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CHANGING PEOPLE
FOR THE KINGDOM

West Virginia Baptist



BCM

Changing Lives that
Change the World

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Baptist

Campus Ministry (BCM) students rang in the new year with 43,000 other college students and leaders. January 2-5, 2012 in Atlanta, Georgia was quite possibly the largest gathering of college-aged students in the name of Jesus, in the history of the church. One-hundred twenty West Virginia BCM students joined up with tens of thousands of college students from around the country and world for the sole purpose of worshipping Jesus at Passion 2012 Conference.

The theme of the conference

this year was

"Freedom." At

this very moment, 27 million people are enslaved.

That is more than at any point in history.

This includes children trafficked for sexual exploitation, kids abused in factories, men and women trapped as bonded labor

slaves and countless other horrific abuses.

These are real, living, breathing people. Passion believes together we can make a difference in putting an end to human slavery. People tend to think college students are "poor" financially, but these "poor" college students dug deep into their pockets and took the scripture literally and gave over \$1.5 million to put an end to injustice. I am so thankful we have a generation of college students who are willing to rise up and give sacrificially, not only for the sake of humanity, but for the glory of Jesus!



Students Attend Passion 2012 Conference

Christine Caine spoke to the students at Passion. She talked about her journey to Poland. When she was in Poland she began to think about the Holocaust. She asked God, "Where was the church during the Holocaust? Why didn't the church stand up for the injustice of the Holocaust?" She promised God that day on her watch, she would not allow something like that to ever happen again. A few years later she realized something even larger than the Holocaust was happening around the world and for the most part the church, once again, was being silent. Christine

has committed her life to bringing freedom to the 27 million slaves. Now that we know, how will we respond? Some college students gave, some have committed to going to the mission field and others have a new zeal for the gospel and are seeing their room-

mates come to Christ. God is moving in this generation of college students and it is exciting! These students are not content to hear a good message and sing a nice song and then go about their lives. But rather, they are LIVING the messages they hear and the songs they sing! May we exude the same zeal for our mighty Savior!

Adam Goodwin

Baptist Campus Ministries' Director

COMMENTARY



Dr. David L.
Carrico

A Failure to Communicate

"What we have here is a failure to communicate." So goes a line from the 1967 movie *Cool Hand Luke*. Poor communications can cause difficulties in so many places and in so many relationships... problems that cause time delays, personal inefficiency and general frustration. Good healthy communication is vital within organizations and personal relationships.

Another communications quote shared over the years reminds us how complicated communications can be: *"I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant."* Not only can we apply this quote to our lives and our workplace, but also to our churches. Communication is hard work! To get everyone in any organization or family on the same page is a great accomplishment. One teacher of a speech class taught this theory: *You tell people what you are going to tell them, then you tell them and finally you tell them what you told them.* Reinforcement of a message is important, but it does not always deal with all the various aspects of getting the message shared.

We should seek to improve our communications and find better methods, tools and tactics to share the gospel. In a recent article by Kaya Singer entitled "Five Communication Secrets to Creating a Strong Team," she shares five tools for empowering our ability to get our message communicated clearly.

1. **ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING** - It seems we live in a world where being negative is normal. Life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we react to it. As much as you are able, create a new normal. Roman 12:18 reminds us of that approach.

2. **USE POSITIVE LANGUAGE** - Words are a powerful tool in work and in life. Speak well!

3. **BE CONGRUENT** - Actions speak louder than words. Only seven percent of communication is verbal. Don't forget about the other 93 percent! People make firm judgments about you long before you speak. *Be what you say.*

4. **FOCUS ON WHAT YOU WANT** - Most people focus on what they don't want. Watch the complaining and blaming vocabulary in your communications.

5. **IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP** - You don't have to know everything. You do need to seek out people who know the answers to your concerns. We need to create an environment where people are encouraged to ask for help if needed.

These five suggestions have many more applications for each tool, but they are direct ways to improve our ability to share the work of the gospel and change people for the kingdom. In this New Year, may we find exciting ways to communicate the good news and be who we say we are - the people of God!

Blessings,
Dr. David L. Carrico
Executive Minister

Executive Committee Approves Staff Changes

In its December meetings, the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee, acting as the Personnel Committee approved job description changes proposed by Executive Minister, David Carrico. The changes were made to enhance the overall mission of the Convention as we focus on "Changing People for the Kingdom."



Koreen Villers

Koreen Villers began her new role as the director of Children and Events on January 1, 2012. In addition to staffing the state-wide children's programs, she will also coordinate the annual meeting of the Convention. Koreen is still available on a limited basis to do consulting with individual churches on a contract arrangement.

You may contact Koreen at villers@wvbc.org.



Lisa Simmons

Lisa Simmons is now the associate in Mission Support and Adult Discipleship. Lisa will continue her role in mission support as the coordinator of the Mission Partnership Teams and Networks; and mission education and deputation. She is transitioning the annual meeting responsibilities to Koreen Villers as Lisa will now focus a significant part of her time working with churches in the area of adult discipleship.

You may contact Lisa at 866.309.2448 or lsimmons@wvbc.org.



The Donald Loudermilk Society

Established to support the ministries of the Parchment Valley Conference Center, the society is made up of members who support Parchment Valley with an annual minimum donation of \$100. To join the society, contact Frank Miller or Karen Hargett at 304.372.3675.

ENGAGING DISCIPLESHIP



*Open
My Eyes,
My Heart,
My Hands*
MARK 10:46-52

AFC'12

America for Christ Offering 2012

America for Christ gifts support Christ-centered ministries that engage discipleship across the United States and Puerto Rico - through evangelism training, missional church learning experiences, discipleship resources, youth initiatives, volunteer ministries and disaster response, plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more.

www.abhms.org > GIVE NOW

STATE GOAL:
\$135,000

Missional Church Learning Experience (back by popular demand!)

WHAT IS IT?

Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE) is a cluster of churches in the West Virginia Baptist Convention that will form a learning community to explore what God is saying to the church today.

How can we best fit in with God's mission in our rapidly changing culture? Each church involved in the learning community forms a mission team that receives training in basic missional church principles and practices those principles by designing and implementing a small community project.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any church, large or small, country or city, who is interested in exploring the future of Christian faith in America can participate. Some guidelines for church involvement include a willingness to try new ideas, including involvement in their communities with other community organizations.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH EXPECTED TO DO?

Establish a mission team of 3-5 members or more who will give oversight to their church's involvement during the Missional Church Learning Experience (MCLE).

The team is composed of the pastor (or appointed leader), three lay members and a youth (age 15-29).

The mission team will attend three regional MCLE sessions over a one-year period. They will complete three assignments

that will help the mission team design a small community project that will be used to practice missional principles. The MCLE will implement their community project, involving appropriate church resources of time, money, energy and community partnerships.

They will share what they learn from their experience with other churches in the West Virginia Baptist Convention. They will be able to continue to do MCLE projects into the future and multiply teams.

WHAT ARE THE CONTENTS OF THE THREE SESSIONS?

1. Orientation - introduction to basic missional principles and explanation of the MCLE process. Handouts will help them to implement a Bible study and survey of their church and community.

2. Session 2 - the mission teams will share what they learned during their home assignments and use their community project outline as a case study to learn more about missional church principles.

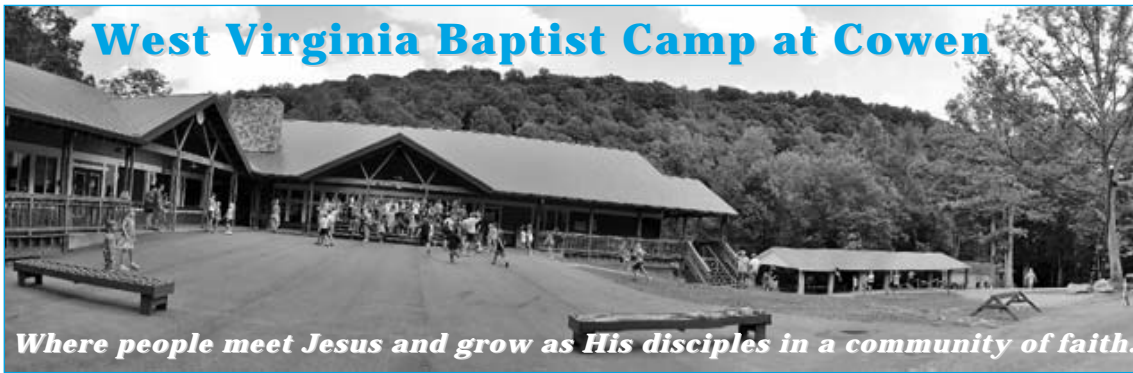
3. Session 3 - the mission teams will tell about their community project and what they are learning about God's kingdom work and the learning community will celebrate what they have learned and discuss ways to multiply future ministry.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO GET STARTED?

Contact Victor Shields at 304.367.1666 or shields@wvbc.org.

Plan to be contacted for the first session and attend with your mission team.

West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen



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



THE GREAT PURSUIT
Scripture Verse:
2 Timothy 2:22
 "... pursue righteousness,
 faith, love and peace,
 along with those who call
 on the Lord out of a pure
 heart."

2012 Camp Schedule

Younger Midler

June 8-10
 (grades 2-4*)

Junior High I

June 10-16
 (grades 7-9*)

Junior I

June 17-23
 (grades 5-6*)

Junior High II

June 24-30
 (grades 7-9*)

Mid-High

July 1-7
 (grades 9-11*)

Senior High

July 15-21
 (grades 10-12*)

Junior II

July 22-28
 (grades 5-6*)

Older Midler

August 4-7
 (grades 3-4*)

(*) Age group is
 based on grade in
 fall of 2012.
 All registrations
 begin at 3 p.m. on
 the day camp starts.

Be sure to mark
 your calendars and
 join us for one of
 the following work
 weekends at Camp
 Cowen!

**Men's Work
 Weekend**
 May 4-5

**Youth Work
 Weekend**
 May 18-19

*The following
 camps are held at
 Cowen, but each
 has its own
 registration form.*

**Ministers' Spring
 Retreat**
 May 7-9

**Greenbrier-Raleigh,
 Rockcastle
 Association Camp**
 July 8-13

**Hopewell
 Association Camp**
 July 13-15

Outpost Camp
 July 29-August 4
 (grades 9-12*)

Family Camp
 July 29-August 4

AB Men's Camp
 August 10-12

Hispanic Ministries: Memorable Experiences - Experiencias Inolvidables

Memorable experiences instill our lives with joy, gratefulness and hope for the future. God has blessed me with quite a few experiences as a new dad which I will forever cherish, but, three of them have a unique significance. The day my son was born is the first. Great delight, nervousness and a myriad of other mixed feelings were unavoidable. Seeing his face and touching his little hands for the first time were intensely emotional. Then, when he was about eight months he began babbling the word "papa." It was such a triumph to beat "mami," even though now, that's all he says. Lastly, it's the day he walked for the first time. He lifted himself up by grabbing the side of the couch, then looked at me and there he went, risking his balance. It wasn't long before he hit the floor. Yet, I was so thrilled celebrating my son's magnificent achievement.

There is no doubt that just like me, most of you celebrate the accomplishments in the lives of your children, dear ones and special friends. There are even times when we exhilaratingly rejoice on the performances of our favorite sport teams and players. The kingdom of God is filled with memorable moments and accomplishments we all must celebrate for the glory of God. Let me share some with you. On January 2012, Comunidad Nueva Esperanza's (CNE) (Good Hope) commemorated her second birthday! Long ago, even before we envisioned a Hispanic ministry in West Virginia, God conceived CNE in his heart for such a time as this (Isaiah 46:9-10). Two years ago, we heard God crying out, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8) It was a call to commit and risk. We believed God had a special purpose with the migrant farm workers and their families, and we embarked on this adventure. There have been many challenges and triumphs. We must pray for strength and wisdom to

overcome the challenges and be joyful for the triumphs.

Comunidad Nueva Esperanza's Christmas dinner was one these victories. The Christmas dinner, held on the evening of December 25, 2011, had an absolute outreach focus. In addition to the feast of flavors from Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the United States, CNE delighted in blessing with Christmas presents for 30 kids from Hispanic and American families in Ravenswood and surrounding areas. "We need to bring a smile to the faces of these children," said Alex, an Hispanic that God is raising as a leader in CNE. Several families heard the gospel for the first time. This Hispanic congregation is committed to God's global mission - "backyard" as well as international missions. CNE has been blessed by the generosity and prayers of numerous sister churches throughout West Virginia. Comunidad Nueva Esperanza also wants to be a blessing to others. As an expression of this desire to be a blessing, CNE made a commitment to provide financial support to the Myers' family, who have been endorsed and appointed as missionaries to Mexico. But, that's not all: CNE is also supporting the construction of "un templo" (a temple) in a rural community of Chiapas, Mexico.

These memorable achievements we must celebrate for the glory of God! Yet, before the celebration, comes His call. The Lord continues to cry out, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" His call is a call to commit and to risk. He calls us to join His mission - a mission with global and eternal implications. Are we hearing His voice? Or, are we paying no heed to His invitation? Let's step out in faith. Let's change lives for the kingdom! God is faithful and He is with us!

¡Dios les bendiga!

Juan Aragón
 Hispanic Ministries' Strategist

THINKING MISSIONS

Help in a Time of Need

Many of you know our son, Timothy, and keep him in your prayers as he has had serious health issues for several years. Last April he shattered his ankle and required reconstructive surgery. The surgery went well and his healing progressed as well as one could expect. However, his bones being weakened by his other health issues caused another break requiring another surgery. The healing went well again, but a couple of weeks after the annual meeting, his leg broke just below the knee and he was placed in a full-length cast. With the full cast we could no longer safely get him in and out of the house.

We needed to build a ramp - quickly! Kevin Hanna had done the specifications for a ramp as a possible Brothers' Keeper project last year and he gladly gave us the plans. Some of our staff sent out e-mails letting people know we needed help. We received lots of calls and e-mails offering help and the project was completed in two weeks time.

Fox Engineering of Ripley sent a crew to dig the 30 post holes for the project. They, like several others, worked in the rain to get the project underway. Frank Miller not only arranged for Fox to come, he brought the equipment needed to cut the boards. The men from Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope) came out and worked in the dark, digging and

cutting. Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope), Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg), Lifespring Jackson and the SWAT (servants working around town) from South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) came together to build the 80-foot ramp that continues to make a tremendous difference to our family.

Lisa and I were overwhelmed by the outpouring of assistance. Other churches also called to make sure we had things covered as they too were offering teams. We could have never imagined the project would come together so quickly with so many people helping.

What a joy it is to be part of a Christian community that works together to help someone in a time of need. Words cannot express our gratitude to all who came to help us in our time of need. Thank you for your continued prayers!

Timothy continues to heal and he can now bend his leg. It will be several more weeks before he can put any weight on the leg, but through the prayers of God's people we know we do not make this journey alone.

*Committed to Missions,
John Simmons
Associate Executive Minister
Missions and Administration*

Weirton Christian Center Celebrates 95 Years of Ministry

**It began as a ministry
to immigrants
who came to work in
Weirton's steel mills in
1917.**

**Five years from now,
Weirton
Christian Center
will have survived
a century.**



It is amazing to experience the outpouring of love, prayers, concern and financial support we have received at the Weirton Christian Center since we had to close in August. Our prayers were answered and so many of our West Virginia Baptist friends have helped make it possible for us to not only catch up, but be in the black for the new year! We have truly been blessed by the cascade of support from churches, American Baptist Women's groups, associations, individuals, local organizations, businesses and foundations. Thanks to everyone who has added us to your mission budget, sent special one-time gifts and let us know you are keeping us in your prayers. Many have collected snacks and paper products and saved us from making so many purchases over the last few months. Your benevolence and care has been unbelievable. We can't thank you enough. We are so proud to be a part of the Baptist family!

As we begin the new year, we are confident God wants us to continue to do His work in Weirton and reach as many children and families as possible. We thank all of you who have taken the time to pray for us and have sustained us in any way. It has been great being invited to speak at your churches and association meetings, and getting to meet so many of you first hand. If there is an opportunity for me to share the story of the Weirton Christian Center, please contact me at 304.748.2353 or weirtonchristiancenter@comcast.net. Or, please visit the Weirton Christian Center located at 3012 Elm Street, Weirton, WV 26062.

*In His Service,
Kim Weaver
director, Weirton Christian Center*

As the Weirton Christian Center heads toward its centennial, we are hoping you will partner with us and help support us with a contribution over the next five years. We appreciate your consideration. Please visit www.weirtonchristiancenter.com to make a donation.

Missions... The Tie That Binds

When Dr. David Carrico became the Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in 2005, he was asked what his top three priorities would be. He responded, “Missions! Missions! Missions!” It has been evident the past seven years missions has been and continues to be the one thing that keeps us together as Baptists.

There is no doubt the churches of the West Virginia Baptist Convention are committed to missions. Each year hundreds from our Convention churches “go” on mission. From the reports we have received, we can estimate over 1,000 people went on a mission trip last year. You impacted the world and your communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It is exciting to hear how God is working and using us in that work. One group just got back from Russia where they celebrated Christmas with our partners there. It is with much anticipation, we wait for their stories to be shared.

Some of the recent stories of overseas mission trips involve our Convention staff. Max Hill has been involved with ministry in Cuba for many years. He was going to Cuba long before it became



an easy destination and has seen much change in the ministry environment for our brothers and sisters there. Max and his team held revival in the El Jordan Baptist Church in Havana. While much of the meeting would compare with revivals in our churches, there was the uniqueness of the Cuban Baptists that added a youth meeting, soccer game and children’s events. Revivals there are community events and the results of the meeting will be lasting - and for the three that came to Christ, eternal!

There are three trips scheduled to Cuba in 2012. If God is calling you to join the mission there, contact Max Hill at: hill@wvbc.org for information and availability.

Rob Ely just returned from his ninth trip to India. His previous trips had always been to the North East, but this mission opportunity was to join Baptist Youth Fellowship, India for its quadrennial gathering at the Century Baptist Church in Andhra Pradesh (Southern India). Rob traveled with a couple of youth pastors from West Virginia to provide leadership at the conference. By India standards, this was a small meeting for youth leaders from across the country. Over 800 people gathered for worship and training.

Imagine the logistics for a three-day meeting where the hosts had to provide housing and food for everyone who came. The General Secretary reported the people ate one ton of rice, 880 pounds of chicken, 2000 eggs, 616 pounds of vegetables and 440 pounds of fruit.

What is really encouraging about the church in India is it remains focused on missions. In the second leg of their trip, the group led Peacemaking workshops and did further training with 25 youth pastors from the area. They also worshiped at South Lallguda, Secunderbad Baptist Church recognized by the BWA as one of the top 20



David and Laura Parajon, the group conducted medical clinics and did construction projects.

The medical team was very pleased to see great improvement in the children they had treated the previous year. Because of the vitamins and iron contributed by our churches, these children have much better health.

The group also participated in a Vacation Bible School, teaching the children about Noah, Jonah and Zacchaeus. There was something for each person on the trip to contribute as God provided many unexpected opportunities and blessings along the way.



Our partners in Nicaragua greatly appreciate and depend on our visits to enhance the ministries God has called them to do. You can look for future trip announcements for Nicaragua in the Convention Mountain Topics and Mission Matters publications.

“Missions! Missions! Missions!” If you were to ask Dr. Carrico today, that would still be his response as to the focus and priority of the Convention.

Missions is the reason the Convention was formed and continues to be the tie that binds us together as we change people for the kingdom around the block and around the world.

“impact” churches in the world. This church supports and trains 21 evangelists that work in surrounding villages as missionaries.

It is very likely Rob will be returning to India in 2012, and he is always looking for people God is calling to join him in the journey. You may contact Rob at: ely@wvbc.org to schedule him to speak about his trip or to learn more about God’s work in India.

Mike Stephens joined the group from Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg) for their annual trip to Nicaragua. The team this year even had a couple from New York join them as they traveled into the countryside outside of Managua. Working with American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionaries,



BROTHERS' KEEPER

July 8-13, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Is your church looking for a youth mission opportunity closer to home this year?

Why not join the growing number of church groups from all around West Virginia and Ohio that participate in Brothers' Keeper by joining us in 2012?

In 2011, 14 churches with 181 youth, counselors, worship teams, volunteers and staff participated in helping 26 different families with much needed projects. Youth and adults are not only able to help those in need, but are given the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Applications are now being accepted, but don't delay as there are a limited number of beds and we always have a waiting list. You can find the application online at www.parchmentvalley.org by following the links under Brothers' Keeper on the home page or contact Karen Hargett, Guest Services, Parchment Valley Conference Center at 304.372.3675 for more information.

JUNIOR HIGH CONVENTION

Junior High Convention is a three-day event designed to equip, challenge and encourage the Christian walk of Junior High students in grades 6-9.

Youth Theme: "Take root, bear fruit"

March 2-4, 2012

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

Speaker: Bryan Marvel

**Cost: \$30.00, (including adults),
if postmarked, with money enclosed before
February 23. \$35.00, after February 23.**

Housing deadline: February 23

All housing requests must be postmarked by February 23.

**For more information, contact Valma at
800.879.9822, adams@wvbc.org
or visit www.wvbc.org.**

Project Good Samaritan

by Suzanna Bradbury, state coordinator

Project Good Samaritan began in 1983, when Rev. Roger Fairfax learned, while visiting Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, that an out-of-town couple whose baby was seriously ill lacked money to eat. All they could afford during the child's stay were crackers, cookies and milk or soft drinks provided by the pediatric pantry. He also learned the couple's case was not isolated and so, in conjunction with social services at the hospital, he contacted other ministers and a committee of four clergy was formed and Project Good Samaritan became a reality. In the beginning, donations were solicited from individuals, businesses and churches. Three hospitals receiving funding at that time were West Virginia University, Charleston Area Medical Center and the cancer center at Camden Clark Medical Center. Now, we have 12 hospitals and as funds become available, other hospitals will be added.

The purpose of Project Good Samaritan is to provide a helping hand to destitute family members of hospital patients by providing a limited number of hot meals and/or initial prescriptions upon the patient's discharge from the hospital. This help is granted only as a last resort when all other avenues of financial help have been exhausted.

Project Good Samaritan is funded by contributions from churches and associations. Our annual budget is around \$20,000 and if your church would like to be a part of this, send your contributions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention through your church treasurer and mark Project Good Samaritan. This is the project of the West Virginia Baptist churches and is administered by the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Please pray that lives will be touched and our Lord glorified as the hurting are ministered to in this unique way. Let us not forget the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40, "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

American Baptist Men of West Virginia Disaster Relief: Year in Review

*by Jack Cobb, Disaster Relief coordinator,
American Baptist Men of West Virginia*

The American Baptist Men of West Virginia responded to only one West Virginia disaster this year. Nine volunteers worked 170 hours helping five families clean their homes following a flood in late June 2011 on the upper waters of Grave Creek. The flood affected 50 structures in Cameron in Marshall County.

In August and September 2011, two American Baptist Men of West Virginia teams and a team of eight from Summersville Baptist Church responded to Minot, North Dakota after the Souris river flooded the area with water up to ten feet in low lying homes and stayed there for two to three weeks. Approximately 4,000 homes were affected in the area. The teams worked 2,130 hours cleaning homes and basements and preparing the houses for rebuild. Due to the early onset of winter, a few of the homeowners will be able to enclose the structure, put heat into it and wait for spring weather to begin rebuilding their homes. However, most of the houses will set as open shells through the winter resulting in many homeowners being displaced for more than a full year.

CHILDREN'S Spring Rally

March 17, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: The Ten Commandments

**Registration forms will be in
future mailings.**

Church News

Zion Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 150 Years

Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Teays Valley) celebrated its 150th anniversary in October 2011 with a special homecoming day of celebrations. During the morning service, Basil Hudson preached, and later in the day, Fred McCallister and Joe Hammick, both former pastors, preached. This small church has seen its community decline and change in recent years; however, their spirit remains strong. They know they have been maintained on Crab Creek for a reason and are seeking new ways to serve the community in 2012.

Churches of the Teays Valley Association have worked together to have a preacher at Zion Missionary each Sunday since their pastor, Jake Rainey died in 2010. Missing only one Sunday since December, 2010, this rotation of pastors is organized and coordinated by Richard Sargent, pastor, Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley), who also provides hospital visitation when someone is ill.

Please pray for Zion Missionary Baptist Church as they begin their 151st year of ministry! The church may be small, but they know that their God is BIG!

Twelve Pole Association Members Gather at Parchment Valley to Aid in Construction of Prayer Labyrinth

On October 8, 2011, 15 people from the Twelve Pole Association gathered at Parchment Valley Conference Center to help in the construction of a prayer labyrinth. Team members laid out stones, raked and spread gravel and cleared waterways to divert water around the labyrinth.

When the work was completed, the team walked through the prayer labyrinth. Shortly thereafter, attendees of the American Baptist Women's Ministries' Spiritual Growth Retreat were the first "non-Twelve Pole" people to walk through the labyrinth.

Vicky Ramey, member of Crum Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole), said, "It was an amazing day. We are so thankful Frank Miller allowed us to take on this project and we look forward to many more hours of service at our favorite site. We are sure God will always be honored."

Every summer, more than 180 people from the Twelve Pole Association spend six days at Parchment Valley Conference Center. When they visited in the summer of 2010, one of the little girls, Tori, returned home with her life changed. Within a month, Tori was diagnosed with a brain tumor and went through treatments before her death in late 2010. Members of the Twelve Pole Association are now working on the design of a bench to be dedicated in Tori's honor. They will place it in the middle of the labyrinth on the first day of camp: June 17, 2012.

Through your gifts to the Mountain State Mission Offering and other West Virginia specifics, you support the budget of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, which in turn provides support to the ministries of the Parchment Valley Conference Center, Camp Cowen, Weirton Christian Center, Baptist Campus Ministries and much more!

News from Standard First Baptist Church

Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) had a beautiful Christmas cantata, directed by Janice Lipscomb. Also, a children's play was presented and was directed by Margaret Ann Atkins. Refreshments were served following the cantata and play.

News from the Baptist Campus Ministry Group at West Virginia University - Tech

by Anthony Pratt, pastor,

Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River) and associate, Baptist Campus Ministries at West Virginia University - Tech

Racine First Baptist Church and Christian Student Union (CSU), the Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) group at West Virginia University - Tech, enjoyed a great combined worship service at Racine First on Oct 23, 2011. Several students shared testimonies and provided special music throughout the service. A fellowship luncheon was held after the service.

Montgomery Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and Christian Student Union (CSU), the Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) group, celebrated Thanksgiving together with their 8th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 17, 2011. Montgomery Baptist Church started CSU in 1978 and have been partners in ministry ever since.

Hampton Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and Christian Student Union (CSU) enjoyed an evening of fellowship and worship on November 6, 2011. Each student in attendance received a care bag from the church.

During the months of September and October 2011, Christian Student Union (CSU) took part in helping the Union Mission of Charleston by organizing a school-wide coat drive. Over 30 coats were collected from students on the West Virginia University - Tech Campus. CSU also collected \$114 that was presented to the mission. Most importantly, 17 CSU members volunteered their time, helped the Union Mission prepare and serve during their coat giveaway on October 15, 2011.

Spring Golden'eers



April 30-May 2, 2012

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Theme: "It's Spring Time"

Hats are to be decorated for the banquet.

*Bible Study Leader:
Rev. Kenneth Fisher*

*Registration and pizza will be at
12 Noon on April 30th.*

*For more information or a registration form, please
contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.*



Obituaries

Church (Logan-Mingo).

INA MAYE BEAN, age 78, of Buckhannon, died December 06, 2011. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where she was financial secretary.

ADRIAN KYLE BALL, 81, of Grantsville, died January 7, 2012. He was an active member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha). He served in the Marine Corp and was stationed in Germany in the early 50's.

DONALD MEARL BECHDOLT, 82, of Sistersville, formerly of Struthers, Ohio, died November 23, 2011. He was an active member of Sistersville First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as a deacon, choir member and was part of the men's ministry. He also served in the United States Navy.

JACQUELINE "JACKIE" BELL, 43, of Rowlesburg, died December 29, 2011. She was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen), and was a licensed lay speaker for the Brethren Church.

AREVA V. BURR, 81, of Flemington, formerly of Shinnston, died November 10, 2011, at her residence. As an active member of Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson) for many years, she was a Sunday School teacher, youth group advisor and Bible study participant.

MARGARET IDA CARL, 94, died on November 10, 2011 in New York. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) special service worker who served in Japan for three years.

PAUL D. CLASPER, 88, of Claremont, California, died on October 29, 2011. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in Myanmar (Burma) for 12 years.

FORREST W. CURRY, 84, of Hamlin, died November 23, 2011. He was a pastor in area churches for more than 60 years.

JANET VERNE GEORGE, 71, of Charleston, died November 1, 2011. She was most recently a member of Healing Stream Missionary Baptist Church (Coal

River). She was in the church choir, the ladies mission circle and enjoyed offering a cappella solos at worship. She also had been a member of Georges Creek Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen) and Glen Falls Baptist Church (Judson).

DORSEL M. GREENLEE, 89, of Dunbar, died January 10, 2012. He was a longtime member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a deacon and was on the board of trustees.

JOSEPH FRANKLIN KUHN JR., 67, of Bridgeport, died December 15, 2011. He was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), where he was moderator and head of the deacon board.

VERTA "VERTIE" F. MASON, 93, of Webster Springs, died October 20, 2011. She was a faithful member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell).

RICHARD ALAN MAYFIELD, 61, of Saint Marys, died January 3, 2012. He was a member of Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was a deacon and a member of the church choir. He was retired from the United States Navy after 23 years, obtaining the rank of Senior Chief Yeoman.

VIRGINIA MCCAULEY died January 2, 2012. She was a lifelong member of Flemington Baptist Church (Union), having first attended with her grandfather, George Johnson. She taught Sunday school for many years and served the church as secretary and a member of the trustees. She was also secretary for the American Baptist Women's Association.

BETTY LOU MURRAY, 89, of Charleston, died November 30, 2011. She was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley). She served on the board of Christian Education, the finance board, the property board and as chair of the executive board. Spread throughout these terms, she served as Sunday school teacher for the children and later as a teacher of the adult covenant Sunday school class. She served on the search committee for the present pastor, Dennis Johnson, and became dean of present extracurricular classes known as the Academy of Christian Formation (ACF). She taught classes for the ACF and worked with the governing committee of the academy.

WANDA WILSON ROSE, 82, of

Leadership Updates

Rev. Matt Ash to Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as youth pastor on December 11, 2011

Rev. Ron McClung to Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as senior pastor on November 1, 2011

Mr. Joshua Radcliff to Grafton First Baptist Church (Union) as youth pastor on December 1, 2011

Rev. Ronald Richards to Minden Baptist Church (Fayette) as pastor on December 1, 2011

Rev. Harold White, Jr. to Cedar Grove Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as pastor on December 14, 2011

Huntington, died November 22, 2011. She was a gifted musician and shared her talents throughout the Huntington area. She started her music career as organist at Huntington Baptist Temple (Guyandotte), and in 1958 had the opportunity to become an organist at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte). Several years later, she assumed the duties of musical director as well. She expanded the music program to include annual youth choir tours and special youth programs. Her greatest accomplishment was her creation and production of the Singing Christmas Tree as part of the annual Christmas celebration at Fifth Avenue. It was performed for over 25 years and became a tradition for many in the community. In recent years, she has directed the bell choir at Beverly Hills United Methodist Church and substituted for organists throughout the community.

VIVIAN W. MILLER SAFFLES, 70, of Webster Springs, died October 1, 2011. She was a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell). She served as pianist and choir director.

WILLARD ARTHUR SCOFIELD, 83, died December 4, 2011. He was an former American Baptist Foreign Society (A.B.F.M.S.) missionary to the Congo for more than 20 years between 1962-1979 and 1986-1991.

LEONETTE WARBURTON WISHARD, 109, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, died December 2, 2011. She was a former Woman's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (WABFMS) missionary who served in the Philippines for 13 years.

PRAYER CALENDARS

February 2011

February 1 - Kathy Bledsoe, member, West Virginal Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
February 2 - Cindy Britton, treasurer, Union Association
February 3 -The ministry of Scarbro First Baptist Church; Kenny Smith, pastor (Fayette)
February 4 - Church Officer Training Event today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
February 5 - The ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church (Coal River)
February 6 -The ministry of Romney First Baptist Church; Jack Hanks, pastor (Eastern)
February 7 - Jim Ash, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
February 8 - Victor Shields, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
February 9 -The ministry of Stump Chapel Baptist Church; Ted Legg, pastor (Elk Valley)
February 10 - Ron Adams, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
February 11 -The ministry of Salem Baptist Church; Charles Warger, pastor (Broad Run)
February 12 -The ministry of Charleston First Baptist Church; Paul Dunn, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
February 13 -The ministry of Williamstown First Baptist Church; David Easter, interim pastor (Parkersburg)
February 14 -The ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church (Fairmont)
February 15 -The ministry of Kingwood Baptist Church; Kevin Sions, pastor (Goshen)
February 16 - Tan Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand
February 17 - Nancy James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Haiti
February 18 - Bucky Sydnor, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Nepal
February 19 - Greg Boso, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
February 20 -The ministry of Fairview Baptist Church; Michael McCoy, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
February 21 - Ricardo Mayol, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Mexico
February 22 - Bill Dingus, moderator, Guyandotte Association
February 23 - Mario Morales, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Bolivia
February 24 -The ministry of Parchment Valley Baptist Church; Herman Robinson, pastor (Good Hope)
February 25 - American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfasts around the state
February 26 - Kevin Hanna, Site Maintenance manager, Parchment Valley Conference Center
February 27 - Becky Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand
February 28 -The ministry of Zoar Missionary Baptist Church; Barry Cremeans, pastor (Guyandotte)
February 29 - Barbara Bolick American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Chile

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

March 2012

March 1 - David Carpenter, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
March 2 - Junior High Convention this weekend at South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
March 3 - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Nicaragua
March 4 - The ministry of Auburn Baptist Church; Harry Drake, pastor (Harrisville)
March 5 -The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church; Carl Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run)
March 6 - Colleen Folger, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
March 7 - Duane Binkley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand
March 8 -Dewey Lowe, moderator, Greenbrier-Raleigh Association
March 9 - Charles West, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Zambia
March 10 - Ramona Shawver, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Mexico
March 11 - Joan Hall, assistant in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
March 12 - John Wood, clerk/treasurer, Elk Valley Association
March 13 -The ministry of Olive Baptist Church; Ray Williams, interim pastor (Coal River)
March 14 - Jim Anderson, Southeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
March 15 -The ministry of Main Street Baptist Church; Richard Sargent, pastor (Teays Valley)
March 16 -The ministry of Eskdale Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
March 17 - Spring Children's Rally today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
March 18 - Tim Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Mexico
March 19 - Michael Stephens, Northwest area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
March 20 - Mayra Giovanetti, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Spain
March 21 - Steve McCartney, Site Maintenance manager, Camp Cowen
March 22 -The ministry of Cooper Memorial Baptist Church (Rockcastle)
March 23 - Sandy Phares, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
March 24 - Donna Snyder, assistant for Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
March 25 -The ministry of Sarepta Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
March 26 -The ministry of Portersville Missionary Baptist Church; Harry Moore, pastor (Guyandotte)
March 27 -The ministry of Big Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church; Tony Perry, pastor (Twelve Pole)
March 28 - Marilou Legg, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
March 29 -The ministry of Layland Baptist Church; Ray Crook, pastor (Hopewell)
March 30 -The ministry of Welcome Baptist Church; Larry McKim, pastor (Judson)
March 31 -The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Alan Rosenberger, pastor (Union)

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2012

February 4

Changing People for the Kingdom -
2012 Church Officer's Training
Event

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 13-17

Palmer Theological Seminary West
Virginia Program
CM 688 Discipleship Across the Life
Span

Instructors: Rob Ely and Matthew
Lyons

Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 16-17

Palmer Theological Seminary West
Virginia Program Doctoral Program
Orientation

February 20

President's Day Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

February 21

School of Christian Studies
Old Testament II (B-02) six-week
class begins

Various Locations

February 25

American Baptist Men Prayer
Breakfast

Various Locations

MARCH 2012

March 2-4

Junior High Convention
South Parkersburg Baptist Church

March 17

Spring Children's Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center

March 26-30

Palmer Theological Seminary West
Virginia Program

CTM 501 Systematic Theology I:
Systematic Theology and Ethics
Instructor: Donald Brash

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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Layout: Mrs. Donna Snyder



Plan Now to Attend

2012 American Baptist Men NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

February 25, 2012

Check for a location near you.

The American Baptist Men will host **Prayer Breakfasts** at several locations throughout the state. These events will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012. This is a time for our West Virginia Baptist Convention men to gather together for a time of concentrated prayer and biblical teaching in conjunction with a fellowship breakfast. The sites will be publicized via mail and e-mail.

If your church is planning, or is interested in hosting a prayer breakfast, please notify Frank Miller, West Virginia Baptist prayer

breakfast coordinator at miller@wvbc.org. If you need assistance with speakers and/or material for the event, you may also contact Frank at 304.372.3675.

Offerings received will support the American Baptist Men's mission work. Please send your offering, along with your church name, city, association, contact person, telephone and number attending to Frank at the e-mail or phone number listed above or to 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, West Virginia 25271.

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