



# West Virginia Baptist

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AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

## 2013 CHURCH OFFICERS' TRAINING FEBRUARY 9

### ***Please make plans to attend!***

Recently, we received a call from leaders in one of our churches who were seeking help in getting started as treasurers and financial secretaries. They also asked for help in promoting Biblical stewardship among the members of their church. We were able to suggest help for both of these concerns may be found at our Church Officers' Training event at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, February 9, 2013.

God is indeed "transforming by His Spirit." We have witnessed tremendous blessings among our West Virginia Baptist Convention churches during 2012 and many of us are planning with great expectation toward 2013.

With this thought in mind, the West Virginia Baptist Convention staff have planned the annual Church Officers' Training Event for Saturday, February 9, 2013 at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

You are invited to attend with the officers and leaders of your church. 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.***

Please consider recruiting people from your church to attend each workshop to maximize the overall learning of the day.

### **WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:**

- Deacons
- Technology
- Finance
- Trustees
- Evangelism/Outreach
- Missions
- Discipleship
- Associational Leadership
- Senior Adults
- Youth and Children
- Worship and Music
- Family Ministry

### **SCHEDULE:**

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

*For more information and a registration form, please go to [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or call Donna at 800.879.9822.*

***REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 4, 2013.***  
***After February 4, the fee is the same, but lunch is not included.***

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

## COMMENTARY



Dr. David L.  
Carrico

### *A Ministry of Presence*

Have you ever thought of worship attendance as a ministry? Most of us can understand worship as a witness, and so it is. Folks see believers going to church, and in most small communities people are aware of who does what. One of our Baptist saints stated the situation in an interesting way... "Most people in our town know what church we are staying away from." For Christians, worship is not an option, but rather a priority,

and attendance in worship becomes a benchmark for growing churches.

Last year, the West Virginia Baptist Convention was handed a challenge of increasing the number of baptisms, and you did it! With your commitment to that goal, you stopped the sliding number of baptisms and increased those following the Lord through those wonderful waters. The Holy Spirit is still moving among us. Reports of continuing growth in baptisms keep coming to our attention. Now we need to come into a partnership with the Spirit to grow our ministry of presence for all the world to see.

There are times when we cannot be in worship during the usual scheduled services. But, in most communities there are multiple worship opportunities at different hours on different days. Believers need to be in worship to keep their relationship with the Lord fresh and their faith strong.

During the month of December, our nation was deeply wounded with the events in Newtown, Connecticut. Where was God during this massacre of innocence? He was where He always is - working out His ultimate purpose, even if we don't understand what that is. The same cries were lifted up when Jesus was born and Herod had all the male babies in Bethlehem slain (Matthew 2:16-18). When the world needs answers, our ministry of presence can be a light in the darkness. Our society values children, yet on many Sundays church classrooms are empty. It is our responsibility to keep them healthy, safe and teach them the ways of God.

There will be other bleak December days. There are many excuses why we do not practice our ministry of presence as the people of God. They will not hold up under the scrutiny of a doubting society. It is the hope that these words might light a holy fire under some who have grown cold to the church and colder to God. You may need to be the match!

As we approach the Lenten-Easter season, it is a grand time to examine our faith in the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. Our ministry of presence may count in all of eternity in ways we may never understand. Meet the Lord in worship this week and every week. Get to know Him a little better and love Him a little deeper. Practice and teach a ministry of presence. And remember this: Jesus loves you!

*Blessings,*  
Dr. David L. Carrico  
Executive Minister

### *Hispanic Ministries: Embracing a God-given Opportunity - Abrazando Una Oportunidad Divina*

*For everything there is a season... a time to plant and a time to harvest.... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 (NLT)*

*The mission of God's people is to proclaim the gospel.*  
C.J.H Wright

Kairos is a special time of crisis or particular opportunity; perhaps this is the word that best describes this time in the history of the church in the United States. The presence and migration of millions of Hispanics into the United States comes with numerous challenges, but it also furnishes unusual and remarkable opportunities to announce and demonstrate the gospel among migrants. Throughout the Bible, God mandates His people to welcome, care for and speak up for the sojourner, poor and powerless. (See, for instance: Matthew 25:35, Proverbs 31:8-9, Zacharias 7:9-10.)

As West Virginia Baptists, we have heard God's call to embrace this kairos and we are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with Hispanic immigrants. We are doing cross-cultural missions in our own backyard; however, there is much more to do and you can join us in this exciting mission. So, how can you make an eternal difference in the lives of Hispanics who live in the Mountain State?

First, on your knees ask the Lord of the harvest to send hands for the harvest (Luke 10:2). Hispanics are very religious people and their newness in this country and the lack of friendships makes them open to hear the message of the gospel, but we need people willing to share it.

Second, when presented with the opportunity, befriend an Hispanic (maybe a server at your favorite Mexican restaurant). Ask God for the boldness to do it. Start a conversation by asking for his or her name. He/she will be happy to tell you and, more than likely, you will end up knowing about his/her family, children, country of origin and so on. Look at this as a God-given opportunity to share

the love of Jesus Christ. You are building a relationship and this is the "bridge" God will use to touch with His love, through you, the life of that person.

Third, as you build a relationship, try using the little Spanish you know to connect to them, dare to learn some Spanish words and practice them, even if you mess up it will bring some laughing, and there is no better way to connect to others than through laughter. If you already know some Spanish, you have a blessing. God has already gifted you and you have the opportunity to share God's love with that person. Consider also learning about the specific country and culture of your new friend. Hispanics have different cultural backgrounds depending on their country of origin.

In the winter issue of *Uncover Magazine*, David Kinnaman from the Barna Group observes that "It's very important for [Christians]... to learn more about Hispanic brothers and sisters. Whatever we may perceive about this audience, their collective impact on Christianity in this country, and indeed the world, is going to be substantial in the next several decades...."

The church must be moved for what moves God's heart. Hispanic immigrants are in need of hope and compassion; the church has been sent to announce and demonstrate good news of love. Let's embrace this kairos, let's transform lives with the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

MUCHAS GRACIAS for your prayers and financial support as we transform with the gospel the lives of Hispanics in West Virginia!

*Juan Aragón*  
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist

*Uncover Magazine*, "Hispanics in America Changing the Church, Fueling Christianity," Winter 2013, 20.

# BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE

MATTHEW 5:13-16



## AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2013

### Developing Discipleship

• From Maine to Nebraska, 80-plus American Baptist churches participated in Missional Church Learning Experience groups to learn to become congregations that focus outside—rather than inside—their sanctuary walls. The resulting outreach profoundly touched communities through dozens of programs, such as “Feed My Sheep” soup kitchen; “Springification” yard clean-up for older citizens; “F.E.A.S.T. (Family Educational Action Support Team)” for children of incarcerated parents; and “Building Bridges,” a women’s shelter partnership that provides moving services, family Christmas baskets and community education about domestic violence issues.



• American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) welcomed 12 new chaplains and pastoral counselors endorsed to share the life-changing news of the Gospel with men and women in prisons, hospitals, counseling centers, chapels and churches throughout the United States and on foreign shores. More than 600 active chaplains and pastoral counselors ministered throughout the year, along with active and retired chaplains and pastoral counselors who served in more than 115 local churches throughout the United States.

• More than 75 churches in more than seven regions and four academic settings participated in ABHMS presentations about the “Got Style?” strategy for congregational transformation, evangelism and holistic discipleship.

### Building Community

• ABHMS facilitated the placement of 732 volunteers across the United States and Puerto Rico.



• Domestic development grants distributed by ABHMS totaled \$150,000. In seven states—from Massachusetts to Wisconsin—these grants supported a youth summer jobs program; the expansion of an outreach program to teens, senior adults and the unemployed; training for 500 justice ministry workers in prisoner reentry projects; and scholarships to a children’s bereavement camp.

• Twenty-four Neighborhood Action Program Christian centers staff and board members gathered in Caguas, Puerto Rico, at an annual conference sponsored by ABHMS to share inspiration as well as practical insight about the community ministries they lead.

• A Latino pastor and lay leader training project—“Centro de capacitación para líderes del siglo XXI (CECALI XXI)”, or “Capacity Center for Leaders of the 21st Century”—was implemented in Florida and Connecticut. Approximately 50 pastors, 280 lay leaders and four seminarians were equipped with practical tools for effective and transformative ministry in their churches and communities. Topics included administration, Baptist identity, conflict resolution, evangelism, stewardship and strategic planning. The project’s ultimate goal is to train 220 Latino pastors and many lay leaders from across the United States by 2020.

**Your *America For Christ* donation blesses Christian centers providing after-school tutoring, newly released prisoners struggling for better lives, pastors seeking continuing education, community food pantries feeding the hungry and much more. Join with American Baptist Home Mission Societies in building communities of hope across the United States and Puerto Rico with the transforming love of Jesus Christ. *GIVE NOW!***



*Baptist Campus Ministries' Students Attend  
Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia*



Over 100 students from Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) started out 2013 by worshipping the Lord with 60,000 other college students at the Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

We spent January 1-4 studying scripture with John Piper, Louie Giglio, Beth Moore and other incredible biblical teachers. We worshiped through music lead by Chris Tomlin, Christy Knockles, Matt Redman and Kristian Stanfill.

We also had a united cause, "The End It Movement" to raise money to end slavery in our world. At the conference, we raised \$3,170,639 that will all go toward ending slavery. Here is what the official website, [www.enditmovement.com](http://www.enditmovement.com) has to say about the movement;

## SLAVERY IS WRONG.

YOU KNOW IT. WE KNOW IT. AS A COUNTRY, WE'VE OFFICIALLY KNOWN IT SINCE 1863. BUT HERE'S SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW -- SLAVERY STILL EXISTS. WE WANT EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD TO KNOW THAT THERE ARE 27 MILLION MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, JUST LIKE THEM, LIVING IN THE SHADOWS. IN BROTHELS. IN FACTORIES. IN QUARRIES. WORKING AS SLAVES. IN 161 COUNTRIES. INCLUDING OUR OWN. WE ARE HERE TO SHINE A LIGHT ON SLAVERY. NO MORE BONDAGE. NO MORE SEX TRAFFICKING. NO MORE CHILD LABORERS. NO MORE, STARTING NOW.

This is not just a movement of 20 somethings. Freedom should be the heart of all Christians. Let the college generation inspire you. You too can get involved. For the glory of Jesus.

*Adam Goodwin  
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director*

# 2013 Schedule CAMP COWEN



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

**MEN'S WORK WEEKEND • MAY 3-4**

**YOUTH WORK PARTY • MAY 17-18**

**MINISTERS' SPRING RETREAT • MAY 6-8**

**YOUNGER MIDLER CAMP • GRADE 2-4 • JUNE 7-9**

**JUNIOR HIGH I CAMP • GRADE 7-9 • JUNE 9-15**

**JUNIOR I CAMP • GRADE 5-6 • JUNE 16-22**

**JUNIOR HIGH II CAMP • GRADE 7-9 • JUNE 23-29**

**MID-HIGH CAMP • GRADE 9-11 • JUNE 30-JULY 6**

**SENIOR DAY • 2013 HIGH SCHOOL GRADS • JULY 13**

**SENIOR HIGH CAMP • GRADE 10-HS GRADS • JULY 14-20**

**JUNIOR II CAMP • GRADE 5-6 • JULY 21-27**

**OLDER MIDLER CAMP • GRADE 3-4 • AUGUST 3-6**

**FAMILY CAMP • ALL AGES • JULY 28-AUGUST 3**

**CAMP GLOBAL • ALL AGES • AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 1**

**AB MEN'S CAMP • MEN AND BOYS • AUGUST 9-11**

**RALEIGH, ROCKCASTLE AND GREENBRIER • JULY 7-12**

**HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION • JULY 12-14**



## 2013 Offers Children More Opportunities at Weirton Christian Center

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

As we kick off the new year at Weirton Christian Center, we are excited to be able to offer more opportunities for our children to be able to serve others. Our middle school students who have been planning, cooking and serving dinner on Tuesdays as part of their nutrition program, will have another opportunity to serve at the local "Table of Hope." Table of Hope serves free dinner to over 300 people a week and our children will be serving on Fridays. We will also have a different group of children visiting our local geriatric center every Monday, spreading cheer to all the residents. After our Christmas caroling visit, many of the children want to go back. For Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we have invited all the public service personnel to a "thank-you for serving" dinner. We received a matching grant from Volunteer West Virginia and will partner with two local businesses, the Serbian American Cultural Center and Lauttamus Communications. They will help our children be able to serve dinner to our local police, firemen, emergency medical technician (EMT) squads and city council. Our children have received food handlers cards and will be trained by professional servers (volunteers) before serving the dinner. The funds will also help us provide a thank-you pin for each person who attends.

Learning opportunities are also being expanded as we have two instructors who have put together a six-week job training/skills class for our high school students. They are

volunteering their time once a week. Our manners class continues at the Family Resource Center and we will now be taking kindergarten - fourth grade to the library's community room for nutrition and literacy programs weekly. We have not had an area at the center large enough to hold this group, so this class has been on hold for the past few months. We are thankful for our partners who not only share space with us, but also AmeriCorps members and volunteers.



Our Christmas participation was fantastic. Churches, American Baptist Women's Ministries' groups, organizations and individuals were so generous throughout the holiday season. Thanks to all of you who helped in so many ways. Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) sent 120 shoeboxes for our children - and most of the kids open that first! They love them. From a friend in Baltimore, Maryland, we received 120 blessing bags - one for each child, containing seven meals for the long holiday. So many sent gift cards, which helped us purchase the gifts and Wellsburg First Baptist Church (Panhandle) provided our dinner for the party. We are so thankful for the wonderful Baptist family we are a part of. Truly you are all partners in this ministry. As prayer partners, we would like

you to lift up our children. These children are being abused; relocated; caught in custody battles; have no water, heat or food; have parents incarcerated or in rehab; and more. Please continue to pray for our future growth and expansion. As the economy in our area gets worse, we need to be shining bigger and brighter than ever for the Lord!

## THINKING MISSIONS

### Looking Through the Eyes of Jesus

When I was living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, there was an event reported on the international news from the city. Many people had gathered at a government building to protest something. When the news report came out, they showed video of the event that included lots of people screaming, throwing objects and rioting in the streets. When I asked a missionary friend of mine who was at the event if he had been afraid, he replied, "of what?" He was at the event and while there were a large number of people, the protest had been very "Thai," polite. There had been no rioting or violence. We later learned the news report had used file footage from another part of the world as a part of their report.

It is not a secret our news reports are biased. The reports tend to shape the news to support those biases. People tend to migrate towards the news outlets that support their world view - the ones that shape the news the way they want to hear it. You can watch the different news outlets: FOX, CNN, CNBC, BBC, CBS, etc... report on a story and sometimes wonder if they are even looking at the same set of facts.

The same might be said of us as we look at the world around us. Some may see the homeless man on the street as a dirty drunk. Others may see him and wonder how his life could get so messed up. Still others may see him and be moved with

compassion and offer assistance.

Jesus was walking along the road with a great crowd. As he entered Jericho he found Zacchaeus the tax collector sitting in a tree along the road, for Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. Many in the crowd saw Zacchaeus as the enemy. Others saw him as a crook - a thief. But in the eyes of Jesus, Zacchaeus was a man in need of salvation. He was a man that could be redeemed.

There are many other stories to teach us that Jesus looked at people differently. He was often moved with compassion when he saw the plight of those around him. He saw the potential good in the people and called many to follow him who would not have been the obvious choices.

As we begin another year of ministry, I invite you to do your best to see the world - to see your neighbor - to see the needs of those around you through the eyes of Jesus.

When we prayerfully take the time to see things through the eyes of Jesus, we will then be his hands and feet as we touch lives in His name.

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

## Children's Spring Rally

March 16, 2013  
at Parchment Valley Conference Center

For children entering grades K-5, 6th grade is optional.

Theme:  
God's Campground -  
Giving My Best to God

**COST: \$12.00,**  
if postmarked by March 1.  
**\$25. after March 1**  
or at the door.

Special Guests:

Rob Ely  
and  
Tony Nutter

For more information, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or  
contact Valma at 800.879.9822.

## Spring Golden'eers

May 6-8,  
2013

**Bible Study Leader:**  
**Mike Hopkins**





## Myers' Commissioning Service

**FAIRMONT** - On Saturday December 1, 2012, West Virginia Baptists gathered from all around the state for a service of commissioning for Keith and Debbie Myers as they and their children, Baillie and Boyden, begin their journey to Mexico as American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionaries. A near capacity crowd packed Fairmont's Baptist Temple (Fairmont) for a meaningful and moving service. Keith Myers said of the commissioning, "Our family was truly blessed by the outpouring of support shown to us. This day will be forever etched in our minds."

A host of speakers delivered words of inspiration, tribute and advice. Many focused on the Myers' ministry to their church and to other churches in the Fairmont Association. The sermon, carrying that very theme, was delivered by Dave Knotts of Willow Tree Baptist Church (Fairmont). In his own inimitable style, he blessed the congregation with laughter and tears.



*Jose Norat-Rodriguez, area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean for American Baptist Foreign Mission Society*

Jose Norat-Rodriguez, area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean for American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) spoke of the Myers' maturity as they depart for Costa Rica just before Christmas, and of the need for their ministry in "deeper Mexico," meaning the underprivileged indigenous peoples of Southern Mexico. He will serve as the Myers' area director.

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society Director of Recruitment, Jim Bell, led the congregation in a time of commissioning for the Myers' Mission Partnership Team. He reminded the people of the vital role that support plays in the lives of missionaries and that no one goes to the mission field alone. A good team makes ministry so much easier.



*Jim Bell, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society Director of Recruitment*

West Virginia Baptists continue to see new missionaries called from West Virginia Baptist Convention churches and to rally to their support. In reflecting on how the West Virginia Baptist Convention can continue to call out and support missionaries, Dr. David Carrico, executive minister, said, "This is a prime example of what it means to be 'Transformed by the Spirit.' Being transformed by the spirit of Christ causes us to reach out and continue to use whatever resources we have to continue to do more than ever before."

Keith summed up the process this way, "We understand this journey cannot be accomplished alone. This day clearly demonstrates there is a network of people traveling with us to language school and Mexico. It is only by God's grace we will succeed." On Wednesday, December 19, 2012, the Myers' family departed for language school in San Jose, Costa Rica. They will study for approximately one year before beginning their ministry in Mexico.



*The Myers' family: (l to r) Keith, Baillie, Boyden and Debbie, at their commissioning service.*

# 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.*

*2012-2013 Theme: Distinguishable  
Daniel 6:3*

## March 1-3, 2013

*Saint Albans First Baptist Church*

*Cost: \$30.00, if postmarked by February 22. \$35, after February 22 or at the door.*

*Speakers: Michael and Hayley Dimarco*

*Band: 3 Shades of Blue*

*For more information,  
visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or  
call Valma at 800.879.9822.*

## Celebrate What the Lord has Done at Parchment Valley Conference Center

In the corporate world, when you achieved amazing results you would soon hear the vice-president cascade a resounding memo, "Ring the bell." Today, I want to celebrate with our West Virginia Baptist Convention family and friends as we enter into a rich and blessed new year with a heartfelt celebration of God's success here at Parchment Valley Conference Center. In the Old Testament, celebration was a lasting ordinance still being celebrated in the Jewish community, even today.

"And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever." Exodus 12:14 (KJV)

Our 2013 Parchment Valley board of directors has several wonderful projects planned. One such project is for Evan Frees and Roger Raikes to work with the local scouting council to professionally clear our hiking trails which will be mapped, easily identified and well maintained for future generations to enjoy. **CELEBRATE.**

Not only are we physically moving forward with the vision for your conference center, but are most certainly thankful for the solid spiritual foundation which enables us to do a good work that is pleasing in the Lord's sight. During one of our recent Jackson County Ministerial Association meetings at Parchment Valley, Herman Robinson stood, and with a tender heart shared how Parchment Valley was where Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope) first assembled to begin a new church in the Ripley area. Last Sunday, our maintenance person, Andy Moore and I attended Lifespring - Jackson County Campus, which has met for one year in the Santrock Education Center Matherly/Hamer rooms at Parchment Valley. Rob Ely,



director of Discipleship, Camping and Youth, West Virginia Baptist Convention, also shared with the congregation that volunteers were needed to complete their new building located in Ravenswood. **CELEBRATE.**

The Master of Divinity and Doctoral



Ministry programs offered at Parchment Valley through Palmer Theological Seminary, and under the leadership of Matt Lyons continues to grow and equip some of the most excellent pastors who will go forth from this place and minister for generations to come. **CELEBRATE.**

It is such a blessing to be home to the *American Baptist Men of the West Virginia Disaster Relief Team*. Two weeks ago, our main waterline at Parchment Valley broke! I immediately contacted Harry Drake, the disaster coordinator for the American Baptist Men. On a cold and snowy day, he loaded up and met me with the jack hammer to bust the concrete in the Hill Hall parking lot.

The *American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia* has chosen Parchment Valley for their 2013 special project. This gift will provide for much needed upgrading to our culinary plan. This is yet another celebration of our sovereign Lord meeting the needs of His people. We look forward to accommodating the 78th Annual Women's Conference.

As we advance forward into the new year, please register your youth group for *Brothers' Keeper '13*. This has become a viable and growing ministry in Jackson County that gains respect and appreciation for your faith, hard work and mission support. I offer a special thank you to those churches and business owners that give way beyond and model "Being your brother's keeper." "... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 (NIV). **CELEBRATE.**

In 2012, we launched the *Donald Loudermilk Society*, investing into future lives and to honor the late Donald Loudermilk, a "Golden'er." Our goal was to raise \$20,000. You accomplished this! Whether a first-time joiner or a renewing member, we thank the Lord for you and look forward to seeing "lives changed" through your faithfulness in serving Christ together. **CELEBRATE.**

*Ring in 2013 and Be Blessed,  
Frank Miller*

*Director of Operations  
Parchment Valley Conference Center*



### *Middleville Baptist Reenacts Nativity*

On December 8-9, 2012, the sights and sounds of Bethlehem came alive at Middleville Baptist Church (Union) as their members humbly portrayed the events leading up to the birth of the Christ child. This was the 12th year church members have reenacted the live nativity through a series of seven scenes. Each scene is highlighted by a key scripture as to visually convey the Christmas story to passerbys.

In addition to the main scenes, you could find women and children exchanging goods in the marketplace, observe a



Roman soldier policing the town on a horse or pause with Mary and Joseph as they gaze upon the baby Jesus. Also, amongst the hustle and bustle of

the city, visitors could catch a glimpse of a working carpenter shop or women gathered at the town's well engaged in lively conversation.

Plans began in October 2012 for preparations that enabled the church to share with the friends in their community the true meaning of the season. Nearly all members of the church, young and old, contribute to this special ministry, and each will tell you it is truly a blessing to share the good news of Jesus Christ.



If you missed the nativity this year, make plans to attend in 2013! Preparations are really quite simple: gather your loved ones in your nice, warm vehicle; drive through slowly to take in the sights and sounds of the town of Bethlehem; and pause as you reflect upon the most precious gift of all time.

### *Guyandotte Association Churches Help Neighboring Communities*

As the Teays Valley Association celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2012, the seventeen churches determined they would initiate a mission trip to the neighboring Guyandotte Association. During that trip, the participants spent three days visiting the churches of the Guyandotte Association, assisting them with major painting projects at Huntington Baptist Temple and Seventh Avenue Baptist Church.

When they returned home, the consensus was they wanted this to be the first of many missional responses to the needs faced by their communities. So, in December 2012, a retired pastor from Mason informed Craig Coster, Southwest area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, of a housing need within their community. Following a visit to the home, Coster called the pastors of Main Street Baptist Church, Harmony Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church and Zion Baptist Church, all of the Teays Valley Association, to enlist combined help of the churches.

In December, men from Main Street Baptist Church secured a tarp over the roof to reduce the possibility of roof leaks this winter. Next spring, these men will work with volunteers from other churches to replace the roof on this widow's home. The men from Harmony Baptist Church will be addressing plumbing issues in the coming weeks.

Other plans are in place to replace the siding on the back of the house next summer as well as remove and replace the front porch with an updated deck. By the time everything is completed, at least five churches will have had a hand in the necessary repairs to the home of this widow in Mason County.

Without your support through the Mountain State Mission Offering or the United Mission Offering, collaborative works such as this would be much more difficult. However, on your behalf, the area ministers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention are constantly seeking ways to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith and seeking ways to enable them to do together what they cannot do alone.

### *Watson Installed at Union Baptist Church*

On December 16, 2012, Union Baptist Church, (Guyandotte), celebrated the installation of pastor, Rick Watson and his wife, Nancy. Southwest area minister Craig Coster delivered the challenge to the church and to the pastor, reminding both that God called the pastor to equip the church to be in ministry. The reminder was given that Rick is not to do everything, but to invite the willing members of the church to make themselves available in ministry.



## Obituaries

### **JAMES LOREN**

**ANDERSON**, 86, of Reedy, died December 4, 2012. He was a member of Two Runs Baptist Church (Good Hope). He was an ordained American Baptist minister, who served

several area churches.

**GEORGE D. BELLING**, of Charleston, died November 21, 2012. He was a long-time member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley). He volunteered many hours with the church as well as with Meals on Wheels and at Covenant House.

**JAMES MICHAEL BEACH**, 67, of Ona, died November 12, 2012. He was a member of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte) where he was past president of the American Baptist Men, a trustee, Sunday school superintendent and a member of the finance board.

**LONNIE HAROLD BOWDEN**, 79, of Barboursville, died December 6, 2012. He was an active member of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he served as a deacon, taught Sunday school and sang in the choir for many years.

**WILEY "STACY" BROOKS**, 87, of Jesse, died December 2, 2012. He was a member of Guyandotte Baptist Church (Rockcastle) and was a former pastor of the church for 19 years. He was a former pastor at Bellemeade Baptist Church (Rockcastle) for nine years and Justice First Baptist Church for three and a half years.

**PAUL "BUD" BLEAU**, 99, of Nitro, died November 30, 2012. He was an active member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) where he was a former deacon.

**MARY CHRISTINE CABE**, of Bridgeville, formerly of Beckley, died November 10, 2012. She was an active member at Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for over 50 years and loved mentoring children in the after school program there.

**ALBERT ROSS CLARK**, 89, of Saint Albans, died December 24, 2012. He was a dedicated member of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and had served on various committees.

**GENEVA MAE COLEMAN**, died October 26, 2012. She was a devoted member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for 60 years. Her many contributions of service included church clerk, deaconess, circle leader, member of the nominating committee, delegate to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Candle Lighter Ministry and was named Mother of the Year (1990). Her most rewarding role was that of Sunday school teacher, beginning with the kindergarten class then the junior class, which she and Lon Mitchell taught for approximately 30 years.

**IVEL FOSTER COTTELL**, 97, of Norwalk, Ohio, formerly of Hurricane, died December 22, 2012. She was a member of

Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and was active in the children's ministry, women's missions as well as many other positions.

**JESSIE RUTH MOORE COGAR**, 82, of Webster Springs, died October 15, 2012. She was a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) for over 60 years. She was a Sunday school and Bible school teacher and a member of the Crusaders Class. She recently served on the bereavement and floral committees.

**LAWRENCE EDWARD DAILEY**, 79, of Milton, died December 18, 2012. He had served as pastor at Balls Gap Baptist Church, Milton, 1971-1975; Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (Guyandotte) 1975-1990; Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Walton, 1976-1977; Enon Missionary Baptist Church (Guyandotte), 1977-1979; and Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church (Guyandotte), 1996-2008.

**ELLEN ELIZABETH (BETSY) ELLIS**, 90, of Florida, died December 5, 2012. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**ANTHONY ALVIN FARMER**, 83, died November 27, 2012. He was a member of Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and was a former Sunday school teacher and deacon.

**HELEN E. FRANKENBERRY**, 90, of Morgantown, died November 5, 2012. She was a life long member of Forks of Cheat Baptist Church (Goshen) where she served as church clerk and taught the adult Sunday school class for over 50 years.

**HELEN GRIFFITH**, of Delray, died October 31, 2012. She was a member of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern).

**EYVONNE "JEAN" HUSK**, 71, of Parkersburg, died December 7, 2012. She was an active member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she was a former Sunday school teacher and choir member. She was also active in the church's Lydia Women's Circle. She also took two mission trips with her church family to Russia.

**JANE SHAFFER JOHNSON**, of Charleston, died November 4, 2012. She joined Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley) in 1947 and worshiped there for the rest of her life. She lent her rich alto voice to the Chancel Choir for many years and at various times also participated in American Baptist Women's Ministries, Vacation Bible school and the diaconate board. She also acted as piano accompanist for many Sunday school classes and programs, including the Eugene Austin Class and the Grayce Philathea Class.

**CHESTER (CHET) JUMP**, 94, died December 13, 2012. He was a former Executive Director of American Baptist Foreign Mission Societies (ABFMS) from 1965 - 1983 and served in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**MARY HOPE MAYNOR LINK**, 84, of New Martinsville, died November 14, 2012. She was a member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) for 58 years. She served as an adult Sunday school teacher, mission chair, chairman of the board of Christian Education and led women's studies for many years. She was president of her American Baptist Women's Ministries circle and society for over 30 years. She served as state president of American Baptist Women's Ministries from 1991-1993.

**REX G. MCMELLON**, 82, of Yawkey, died November 26, 2012. He was a faithful member of Amy Baptist Church (Coal River), where he served as deacon, Sunday school teacher and devotional leader.

**FRANK MONTGOMERY OFFUTT**, 73, of Saint Albans, died November 28, 2012. He was a 50-year member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he had been extremely active until recent years. He served as a deacon, chairman of the board of Christian Education, member of the finance committee, junior and senior high Sunday school teacher and served as senior high superintendent.

**BERNIE QUEEN**, 91, of Man, died November 24, 2012. He was a member of Man First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), where he was very active with the church's food pantry.

**JEAN STOUT**, 98, of Weirton, formerly of Pittsburgh, died November 8, 2012. She was a lifelong Christian and involved in community service and volunteerism. She was the mother of William Stout, pastor, Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle).

**CHARLES A. "CHARLIE" YOUNG**, 83, of Charleston, died December 15, 2012. He faithfully served many years at Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as teacher, deacon, administrator and minister of finance.

**BETTY JEAN PIERSON WILLIAMS**, 89, died January 4, 2013. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) since 1935. She served in many capacities including circle leader, nursery superintendent and deaconess.

## Leadership Updates

**Mr. Vincent Deeds** to Meadow Grove Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on November 25, 2012

**Mr. Darrell Farley** to North Fork Baptist Church (Harrisville) as bivocational pastor on October 1, 2012

**Mr. Jason Robbins** to Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as director of worship on November 1, 2012

**Rev. Matthew Taylor** to Bethlehem Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on July 1, 2012

**Dr. William R. Thomas** to Lauckport Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as interim pastor on September 1, 2012



# PRAYER CALENDARS

## February 2013

**February 1** - Mark Wood, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette)

**February 2** - Nellie Gillespie, treasurer, Guyandotte Association

**February 3** -The ministry of Gatewood Baptist Church; Harry Fuller, pastor (Fayette)

**February 4** - The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; James Murphy, pastor (Elk Valley)

**February 5** - The ministry of Morrisvale Baptist Church; David Cook, pastor (Coal River)

**February 6** -The ministry of Davis Baptist Church; Leroy Shook, pastor (Eastern)

**February 7** - Brenda Rosier, vice moderator, Union Association

**February 8** - Victor Shields, Northeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**February 9** - Church Officers' Training Event at Parchment Valley Conference Center

**February 10** - Bryan Cantrell, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and chair, Baptist Campus Ministries' Board

**February 11** -The ministry of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church; Michael Wamsley, pastor (Broad Run)

**February 12** -The ministry of Cedar Grove Baptist Church; Harold White, pastor (Kanawha Valley)

**February 13** -The ministry of City Soul Ministries; Luke Easter, pastor (Parkersburg)

**February 14** -The ministry of Fairmont Baptist Temple; Holley Faulkner, pastor (Fairmont)

**February 15** -The ministry of Sabraton Baptist Church; Scott Whetzel, 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** - Evan Frees, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and chair, Parchment Valley Conference Center Board

**February 20** -The ministry of Scott Street Baptist Church; Garry Moore, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)

**February 21** - Ricardo Mayol, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Mexico

**February 22** - Donald Nestor, moderator, Broad Run Association

**February 23** - American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfasts around the state

**February 24** -The ministry of Hill Grove Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)

**February 25** - Boyden Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary (youth) to Mexico

**February 26** - Darrell Farley, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission

**February 27** - Becky Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand

**February 28** - 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 2013

**March 1** - Don Fowler, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission

**March 2** - Junior High Convention this weekend at Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)

**March 3** - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Nicaragua

**March 4** - Joanna Turley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary (youth) to Japan

**March 5** -The ministry of Freeman's Creek Baptist Church; Phil Heater, pastor (Broad Run)

**March 6** - Mark Booth, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church (Twelve Pole)

**March 7** - Duane Binkley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand

**March 8** -Richard Wood, moderator, Greenbrier-Raleigh Association

**March 9** - Charles West, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Zambia

**March 10** - Nathan Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary (youth) to Bolivia

**March 11** - Joan Hall, assistant for Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**March 12** - Linda Ramsey, clerk/treasurer, Fayette Association

**March 13** -The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Terry Sponaule, pastor (Coal River)

**March 14** - Jim Anderson, Southeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention

**March 15** -The ministry of Hurricane First Baptist Church; James Lutz, pastor (Teays Valley)

**March 16** - Spring Children's Rally at Parchment Valley Conference Center

**March 17** - Karen Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society missionary to Thailand

**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 Hanover Missionary Baptist Church; Jackie Lester, pastor (Rockcastle)

**March 23** - Craig Kellar, 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 Elizabeth Baptist Church; Mark McCloy, pastor (Parkersburg)

**March 26** -The ministry of Beulah Ann Baptist Church; Paul Meadows, pastor (Guyandotte)

**March 27** -The ministry of Fort Gay Baptist Church; Timothy Preston, pastor (Twelve Pole)

**March 28** - Rosemary Harmon, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission

**March 29** -Thank you Lord for sending Your Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins

**March 30** -The ministry of Reynoldsville Baptist Church; Jon Hayes, pastor (Judson)

**March 31** -The ministry of Clarksburg Baptist Church; David Hulme, pastor (Union)

## COMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2013

#### February 9

Church Officers' Training

Parchment Valley Conference Center

#### February 16

School of Christian Studies

ADVANCED

Book of Revelation one-day class  
with Mark McCloy

Parchment Valley Conference Center

#### February 18-22

Palmer Theological Seminary West  
Virginia Program

Baptist Emphasis and Polity  
(DNOM510)

Instructor: Dr. George Hancock-  
Stefan

Parchment Valley Conference Center

#### February 18

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Office CLOSED

Presidents' Day Holiday

#### February 23

American Baptist Men's Prayer

Breakfasts

Various Locations

#### February 26

School of Christian Studies

New Testament II (B-04)

Six-Week Class Begins

Various Locations

### MARCH 2013

#### March 1-3

Junior High Convention

Saint Albans First Baptist Church

#### March 16

Children's Spring Rally

Parchment Valley Conference Center

#### March 23

School of Christian Studies

ADVANCED

The Process of Spiritual Formation  
one-day class with Allan  
Copenhaver

Parchment Valley Conference Center

#### March 29

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Office CLOSED

Good Friday Holiday

### APRIL 2013

#### April 6

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Executive Board

Parchment Valley Conference Center

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

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## Plan Now to Attend the **2013 American Baptist Men ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

The American Baptist Men will host **Prayer Breakfasts** at locations throughout the state. These events will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013. 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](mailto: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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