specific and comes from thinking deeply about those for whom you are praying.*
- *The above four intervals of prayer should be filled with a time of meditation. This is time when we contemplate, pause and listen. As in any healthy conversation there are times to speak and times to listen deeply.*

For more materials on prayer, check out these recommended readings:

[Celebration of Disciplines](#) by Richard Foster

[Prayer](#) by George A. Buttrick

[Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants](#) by Reuben Job

[Prayer: The Ultimate Conversation](#) by Charles Stanley

Lisa Simmons

Director of Discipleship/Associate in Mission Support



“On Earth as it is in Heaven”

**July 3-9, 2016
Greenlake, Wisconsin**

*If you have never been to
Green Lake, Wisconsin, now is
your chance to travel with us!*

Cost for the week: \$800

Limited clergy scholarships available.

Registration deadline is January 15, 2016.

*For complete details, go to www.wvbc.org or
contact Joan at 800.879.9822
or hall@wvbc.org.*

Senior High Convention

**February 26-28, 2016
Hurricane First Baptist Church**

Theme: Recognize - 1 John 4:6

***Registration form available at
www.wvbc.org.***

Huber Hired as Assistant to Student Ministries

PARKERSBURG - The West Virginia Baptist Convention welcomes Jennifer Huber to its support staff as the assistant to student ministries, assisting Rob Ely and youth from seventh grade through college. Jennifer has been acquainted with the student ministries of the Convention most of her life. She was a camper at Camp Cowen, participated in Youth Leader Core (YLC), was a member of the Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT), volunteered as a counselor and worked on staff at Camp Cowen. She was the youth leader of her church for two years and one of the leaders of YLC prior to her marriage to Mitch Huber. She attended Muskingum and Liberty Universities. She said, "If you would have told me when I was in YLC in the tenth grade (Rob was her leader) that someday I would be working with him, I never would have believed it." If you have any questions about youth, Baptist Campus Ministries' events and camping or rentals at Cowen, contact her at jennifer@wvbc.org.



Jennifer Huber,
assistant to student
ministries

Future Looking Bright for the Sunny Day Leadership and Activities Center

The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen has been training and discipling counselors, students and staff alike as they grow in their walks with God and develop into the people God has called them to be. Plans are being made now to further the camp's resources for training today's youth to become the leaders our nation clearly craves. Camp Cowen leaders have already drawn up conceptual plans for the Sunny Day Leadership and Activities Center. The hope for this new center is to turn the legacy of leaders who have come before us into the foundation on which the upcoming leaders can stand, learn and grow. The desire for this new center is for it to be a versatile facility for the purpose of training up leaders, while also providing a means for students to have a sunny day at Cowen even on the rainiest days. It will function as both an indoor activity area as well as a training center for growing leaders. Your support, both in prayer and funding, is necessary in this new endeavor! Please be in prayer for the continued planning, site work and the finances for this project as well as for the students and adults who will benefit from the use of the building.

Rob Ely
Director of Student Ministries

2016 Camp Cowen Schedule

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

<u>APRIL</u> American Baptist Men's Work Weekend April 29-30	Younger Midler (grades 2-4) June 10-12	<u>JULY</u> High School 1 (grades 9-HS Grads) July 3-9	High School 2 (grades 9-HS Grads) July 17-23
<u>MAY</u> Youth Work Party May 20-21	Junior 1 (grades 5-6) June 12-18	Junior High 2 (grades 7-9) July 10-16	Family Camp July 26-August 1
<u>JUNE</u> Older Midler (grades 3-4) June 5-8	Junior High 1 (grades 7-9) June 19-25	Senior Day 2016 High School Graduates July 16	<u>SEPTEMBER</u> Camp Global September 2-4
	Junior 2 (grades 5-6) June 26-July 2		



Legacy: Celebrating 150 Years of West Virginia Baptists



150th ANNUAL MEETING

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Thursday, October 15 - Friday, October 16, 2015

Hurricane First Baptist Church

Scripture Verse:

"But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:13b-14**



Debbie Myers (r), missionary to Mexico and **Karla Carr**, Mexico Mission Partnership Team (MPT) member attend Women's Day.



2015 Mexico Mission Team Members: (l to r) **Rowena Sizemore**, **Jordan Lallemond** and **Lisa Simmons**

Historical Society Vignettes



Jim Ash as John Corbly



Robert Ball as John Alderson



Carol Parker as Ann Judson



Kathy Hudson as Elizabeth Carter



John Upton, executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia and the Virginia Baptist Mission Board in the United States and president, Baptist World Alliance, was the guest speaker at the 150th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.



Maxwell Hill, Jr., central area minister and executive minister of Missions and Ministry, was the annual sermon speaker at the 150th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.



David Carrico, executive minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention



Marsha Raker, music ministry director, Oakwood Baptist Church, was the worship leader for the 150th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.



Nick Smith, (r) music minister, Hurricane First Baptist Church and **Max Munday**, guitar player, Oakwood Baptist Church



The delegation from Puerto Rico who signed the covenant of collaboration in mission between West Virginia and Puerto Rico. From left to right: **Brunilda Gonzalez**, chair of the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico (IBPR) Mission Committee; **Madeline Flores**, International Ministries' missionary; **Margarita Ramirez**, president, IBPR; **Luis Díaz**, pastor, Comunidad Luz y Vida; and **Alberto Díaz**, pastor, Iglesia Bautista de Mamey.



Larry Dale, retired pastor



Clark Sweptson, 2014-2015 president of the West Virginia Baptist Convention



Mark McCloy, director, School of Christian Studies and northwest area minister

West Virginia Baptist Convention 2015-2016 Officers

The newly elected officers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention for the 2015-2016 term are: president, Mrs. Sandy Phares, Morgantown; first vice-president, Rev. Mark Wood, Oak Hill; second vice-president, Mr. David Hoge, Charleston; secretary, Mrs. Lois Merritt, Huntington; and treasurer, Rev. John Simmons, Sandyville.



President, West Virginia Baptist Convention,
Mrs. Sandy Phares



First Vice-President,
West Virginia Baptist Convention,
Rev. Mark Wood

Nine Graduate from the School of Christian Studies

The School of Christian Studies held its annual graduation ceremony at the Thursday, October 15 evening session of the 150th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Those present to participate in the ceremony are pictured at left and are as follows (l to r): bottom row -

Suzanne Marie Cross, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Janet Childers, diploma in Pastoral Ministry. Top row: Jonathan Lee Slate, diploma in Pastoral Ministry and Advanced Studies; Kenneth W. Holcomb, certificate in Lay Ministry; Patrick Robert Huffman, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; and William Asher Childers, diploma in Pastoral Ministry. Those not pictured are Paula Ann Kesner, diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Arthur Moore, diploma in Advanced Studies; and Edna Marie Young, diploma in Pastoral Ministry.



Wanda Hartley Butts Receives James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry

During the October 16, 2015 afternoon session of the 150th West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Wanda Hartley Butts was presented with the James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry by Jim Anderson, Jr. and Mary Jo Slater. Jim and Mary Jo are the children of the late James Anderson, Sr.

Wanda came to know Jesus Christ in a little country church at the age of sixteen and He has been the major influence on her life since that day. Early on she adopted Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths, as the motivational verse for her life. The Lord proved himself worthy of His trust as she has known the assurance of His guidance during the stages of life that followed.

She worked her way through high school and graduated as Salutatorian from Ripley High School, and also attended Glenville State College, but quit before graduating. She was granted a certificate to teach by Jackson County Board of Education and taught in small rural schools there. She married William Butts in 1959 and they had four children: Cynthia Louise, Kathryn Denise, William Nelson II and Susan Vanessa. The family lived on a 188 acre farm called Willanda Farm and raised cattle, hogs and Morgan horses. Her husband also worked at Kaiser Aluminum.

Wanda spent most of her life attending Mill Creek Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she served at various times as a teacher, youth director and church clerk. She is also a poet and an inspirational writer writing under the name Good Words Ministry, and has been published in international periodicals such as Upper Room, Secret Place and Purpose Magazine. Presently, she is working on some devotional and poetry books, a journaling book and an inspirational novel for publication.

She wasn't called into the ministry until 2004 at the age of 64. It was a struggle, but prayer became more of a priority in her life as she sought for and waited for guid-

ance from the Lord. Wanda attended the West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies and the Advanced program and graduated with a Diploma in Pastoral Ministry. Her pastor, Bob Keen suggested she do a gospel program on the Spencer radio station. Wanda didn't like that idea, but on the way home God reminded her she already had a name for it - Good Words Ministry. A couple days later she went to the radio station praying there would be no time available. There was one 15 minute slot. She knew without doubt she was supposed to take it. Good Words Ministry has been on the air for 11 years.

One day in June of 2010, Wanda received a call from Goose Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville) to come and preach for them. As soon as she saw that little country church she knew that was where God wanted her to minister. She preached there the rest of the summer, but they didn't call her until the following spring. Serving God with the people of Goose Creek proved to be a blessed calling. Like the early church, they cooperate with and love each other and the people in the community around them. One of the deacons told her one day, "We needed you but you needed us." How true his words were. She needed their example and their acceptance, and prays she has given them half as much love and support as they have given her.

Preaching the gospel has been pure joy to Wanda. She says the Lord is indeed a very present help in time of need as she feels His presence and influence every moment as she studies His Word to prepare messages. It is by the Lord's empowerment she can look toward to the future with the hope of these words from Psalms 73:23-24: Nevertheless I am continually with thee; thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

The Rev. James Anderson, Sr. Award for Bivocational Ministry was established in 2013 as an annual award given to celebrate the contributions of a West Virginia Baptist Convention bivocational pastor who also exhibits the same love of serving Jesus Christ through the small church.



Wanda Hartley Butts (c), along with Jim Anderson, Jr. and Mary Jo Slater, Jim's sister.

ClearView Fellowship Reaches Out to Community With Fall Festival



ClearView Fellowship (Greenbrier-Raleigh) - a six-year-old church start - made a conscious effort to give a gift to the community with no strings attached. ClearView hosted their annual Fall Festival at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Fairlea. For ClearView, this is not a church growth event. It is a gift to the community.

Hot dogs, barbecue, nachos, cookies, cotton candy, drinks, etc. were provided for anyone who came for the afternoon. There was a photo booth, free haircuts, music, blow-up games, magic, crafts, face painting and free toboggans and gloves for each child. HealthNet landed their helicopter for kids to see and the National Guard provided an obstacle course. The smiles on the children's faces made it all worthwhile.

ClearView Fellowship Pastor, Roger Adams offers the help of ClearView Fellowship to any West Virginia Baptist Convention church that would like to hold a similar event. For more information, contact Roger at 304.545.7263.



Eastern Association Churches Baptize Twelve in Joint Service

Several churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention Eastern Association are rejoicing over 12 people who were baptized on Back-to-Church Sunday on September 20, 2015 at Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern).

During the morning worship service, Steve Wilson, pastor of Romney First Baptist Church was pleased to baptize four candidates, including the church's new youth director, Jake Tighe and his wife, Emily.

Later that same afternoon, Tony Baker, pastor of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern) and the congregation arrived to baptize four additional candidates, including a 93-years young lady. There was much rejoicing.

Still later that day, the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church (Eastern) brought four candidates of their own to be immersed. John Vetter, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church became "John the Baptizer," and all who were present felt the blessing of the Lord. In all, 12 candidates were baptized, ranging in age from nine to 93. God is at work among His churches and all the glory goes to Him.



Romney First Baptist Church

Leadership Updates

MR. LUIS DIAZ to Comunidad Luz Y Vida (Eastern) as missionary pastor on September 1, 2015

REV. DANIEL T. LONDEREE to Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte) as pastor on August 10, 2015

REV. SILAS MULLENS to Rockcastle Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as interim pastor on September 9, 2015

REV. MILBURN PACK to Lovers Leap Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on August 30, 2015

REV. CHARLES "ED" ROGERS, JR. to Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle) as interim pastor on October 1, 2015

MR. CHARLES STONER to Jordan Run Baptist Church (Eastern) as pastor on November 1, 2015

REV. WILLIAM C. STOUT to Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on September 1, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

Parchment Valley Conference Center: Awesome Gifts and Answered Prayers

We are so blessed to have Parchment Valley Conference Center, a wonderful retreat facility that allows us to pour the Lord's blessings out to many different guests who spend quality time here with us.

Recently, we welcomed Teresa Miller, my wife, to Parchment Valley Conference Center as the assistant director of Operations. Her knowledge of business operations in conjunction with her attitude of servanthood definitely complements our mission.

Parchment Valley Conference Center offers opportunities for conferences, camps and programs at a very affordable rate. If you are a member of a West Virginia Baptist Convention church, your cost is significantly cheaper than our non-convention church rate.

Our Bow Hunters' event was a success this past fall with Dale Mason and Brian Sweeney at the helm. Dale shared the need for others to join the Don Loudermilk Society, which helps with operational needs at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Dale signed up and challenged other hunters to do the same.

The administrative volunteers sent 400 letters to our West Virginia Baptist Convention churches identifying the maintenance needs of Parchment Valley Conference Center and asking for support. Praise God as we are now receiving support from churches who are first-time givers to this ministry! It is through your mission dollars and hard work that we celebrate 60 youth making first-time decisions of salvation this summer.

Our American Baptist Men's Work Party enabled us to install a French drain system around the Santrock Educational Building. The fellowship and skilled work was a tremendous blessing.

The American Baptist Women's Ministries have raised \$12,000 for a Parchment Valley Conference Center truck.



Parchment Valley Conference Center fall 2015

Through special project gifts, we recently added a new projector system in Hill Hall, and are working toward upgrading the Matherly Room for our Palmer Seminary students with new wall mounted flat screens.

We at Parchment Valley Conference Center thank the Lord and His people for these awesome gifts and the many answered prayers we have experienced.



(l to r) Lucky Ray and Kevin Barker in discussion at the American Baptist Men's Work Party at Parchment Valley.



(l to r) Tom Dale and John Vannoy work on the French drain system at the Santrock Educational Building during the American Baptist Men's Work Party at Parchment Valley.



(l to r) Phil Shields, Teresa Miller and Jack Cobb during the American Baptist Men's Work Party at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

2016 Church Officers' Training Event

February 6 at Parchment Valley Conference Center

God has given His people a great legacy of spiritual growth. He desires for us to continue this legacy by continuing to learn and grow in the faith. Paul told Timothy to "study to show yourself approved." With this thought in mind, the West Virginia Baptist Convention staff have planned the annual Church Officers' Training Event for Saturday, February 6, 2016 at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

New classes are being offered this year as well as old favorites. There is also opportunity for School of Christian Studies ADVANCED credit for those who desire it (please see the bottom of this page). Join us that day as we give you more tools to help take your church into the future God has planned for you.

Each participant will select one workshop for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. **The cost will be \$15 per person for the day, including lunch. If you bring eight from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost.**

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 - 11:45 a.m.	Workshop Session #1
12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session #2
2:30 p.m.	Head home

Workshops Include:	Session #1	Session #2
• Associational Leadership		P.M. ONLY
• Children	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Clerks		P.M. ONLY
• Deacons	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Discipleship	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Exploring a Call		P.M. ONLY
• Finance	A.M. ONLY	
• Missions	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Missions: Cultural Intelligence (NEW)	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Pastoral Relations Committee	A.M. SESSION	
• Pulpit Committee	A.M. ONLY	
• SCS ADVANCED - Systems Transformation in the Local Church (NEW)	PART A	PART B
• Senior Adults	A.M. ONLY	
• Technology	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Trustees		P.M. ONLY
• Worship and Music	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Young Adults	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT
• Youth	A.M. SESSION	REPEAT

PLEASE NOTE: ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

February 2016 Church Officers' Training REGISTRATION FORM

- Please complete the following information:

I am registering as (Please check all that apply.)

☐ an individual/couple or ☐ part of a church group

☐ I am the contact person for the church group.

☐ My church has met the requirements. I am a free participant.

Name: _____

(One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Preferred way to contact: ☐ telephone or ☐ e-mail

Phone or e-mail address: _____

- Please check the appropriate fee box(es).

☐ \$15.00 Leadership Conference Fee (REQUIRED)

☐ \$25.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Fee

☐ \$35.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Fee
(One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)

☐ Total Enclosed (Please write in blank at left.)

- Please list the title of the workshop(s) in the spaces below.

1.) List choice for a.m. workshop: _____

2.) List choice for p.m. workshop: _____

- SCS ADVANCED Students only:

Please select one program you want this credit applied to.

☐ New Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program
You must choose Part A and Part B of the SCS ADVANCED Systems Transformation in the Local Church workshop.

☐ Original Two-Year General Studies Program - one credit
You may choose any combination of workshops.

Attention: Church Group Contact Person.

A contact person must be chosen for all church groups.

Please send all church group registrations in one envelope.

One check may be written for all registrations. If you plan to use the pay for eight and bring two free rule, please make sure the free participant(s) check the box on the left side of this form. After the first 10, the "pay for eight bring two free" begins again.

If you have any questions, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 800.879.9822.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

After February 1, the fee is the same, but lunch is not included. It will be on your own.

Please make checks payable to and mail to: West Virginia Baptist Convention Church Officers' Training, Attn: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

School of Christian Studies (SCS) ADVANCED Information: The ADVANCED class, Systems Transformation in the Local Church held during this event is part of the new **SCS ADVANCED Congregational Transformation** three-year program of study. This event will give you the opportunity to complete one of the classes in this new program. A mailing will be sent to all students regarding this new ADVANCED program. This event may also be attended by ADVANCED students to fulfill one class requirement for the original two-year program.

GEORGE WILBURN ABSHIRE, JR., 66, of Elkview, died November 4, 2015. He was a member of Hurricane Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he served as a deacon, adult Sunday school teacher and Sunday school superintendent.

BILLIE JEAN BARTON, died September 25, 2015. She was a lifelong member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she served as church treasurer for 27 plus years, and spent many Sunday mornings in the nursery.

PATRICK H. BROWN III, died October 22, 2015. He was a very active member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 35 years, where he served as treasurer, trustee and Sunday school teacher.

SHIRLEY MAE JIVIDEN BAKER, 78, died August 29, 2015. She was a member of the Carrollton, Kentucky First Baptist Church.

DONALD RAY CALL, 91, died September 25, 2015. He was a member of Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he had been a Sunday school teacher.

ARNOLD W. HARLESS, 86, of Clear Fork, died July 9, 2015. He was a member of Baileysville Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where he served as Sunday school teacher, devotion leader and interim pastor. He also served as pastor of Hanover Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle) for 13 years. Arnold was active in the Rockcastle Association serving as association moderator, and he represented the Rockcastle Association as a delegate for the West Virginia Baptist Convention at Green Lake, Wisconsin for six years.

HELEN ICE JOHNSON, 89, of Sistersville, died November 8, 2015. She was a member of Sistersville First Baptist Church (Panhandle), where she served as a Sunday school teacher.

ROSS A. KEFFER, 90, of Saint Albans, died October 22, 2015. He was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and a longtime deacon.

CLARISE GAYNELL "MAMAW SUSIE" NIEZGODA, 94, of Star City, formerly of Mannington, died October 22, 2015. She was a member of Mannington First Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she taught Sunday school and sang in the choir.

ROSALYN EDNA KEMP REIFF, 73, of Oklahoma, died October 2, 2015. She was a Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in Japan.

HARLEY WILBERT RICE, 91, of Parkersburg, died September 16, 2015. He was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was an usher and a member of the Helping Hands Sunday School Class.

RICHARD E. SHEARER, died October 6, 2015. In 1951, after pastoring several churches in New Jersey, Dr. Shearer answered the call to become president of Alderson - Broaddus College in Philippi, when, at the age of 30, he was the youngest college president in the United States. He was an active member of Philippi Baptist Church (Union).

SUSAN BALLARD SHREVE, 52, of Madison, died October 11, 2015. She was a member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River), where she taught junior church and took care of the nursery. She was also teacher's assistant at Madison Baptist Church Preschool.

HARRIETTE "TT" VIRGINIA SMARR SIZEMORE, 92, of Dixie, died, October 30, 2015. She was a longtime member of Dixie First Baptist Church (Hopewell), where she served faithfully as secretary/treasurer until the time of her illness.

MARY ELIZABETH WHITE THOMAS, 97, of Beckley, died September 19, 2015. She was a longtime member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she was active in the Lizzie Lewis Circle and taught Sunday school. She was also a member and held office in the West Virginia Baptist Women's Association. She was previously a member of Mullens

First Baptist Church and South Hills Baptist Church in Pittsburgh and directed Bible schools in many churches in Raleigh and Wyoming counties.

EMILY HUMPHRIES WARDEN, of Charleston, died October 24, 2015. She was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley) since 1947. She was a past president of Church Women United and served on the board of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

J. LEE WHITE, 88, of Hurricane, died October 11, 2015. His pastorates included the three churches in Mount Zion Parish: Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg); Pond Creek Baptist Church (Parkersburg); and Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Walton as well as Big Clear Creek Baptist Church (Hopewell), 1957-1968; Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), 1969-1978; and Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), 1978-1994. Retiring from full-time pastorate in 1994, he continued serving as interim at several churches, including Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Oakwood Baptist Church, Starcher Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), Calvary Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley). He was bestowed the title of Pastor Emeritus by Mount Vernon Baptist Church in October 1999. He served on the Baptist association and state boards and committees. In the community, he served as volunteer chaplain at Thomas Memorial and Putnam General Hospitals as well as being chairman of the chaplaincy committee at Thomas Memorial.

MARVIN DUANE "WIMP" WILSON, 91, of Elizabeth, died October 28, 2015. He was a member of the Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, Sunday school superintendent, Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) leader and trustee. He was honored by having the activity building at the church named after him.

December 2015

DECEMBER 1 - The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; James Murphy, pastor (Elk Valley)
DECEMBER 2 - Ann Clemmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
DECEMBER 3 - The ministry of Morgantown First Baptist Church; Mark Kays, pastor (Goshen)
DECEMBER 4 - The ministry of Enon Missionary Baptist Church; J. Sam Morris, pastor (Guyandotte)
DECEMBER 5 - The ministry of Danville First Baptist Church; Geoffrey Saunders, pastor (Coal River)
DECEMBER 6 - Michael Harper, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
DECEMBER 7 - The ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church; Daniel Cunningham, pastor (Fairmont)
DECEMBER 8 - The ministry of Little Laurel Baptist Church (Hopewell)
DECEMBER 9 - The ministry of Sunrise Baptist Church; Casey Dawson, pastor (Parkersburg)
DECEMBER 10 - Ivy Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Macau
DECEMBER 11 - John Simmons, associate executive minister, Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 12 - Tom McComas, vice-moderator, Guyandotte Association
DECEMBER 13 - The ministry of Cedar Grove Baptist Church; Harold White, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
DECEMBER 14 - Dan Meadows, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
DECEMBER 15 - Bill Clemmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
DECEMBER 16 - The ministry of Mill Creek Baptist Church; Robert Keen, pastor (Good Hope)
DECEMBER 17 - Sarah Chetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Lebanon
DECEMBER 18 - Lisa Simmons, director of Discipleship and Associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 19 - The ministry of Dent's Run Baptist Church (Judson)
DECEMBER 20 - Mike Lowery, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 21 - J.D. Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Bolivia
DECEMBER 22 - The ministry of Auburn Baptist Church; Harry Drake, pastor (Harrisville)
DECEMBER 23 - Sherry Goldsberg, president, American Baptist Women's Ministries and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
DECEMBER 24 - Our families as we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior
DECEMBER 25 - Prayer of thanksgiving for a Savior born to save the world
DECEMBER 26 - The ministry of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church; Dewey Lowe, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
DECEMBER 27 - Koreen Villers, director, Children's Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 28 - The ministry Little Capon Baptist Church; Tony Baker, pastor (Eastern)
DECEMBER 29 - The ministry of Victory Baptist Church; Robert Metz, pastor (Broad Run)
DECEMBER 30 - Lori Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
DECEMBER 31 - Anita Lusk, clerk/treasurer, Rockcastle Association

January 2016

JANUARY 1 - Pray for a blessed New Year
JANUARY 2 - Mike Grose, moderator, Hopewell Association
JANUARY 3 - The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Alan Rosenberger, pastor (Union)
JANUARY 4 - Lois Merritt, secretary, West Virginia Baptist Convention and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JANUARY 5 - Ingrid Rold'an-Rom'an, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Panama
JANUARY 6 - The ministry of New Antioch Baptist Church; Gary Walker, pastor (Elk Valley)
JANUARY 7 - The ministry of Lumberport Baptist Church; Chad Hutson, pastor (Judson)
JANUARY 8 - The ministry of Scarbro First Baptist Church; Kenny Smith, pastor (Fayette)
JANUARY 9 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meets today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JANUARY 10 - Kyle Witmer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JANUARY 11 - Ann Borquist, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
JANUARY 12 - The ministry of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; Bobby Dailey, pastor (Guyandotte)
JANUARY 13 - Kenneth Miller, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JANUARY 14 - Ron Chesser, vice moderator, Little Kanawha Association
JANUARY 15 - The ministry of Rockcastle Baptist Church (Rockcastle)
JANUARY 16 - The ministry of Sunday Road Baptist Church; Allen Donaldson, pastor (Hopewell)
JANUARY 17 - The ministry of Kenova First Baptist Church; Steve Willis, pastor (Twelve Pole)
JANUARY 18 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Ed Moats, pastor (Goshen)
JANUARY 19 - The ministry of Smithville Baptist Church; Charles Leisure, interim pastor (Harrisville)
JANUARY 20 - Andrea Fling, bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 21 - The ministry of Parchment Valley Baptist Church; Matt Ash, pastor (Good Hope)
JANUARY 22 - The ministry of Judson Baptist Church; Bobby Goldsberg, pastor (Teays Valley)
JANUARY 23 - The ministry of Flaggy Meadow Baptist Church; Michael Williams, pastor (Fairmont)
JANUARY 24 - David Hoge, second vice-president, West Virginia Baptist Convention and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JANUARY 25 - Preston Gore, clerk/treasurer, Coal River Association
JANUARY 26 - The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Kurt Busiek, pastor (Parkersburg)
JANUARY 27 - The ministry of Send The Light Baptist Church; James Anderson, president (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JANUARY 28 - The ministry of Leading Creek Baptist Church; Lloyd Stewart, pastor (Little Kanawha)
JANUARY 29 - Sandra Lutz, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
JANUARY 30 - The ministry of Jackson's Mill Baptist Church; Gregory Miller, pastor (Broad Run)
JANUARY 31 - The ministry of Eskdale Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)

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

Coming Events

DECEMBER 2015

December 24-25

Christmas Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

JANUARY 2016

January 1

New Year's Day Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

January 9

*West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

FEBRUARY 2016

February 6

Church Officers' Training

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 15

Presidents' Day Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

February 26-28

Senior High Convention

Hurricane First Baptist Church

MARCH 2016

March 11-13

*American Baptist Men Disaster Relief
Training*

Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 12

Spring Children's Rally

Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 25

Good Friday Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

APRIL 2016

April 1-3

Women's Camp

Camp Cowen

April 23

Omega

To Be Announced

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 7

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Executive Board

Parchment Valley Conference Center

May 9-16

Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach Week

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

May 20-21

AB GIRLS' Festival

Parchment Valley Conference Center

May 30

Memorial Day Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Office CLOSED

JUNE 2016

June 3-5

American Baptist Women's Ministries'

Annual Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 5-8

Older Midler Camp

Camp Cowen

June 10-12

Younger Midler Camp

Camp Cowen

June 12-18

Junior 1 Camp

Camp Cowen

June 16-18

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Worship and Music Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 19-25

Junior High 1 Camp

Camp Cowen

June 26-July 1

Brothers' Keeper

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 26-July 1

Children's Art Camp

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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