



Vol. LXXX, Issue 04 June - July 2013

What's Inside

Page 2

Commentary: Fire, Fire - Holy Fire/Baptist Campus Ministries: A Legacy Through Discipleship

Page 3

One Great Hour of Sharing/ Adult Discipleship - Embedding the Word

Page 4

Camp Cowen Celebrating 70 Years of Camping in 2013

Page 5

Thinking Missions: Why Do You Ask?/Camp Global is Back!

Pages 6-7

Parchment Valley Conference Center: Building for Generations

Page 8

Palmer Seminary WV Program Holds 2013 Graduation Ceremony/Summer Plans Take Shape at Weirton Christian Center

Page 9

Russia Mission Partnership: Staying Strong

Page 10

Obituaries/Leadership Changes

Page 11

June and July 2013 Prayer Calendars

Page 12

Coming Events/American Baptist Women's Ministries' Conference



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA



Hispanic Ministries:

El Viento del Espíritu - The Wind of the Spirit

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind... Acts 2:2

Almost a year ago the devastating winds of the “derecho” storm slammed several states, including West Virginia. Along its path, the storm caused devastation and damages - several people were killed and millions were without power for days. In the aftermath of the storm, people, communities and organizations joined hands and resources with the mission to restore and help those in need. Storms with such furious wind and destructive force happen once in a while. As Christians, we have a daily Source with storm-like capabilities, the Spirit of God. Where the wind of the Spirit blows, disruptions happen. But, unlike the devastating force of storms, the Spirit brings life and transformation. When the Spirit blows, He creates something new. When the Spirit blows, our hearts must be ready to sail with His wind.

Our partnership with the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico is a result of the Spirit's wind blowing in our regions and us sailing with His might to accomplish His mission - making disciples. God is blessing our collaborative efforts and I want to highlight the recent grant both regions received from the Palmer Grant Program of the American Baptist Foundation. A discipleship project for 10 young adults, ages 18-29, from both regions is launching because of this \$15,000 grant.

Project HOPE will provide an opportunity for 10 young adults, five from each region, to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ and put their faith in action. It will be a venue for them to explore and discover their gifts and calling. Moreover, their spiritual passion and relational skills will be strengthened and their cross-cultural experience will be enriched by interacting with young adults from different cultural backgrounds.

The project will employ different venues such as face-to-face interactions as well as communication technologies for online interactions. Ministries in West Virginia, Puerto Rico and beyond will strengthen because of the passion for Christ that emerges through mission. We trust this will be one of the many tools that will help prepare young adults to be disciples in our rapidly changing culture and world. The Spirit of God has the power to create something from nothing. He did it in the beginning and He still does it today. As He engineers His purposes and plans we, His people, are invited to sail by the might of His wind in spite of how risky and uncertain it might seem to us.

Bendiciones!

Juan Aragón
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist

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

Fire, Fire - Holy Fire

For most of my adult life, I have been a firefighter. My father was a firefighter before me, and my journey through ministry has always included serving as a part of a fire department...not just the obvious position of a chaplain, but as a trained firefighter. Later in my life, I became a line officer. My highest rank was that of assistant chief, interestingly enough, also my father's highest rank when he served. I have come to respect the nature of

fire. It seems to destroy that which it touches, yet in reality, is a process that changes the form of that which it burns.

In God's word, fire is noted over 500 times and indeed brings change, which is its nature. In our Baptist family life, we have been challenged to change, to be *Transformed by the Spirit*. Sometimes fire hurts us with the change it brings. Fire can warm us, burn us and make us feel physically, emotionally and spiritually different. The campfires at our camps and conferences are memorable for the countless lives that have been challenged and changed for Christ.

So it is with the Holy Spirit. Holy change sometimes hurts, but something better emerges from the ashes. We recall the legend of the phoenix, a mythological bird that rose, renewed from its own ashes. When life is being destroyed, humankind needs the hope something new will emerge. We as believers have a hope that is not mythological, but an assured hope in a risen Lord, Jesus

Christ. The Holy Spirit is a holy fire dwelling in each of us. He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes. When Christians do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions, we suppress or quench the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:10-19). In both thought and deed we must be open to the Spirit to empower and encourage us to be followers of Christ.

During this year as we face the challenges posed by *Transformed by the Spirit*, may we not quench the Spirit, but listen to the Spirit call His people to a word of renewal and faithfulness. Ephesians 4 - 5 tells us we grieve the Spirit by living like pagans. Pagans are liars; they are angry, they steal, they curse, they become bitter, they are unforgiving and sexually immoral. In our own lives, are we grieving the Spirit or being transformed by the holy fire of God's love? As we learn to live with change, we must realize we can't stop change, but we can embrace the process and use it for the glory of God.

What now for *Transformed by the Spirit*? The process of adaptive change will be with us for a long period of time and is becoming part of our corporate nature. Transformed by the Spirit is an ongoing process of adaptive change and each day we can be changed into His image. May the Lord burn us down and rebuild us into His likeness.

Blessings,
Dr. David L. Carrico
Executive Minister

Baptist Campus Ministries: A Legacy Through Discipleship

The Apostle Paul gives us a great model for campus ministry. In 2 Timothy 2:2 he writes, "And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." This time of year is always bittersweet for the staff of Baptist Campus Ministries. We have poured our lives into these students for four years and now they are graduating and will soon be leaving us. If our goal for Baptist Campus Ministries was to train and keep students, then we would have a very frustrating job. However, our primary goal is to help equip and disciple students, so when they graduate they will be able to provide leadership to their local church. The verse above brings great comfort as we end one year and begin planning for the fall. The exciting part about discipleship is disciples make other disciples. As a group of incredible seniors leave this spring and pass the torch to those whom they have disciplined, I am confident our underclassmen are ready to continue making God's glory known on our West Virginia campuses.

The story of Leslie and Brittany is just one example of how 2 Timothy 2:2 is carried out in the lives of college students. Leslie spent an entire year investing in Brittany's life. Brittany was fairly new in her faith, but grew so much her freshman year as Leslie walked beside her spiritually. Leslie is graduating this year and now Brittany is one of the leaders for Baptist Campus Ministries. Brittany is already excited to invest in students' lives next year in the same way Leslie has invested in her. Baptist Campus Ministries is about a legacy through discipleship.

Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director

Worship and Music Conference Clinician Change

God is indeed faithful and gracious! Due to circumstances beyond their control, Lauren and Logan Lindsey will not be able to serve as clinicians and workshop leaders at our June 14-15, 2013 Worship and Music Conference. However, even with relatively short notice, Mike Engelhardt, former director of the *West Virginians*, has graciously agreed to be clinician and present workshops especially focused on churches wanting to establish praise and worship teams. All of our workshop leaders come with specific and comprehensive gifts to help the broad spectrum of church music and worship leaders. From those with choirs to those who just like to sing or play instruments -- or want to learn how, this conference has it all. Among featured workshop leaders and/or task force members are Pam Powers McClain, Jan Powers Corrothers, Judy Prater, Ginny Prunty, Eddie Bucklen, Mike Barnhouse and Mike Stephens.

Also, Mike Hopkins, of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), will be leading two workshops and serving as devotion leader. Mike brings years of experience in teaching and organizing worship that truly honors God. Even if your church is not one who has a choir or a praise team and you just like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, the thrill of sitting in the midst of a 75-100 member choir during the reading and worship sessions can only be called true worship, and is well worth the price of admission!

For more information about the conference, go to www.wvbc.org or contact Ginny Prunty at prunty@wvbc.org or call 800.879.9822. The conference begins on June 14 at 9:00 a.m. and ends on June 15 at 3:30 p.m. The theme is *Tune My Heart to Sing God's Praise*.



Where Your Gifts Made a Difference in 2012

One Great Hour of Sharing

When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. If you include disasters of human origin, the opportunity to respond to people in need is even more frequent. The larger disasters are captured by our news media, and the word of tragedy is brought into our homes. It is difficult to imagine the suffering of those whose lives were forever changed in just a few seconds. But many needs of our world - whether in a neighboring state or half the world away - remain uncovered by our news media. However, with our extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptists are able to make a difference wherever disaster strikes.

In 2012, nature's fury was on display as Hurricane Sandy first ravaged the Caribbean and then ravaged the Northeastern United States. Across the United States, drought affected thousands of farmers - large scale and small - the effects of which were felt by rising food prices. And on the continent of Africa, drought and famine conditions in East Africa continued to be so severe they were the worst experienced in decades.

But 2012 wasn't just a year for extraordinary natural disasters. It was also a year of many man-made disasters, as the "Arab Spring" pro-democracy uprisings that swept the Middle East and North Africa forced millions of people to flee their home countries of Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and Libya to find safety and security from the violence. Here is where your gifts made a difference in 2012.

AROUND THE WORLD

Country	Situation Calling for a Response
Caribbean.....	Hurricane Sandy Relief
China.....	Yunnan Earthquake
Costa Rica.....	Flooding in Sixaola
Croatia.....	Flood Relief
Cuba.....	Cholera Relief
Cuba.....	Hurricane Sandy Relief
Democratic Republic of the Congo.....	Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Kiva
India.....	Assam Flooding
India.....	Ethnic Violence in Assam
Jamaica.....	Hurricane Sandy Relief
Mozambique.....	Flood Relief
Myanmar.....	Assistance to Internally Disabled Persons
Philippines.....	Tropical Storm Washi Relief
Philippines.....	Typhoon Bopha Relief
Poland.....	Fire Damage to Oasis Baptist Church
Thailand.....	Fire in Refugee Camp

HERE AT HOME

State	Situation Calling for a Response
Various.....	Severe Spring Storms and Tornadoes
Colorado.....	Wildfires
Indiana.....	Tornado Relief
New Jersey.....	Hurricane Sandy Relief
West Virginia.....	American Baptist Men National Disaster Response

Adult Discipleship - Embedding the Word

I don't remember the word "embed" being used much when I was a kid. In fact, it seems I have heard the word used more in the last 10-years than ever before. It is specifically used a lot when referring to files and links placed into communications via computer and the media has used it a great deal in sharing about reporters being "embedded" with troops during conflicts. The word itself means to "**fix (an object) firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass.**" When I plant my vegetable seeds, I "embed" the seeds in the soil. I want them to be placed firmly in the surrounding dirt so they will mature, grow strong and produce food later in the summer.

Psalm 119:11 (KJV) says, "*Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.*" Other versions use the words treasured or stored up in place of the word hid. In Hebrew, this word is translated "tsaphan" and means "to hide or treasure up." It is not meant to relay that the word is to be hidden from view or knowledge, but that it is to be placed firmly (embedded) into the heart, to be always at the ready, to be useful in all things, to be part of that which surrounds it.

Recent studies have found if the local church can or will do only one thing to assist adults in moving forward in spiritual maturity, the church must embed the Bible in everything. It is not to be used as a resource tool or guide book. The Bible must be "the defining characteristic of the church's culture."

(Move, by Greg Hawkins and Cally Parkinson, Zondervan Press,

page 219) Embedding the Bible is more than Bible classes and devotionals, it is a shift from the Bible as a resource to the Bible as part of the very building blocks of the community of faith.

Practical suggestions:

- Realize embedding the Bible in everything is NOT the norm. Be honest, what does your local church need to do to make the shift?
- No matter the situation ask, "What does God's word have to say?" Church leadership MUST lead in this.
- Encourage and expect adult Christians to reflect on scripture and its meaning in their individual everyday lives. Give them the tools, training and support to do this. No excuses.
- Model scripture as the foundation in all aspects of the life of the church. This includes all groups, committees and leadership.

For the rest of the year, we will be concentrating on embedding the Bible in life. Look for more information and practical suggestions as the year progresses.

Have questions? Need more information? Contact Lisa Simmons, associate in Mission Support/Adult Discipleship at lsimmons@wvbc.org.

Lisa Simmons
Associate in Mission Support

CAMP COWEN 2013



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

2013 Schedule

YOUNGER MIDLER CAMP • GRADES 2-4
• JUNE 7-9

JUNIOR HIGH I CAMP • GRADES 7-9 •
JUNE 9-15

JUNIOR I CAMP • GRADES 5-6 •
JUNE 16-22

JUNIOR HIGH II CAMP • GRADES 7-9 •
JUNE 23-29

MID-HIGH CAMP •
GRADES 9-11 • JUNE 30-JULY 6

SENIOR DAY •
2013 HIGH SCHOOL GRADS • JULY 13

SENIOR HIGH CAMP • GRADES 10-HS
GRADS • JULY 14-20

JUNIOR II CAMP • GRADES 5-6 •
JULY 21-27

OLDER MIDLER CAMP • GRADES 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

Camp Cowen Celebrating 70 Years of Camping in 2013

What does it take to overcome 42 inches of snow, downed power lines, no phone service and a little chaos? Several hundred volunteers, that is what it takes! These volunteers have helped the **West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen** become ready to receive campers on June 7, 2013! Younger Midler campers are moving into the cabins as you read this article. In 2012, Younger Midler hosted 198 second and third graders, and we anticipate that many this summer.

In 2013 we celebrate 70 years of camping for the **West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen**. Many people over those 70 years have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior and have made life-changing decisions at **Camp Cowen**. Please pray this summer will be a great year for God.

As the 2013 camping season begins, we read the words of Jesus in John 8:12: "**When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.**" Because of the recent events in the United States, our prayer is that **Camp Cowen** is a place where the light of Jesus Christ can shine brightly and be carried home with each camper and counselor. God has used the holy ground of **Camp Cowen** in special ways and we are excited for another summer "**Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith!**"

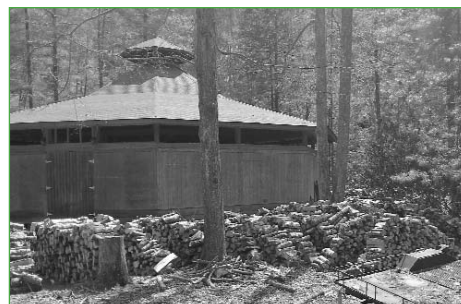
Rob Ely
Director of Discipleship,
Camping and Youth



Baptist Campus Ministries' students on their spring break mission



A second floor addition to Milan will provide 12 more beds.



The covered campfire and several loads of firewood provided by Hurricane Sandy



American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Worker, John Holt

Palmer Seminary WV Program Holds 2013 Graduation Ceremony

by Matt Lyons, director of West Virginia Operations
Palmer Theological Seminary

On April 11, 2013, we celebrated the 2013 graduates from Palmer Theological Seminary's West Virginia Program. The graduates include: Rev. Jana Stoner, Rev. Steve Dunlap, Rev. Franklin Murphy, Pastor Chris Davis, J.D. Each one has earned the respect of fellow students, professors and administrators. During the banquet, graduates shared their perspectives from the end of the journey.

The graduates unanimously thanked the seminary community for the deep and lasting friendships they had developed. Choking back tears they thanked their families and churches who supported their journeys. Each graduate echoed their appreciation for the professors, the quality of education they received and our partners who help make Palmer Theological Seminary's WV Program possible. This year's graduates remind us all the journey, though challenging, is transformational and worth the sacrifice. They stood proudly as a reminder to all who will follow the seemingly elusive graduation day does come.

We are honored to partner with the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Parchment Valley Conference Center, Bowen Trust Fund and the West Virginia Baptist Education Society to offer the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees in West Virginia. We ask you to join us in praying for our 2013 graduates and their ministries in the days ahead.

Bag Mat Project

RAVENSWOOD - April 29, 2013 was an exciting night at LifeSpring Jackson Community Church, a satellite of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Led by Lisa Simmons and Debbie Higginbotham, 60 people gathered to make sleeping mats for the homeless. Lisa and Debbie worked everyone through the process of making the mats out of shopping bags. It was a great evening for all ages to come together, reach out and provide help for the homeless.

One of the goals was to equip each church to be able to do this and minister on their own. A very exciting part was the number of different congregations and ages of the people involved. The evening was hosted by LifeSpring Community Church and the following churches attended: Lubeck Community Church (Parkersburg), Belleville Baptist Church (Parkersburg), Ravenswood First Baptist Church (Good Hope), South

Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), Lutheran Church of Ravenswood and Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope). This was a great evening where followers of Christ came together to serve and minister to people they have never met. To God be the glory!

For information about how you can make mats out of grocery bags, go to www.ext.wvu.edu/r/download/63086 or go to www.youtube.com and type in "plastic bag mats for the homeless."

Summer Plans Take Shape at the Weirton Christian Center

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

God's blessings are overflowing at Weirton Christian Center. We cannot thank you enough for all you have done for us individually, through your churches, mission budgets, associations, American Baptist Women's Ministries and circles. Prayers are answered continually for Weirton Christian Center. I truly believe it is because so many of you keep us on your prayer lists. Financially, we are still stable and able to keep up with demands and needs each month. White Cross items and special collections, like our recent van load of camp supplies from the Children's Rally at Parchment Valley Conference Center, stuffed to the brim with 32 pillows tucked in each available space, and the Greenbrier-Raleigh Association's collection of arts and crafts supplies for the summer program. So many have helped with supplying all our needs, in every way.

As we plan for summer, our biggest program is camp at Elkhorn Valley - where last year we had 78 children attend. And this year, there are a couple great additions to the plan. Since Elkhorn Valley had no room in their schedule for us to come out for our Weirton Christian Center Camp, Frank Miller invited us to Parchment Valley Conference Center from August 5-9, 2013. Jamie Wilson and his crew from Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) wanted to come back to the center, but we really needed help with our camp for our kids, so they are coming to work the program and chaperone our kids grades four and up. If anyone else would like to spend some time with our kids, please make plans to attend with us. When I was in Beckley, I mentioned how our kids just loved going to Camp Cowen with Dunbar. It just so happens, Doc Adkins, pastor of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), has a camp on July 6, 2013 and invited our older kids to join his group. What an opportunity and blessing for them. It was definitely a God thing!

Our Assistant Director, Deronda Bruich, another blessing to the center, will be holding down the fort while I am traveling to national meetings to network with other American Baptist Home Mission Societies' Neighborhood Action Program (NAP) directors and supporters. We welcome you to come visit or bring a group anytime. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we plan for expansion and thanks again for all you all do for the Weirton Christian Center.

Aragon Becomes U.S. Citizen

Juan Aragon, Hispanic Strategist, West Virginia Baptist Convention, took his oath of United States citizenship on March 25, 2013 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Aragon moved to West Virginia with his wife, Denise, five years ago and joined the Convention staff the following year. The Aragons have a son, Juancito, and are expecting a daughter, Hephzibah this summer. They have recently purchased a home in Ravenswood. Aragon continues to work with Hispanics across the state and is equipping churches to engage in ministry with this growing segment of our population.



Juan Aragon and his wife, Denise

Why Do You Ask?

I am sure there have been times when someone asked you a question and you have wondered (perhaps even asked), "Why do you ask?" We often look beyond what is said or done to the why of what is being said or done.

When you invite someone to your church, do you ask them because you want more people or do you ask them because you think they can grow as disciples there? When you share Christ with someone, do you do so because you care about them (really about them) or to satisfy your own need to feel better than them because you have Jesus?

When people in your church are asked to serve on a board or ministry position, do you ask because you need a warm body or do you discern the spiritual gifts of those whom you are asking and trust the position would help them grow in their walk with Christ? When people are asked to give, is it in response to the needs of the church or is it about the giver worshiping God through praise offerings?

Too many times in our ministries we get focused on our needs and the transactions needed to meet those needs. The expectations that membership, baptisms, numbers of leaders and budgets must increase each year often cause us to focus on the transactions rather than the ministry of

THINKING MISSIONS

transformation to which God has called each of us.

This is especially true in the realm of ministry finances. It is easy to pick up lots of tools and ideas for "funding" ministry. Much of what is written focuses on the transaction - closing the deal so the dollar changes from the donors' pockets to the ministry budget. Unfortunately, these methods are about the dollar, not the donor!

If we are to build sustainable ministries, we must keep our motives, our focus and our mission aligned with the gospel. We must care about and work to bring spiritual transformation in the lives of those to whom we minister. Our asking, whether for finances or for service, should always be about what is in the best interest of the one being asked.

Jesus told us to make disciples! Paul tells us in Romans 12, "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.*" (v. 2)

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

Camp Global is BACK!



MISSIONARIES CONFIRMED FOR CAMP GLOBAL:



Anita Gutierrez,
South Africa
and

Stan Slade,
Global Consultant



Vesper Leader: Rev. Ron Stoner

Labor Day Weekend
August 31 - September 1, 2013
at Camp Cowen

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - Sunday 3:00 p.m.
with a Friday Night Option

Cost: \$50.00 per person,
\$200 maximum per family

Friday Night - add an additional \$15.00
Saturday Only - \$20.00

Camp Global will begin a new tradition this year by having our annual event on Labor Day weekend, August 31 - September 1, 2013. We have worked with Camp Cowen to find dates each year and have had different experiences sharing the camp during our times there. After taking last year off to attend the World Mission Conference, we wanted to establish a consistent time slot for one of our premier mission education events. We hope you will make this hands-on, family friendly mission exposure a part of your Labor Day celebrations. Camp will begin on Saturday at 10:00 am and conclude at 3:00 pm on Sunday. We will have a Friday evening (optional) program for those who want to come early.

Be sure to watch future mailings and our web page for more details.

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

“Where Lives Are Changed”

by Frank Miller, director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center



Changed Lives - Changing Lives

Twelve Pole Association’s most recent work party at Parchment Valley Conference Center on the Prayer Labyrinth required six churches faithfully coming together amidst extremely busy schedules. The work of the association has enhanced the Grapevine Chapel experience and offers a wonderful place to stop and pray or spend quiet time with the Lord.

In 2013, it will be Vicky Ramey’s 19th year of participation with her association’s church camp at Parchment Valley. She told Frank Miller, director of Operations at Parchment Valley, “I’m so pleased that for the past 10 years, my husband, Greg, always looks forward to camp as much if not more than I do. On each visit, the Lord sends the exact number of laborers needed for the jobs we tackle. His presence continues to make the Twelve Pole Valley church camp experience at Parchment Valley great. The Lord has blessed the Twelve Pole Association and we are so excited to see what He does next!”

The Rameys and the leadership team from the surrounding churches always enjoy giving back to the very camp that has blessed their hearts for 18 consecutive years. They truly feel privileged accepting the challenging yet rewarding work of which they are such an intricate part of. Building the prayer labyrinth and placing three memorial benches meant more to them than the hundreds that visit the area. The dedicated volunteers always look to every trip to Parchment Valley with enthusiasm and joy that they can give back 100%. The hope is to place a bench from each of the Twelve Pole Association churches by the end of 2014. Some of the student campers are also constructing benches as part of building classes offered at their high school. The campers’ act of giving encourages us as we plan for the next big project at Parchment Valley.

We would like to thank the Twelve Pole Association for their years of faithful ministry and leading hundreds of youth over the decades to a “changed life” in Jesus.

As we pray for God to prepare our hearts, minds and hands to do the difficult, yet blessed task of *Brothers’ Keeper* for 2013, let us first thank the Lord for the focus from within our BK leadership team to plan, coordinate and celebrate the 13 years of an incredible Christian mission work, sponsored for the youth of our churches across our West Virginia Baptist Convention region. Our praise to Him for the monetary gifts we receive from churches and local business owners that make it possible for our work crews to impact the homes and lives of the less fortunate in Jackson County. This year, we celebrate hosting even more youth and their adult counselors as they come to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support of this program, where hundreds of homes have been restored, and so many individuals were touched by the servants’ hands for Christ’s glory.



A very significant piece of the Parchment Valley vision was to build a Christian conference center where people could be better equipped for their ministry through Christian education. Palmer Theological Seminary has partnered with Parchment Valley Conference Center to form the *Palmer Theological Seminary’s West Virginia Program*, and for the past twenty-two years has offered theological education to West Virginia. The program continues to grow as the doctoral ministry degree has recently been added to the academic platform. This Christian education program clearly indicates how our church leaders become better equipped, enabling them to lead others to a changed life in Christ.

For Generations to Come

Situated in a secluded area of the woods behind Little Horse Lake, the Grapevine Chapel is an open-air chapel replicating, as closely as possible, the actual, Hopevale Chapel. The isolated location of the chapel was determined to reproduce the place chosen by the missionaries and Filipinos so they would be hidden from the Japanese troops that had invaded the Philippines in 1941. The stones for this replica were carried from the Little Horse Creek bed and placed to form the chapel outline, altar and lectern. The project was completed by volunteer American Baptist Youth under the supervision of Donald Loudermilk, Bryan Sweeney and Monty Foster. The cross and benches were constructed by Don Loudermilk and Kevin Emerick, Site Maintenance manager for Parchment Valley Conference Center.

This replica is dedicated to the memory of Jennie Clare Adams, James Howard Covell and Charma Moore Covell, Dorothy Antoinette Dowell, Signe Amelia Erickson, Frederick Willer Meyer and Ruth Schacht Meyer, Francis Howard Rose and Gertrude Coombs Rose, Erle Frederick Rounds and Louise Cummings Rounds and their young son, Erle Douglas Rounds. These missionaries were martyred on December 20, 1943 near Iloilo, on the Island of Panay in the central Philippines.

The purpose of the chapel is not to condemn the Japanese people for an act of war, but rather as a reminder to our people of the missionaries who sacrificed a life with their families and friends in this country to commit their very lives to the service of our Lord, wherever that may lead.

Don Loudermilk’s devotion and love for Parchment Valley Conference Center was so real. He knew and was part of every hole dug and every nail pounded - from the beginning of the purchase of the property throughout the development of the Parchment Valley Conference Center. Kay, his wife, said “Don felt he was a little closer to heaven at Parchment Valley.” He agreed with her.

Don Loudermilk left a legacy behind through his commitment to make Parchment Valley a place of family recreation and home to higher Christian Education for all. During the dedication of the Santrock Education Center of VISION 2000, he thanked God for this day and for a vision that came true! Don’s heart was genuinely touched and his hands truly motivated to build the replica Grapevine Chapel after reading *Through Shining Archway*, authored by Lela Susan Wright.

Lela Susan Wright, professor at Eastern Seminary, was another pillar of faith. In her passion for missionaries, Lela honored the memory of Frances Crooks with a personal gift of \$25,000 to be used in decorating the foyer of the Santrock Education Center. Her donation was also recognized during the dedication of the Santrock Education Center of VISION 2000. Frances Crooks was commissioned to the Burma mission when she was only 26 years old. She was an educator, loved children and they especially loved her. When Frances retired after 28 years on the mission field, she moved back to her home church, Ravenswood First Baptist Church (Good Hope), where she taught the boys’ Sunday school class.

Last week, while walking the Grapevine Chapel trail with Parchment Valley Board member, Joe Greenlee, I said, “Don Loudermilk certainly did a lot of hard work here,” and Joe, without hesitation replied, “Don was a guiding light.”



Parchment Valley - Building for Generations

Five years before the West Virginia Baptist Convention hired Area Ministers, the leaders had a vision of one day having a year-round conference facility. The dream began over 50 years ago and land was purchased in Jackson County in 1965. The purchase of what we now know as Parchment Valley Conference Center was a major factor in the Convention approving its first ever capital funds’ campaign in 1967 that began in 1970.

Until the lodges were constructed in 1975, overnight guests slept on cots in the barn and the meeting rooms were reset each morning for conferences. The completion of the lodges in 1976 coincided with the completion of the waste water treatment plant (lagoon) and other infrastructure upgrades. All of this was made possible by the generous response to the campaign.

Over the years, there have been many, many additions and improvements to the hallowed grounds at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Dorms were added in 1981, the swimming pool in 1983, Hill Hall, a play ground and picnic areas. Each addition has added greatly to the ministry of Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Much has changed over the generations. The farm has grown into a modern, fully equipped conference facility. The dream of a year-round conference center has been realized in our generation.

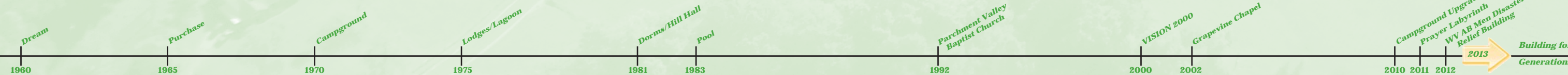
Parchment Valley Conference Center has been the meeting place for two church starts in Jackson County: Parchment Valley Baptist Church, 1992 - 1996; and LifeSpring Jackson, 2012. It is also a seminary campus offering both a Masters of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry programs through Palmer Theological Seminary.

Much of the infrastructure was built in the 1970’s and is in much need of replacement or renovation. We have a couple of critical issues that must be addressed immediately.

The first critical issue is the waste water treatment facility. The lagoon was built in 1976. It has served us well, but modern environmental regulations and the age of the lagoon make a complete renovation necessary. We have done all we can with short-term fixes, and the regulators have told us we must address the issues immediately or risk being shut down.

Another critical need is to replace the roof on Hill Hall. Hill Hall is our largest meeting room and is also the home of the West Virginia Historical Society archives. The roof has been patched as much as it can be and must be replaced immediately or there will be major structural damages and even more expense.

We need your help! It is estimated these critical infrastructure upgrades will cost \$300,000 or more. We hope you will join us in “BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS” at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Your gift of \$50 or more will help us continue the legacy of the generations who dared to dream the dream and made Parchment Valley Conference Center a place “where lives are changed” for generations to come.



Parchment Valley Timeline

Russia Mission Partnership: Staying Strong

by Rev. Greg Creasy, chairman,
Russia Mission Partnership Team

West Virginia Baptists continue to work with and support the local church in Russia. For the past 12 years, the West Virginia Baptist Convention has been in partnership with the churches of the region of Ryazan, Russia. In this time, the churches have organized into Ryazan Baptist Union, joining hands in partnership for the gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been my delight and joy to be part of this ministry from its humble beginnings. It is a great privilege to call my friends in Russia brothers and sisters in Christ. We have a bond that can only come through our mutual relationship with Jesus. I am deeply humbled by the responsibility of being an encouragement and support to these pastors and churches of the Ryazan Baptist Union. With God as our guide, we continue to pursue new avenues of friendship and ministry together for the gospel.

On my most recent trip to Russia, I had the opportunity to sit with several pastors in Ryazan to hear the story of their labor for the gospel. One such story is from Central Church in Ryazan, under the leadership of Pastor Viktor Ternovskiy. During his time as pastor, the church has begun two rehabilitation ministries housed in its building. Each program, one for men and one for women, lead individuals through a strict course to help them overcome their addiction to drugs and alcohol. When I asked the director what program material they used

(aka. 12 steps), he replied, "We only use the Bible!" In essence, they are allowing the power of the gospel as experienced in the pages of God's Word to bring transformation to the lives of each person in the program.

The Ark Church of Korablino has also started a rehabilitation program. I was able to visit the rehab house located in Dorkovo, a small village about 20 minutes outside of Korablino. This new program



Greg Creasy (l), Alexey Smirnov (c) and
Vitaly Vlasenko

has only three men in residence, but the gospel has already begun to transform the lives of these people. Sergio, one of the men in this program, told me he had recently repented of his sins and received the forgiveness that comes from Jesus Christ. Praise God for these ministries, powered by the Holy Spirit that are yielding fruit for the kingdom of God.

My trip included a meeting with Rev. Alexey Smirnov, president of the

Union of Evangelical Christians - Baptist of Russia (UECBR) and Vitaly Vlasenko, director of the Department of External Church Relations, UECBR. Through the work of ABC International Ministries, we maintain this important relationship in our continued work in Russia. President Smirnov encouraged our expanded work in the region of Tula (just west of the Ryazan region). He stated this region needs to learn how to work together, and asked that we help in this effort. In a meeting later that week with pastors from the Tula region, I had the opportunity to share the story of God's work in Ryazan and begin a relationship with this region in hopes of expanding our work for the gospel in Russia. I am excited to see how God will work in this opportunity.

Meanwhile, we continue to focus our efforts in support of the pastors and churches of the Ryazan Baptist Union. Please pray for the preparations for a retreat for all pastors and their wives of the Ryazan region. This will be led by Rev. David and Jeannie Bess in October. This is a wonderful way to build up and support these pastors in their continued ministry.

Christians in Russia face different challenges in sharing the gospel. They are forced to adhere to governmental rules of registration, restricted outreach opportunities and pressures from the Orthodox church members and leadership. I would ask that you continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Russia. Pray as the apostle Paul prayed, "that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains." (Colossians 4:3 NIV)

Eastern Panhandle Holds Stewardship Event

The Eastern Panhandle Association hosted an event emphasizing "Stewardship as Life Practice" on May 4, 2013. Despite the usual emphasis upon stewardship as financial management, their desire was to consider stewardship as an overall life decision. To achieve this, they contacted Craig Coster, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention and invited him to lead the three hour workshop.

Participants examined five specific passages from Matthew's gospel, which addressed the issue of stewardship of some God-given resources. Once the audience understood the process of study, they were given an additional 13 passages from all of scripture, all of which addressed specific issues of stewardship.

By the end of their time together, these two dozen people from the Eastern Panhandle Association had studied God's word and been challenged to be better stewards (managers) of resources like finances, family relationships, friendships, school relationships, sports, musical and other abil-

ities as well as environmental resources, so God is glorified in the management of all of one's life. Everyone agreed there was something refreshing by the transfer of ownership from self to God with self as manager on God's behalf. The most critical life transfer came as they discussed that this means the outcome is, therefore, the responsibility of the one who owns this resource.

At the conclusion of the day, the host church, Comunidad Luz y Vida, shared a wonderful meal of foods from their native countries of Cuba, Mexico and the territory of Puerto Rico. This whole day would not have been nearly as effective if the churches of the Eastern Panhandle Association would not have determined to work together.

If your association would like to share in this same experience, please contact Craig Coaster at coster@wvbc.org or 304.730.2258.

7th Annual Golf Scramble for Bolivia

On May 4, 2013 at Greenbrier Hills Golf Course in Rainelle, eight teams met for the 7th Annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Churches for Bolivia House of Hope Missions.

The top three teams received prizes from Bolivia: Page Baptist Church finished first. Millbrook Baptist Church Team A finished second and Crab Orchard Baptist Church Team B finished third.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, and director of the tournament, reported \$1,710 being raised for the Bolivia House of Hope ministries. Plans for next year are to hold this event the first Saturday of May at Greenbrier Hills.

On behalf of Mario Morales and the 68 ministries of the House of Hope in Bolivia, special thanks are extended to all West Virginia Baptist Convention churches and individuals for your vital support!



Obituaries

LEON ROSA AMICK, 95, of Nettie, died March 11, 2013. She was a member of Olive Branch Baptist Church (Hopewell).

DARRELL E. BARNHART, 94, of Madison, died March 8, 2013. He was a faithful member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River) for 75 years, where he served in many capacities, including church treasurer for over 50 years, deacon, Sunday school superintendent, trustee, board of finance and, most importantly, his service as coordinator of the church's food pantry. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946 and was stationed at the Fleet Post Office in New Hebrides, South Pacific.

FRED D. BLACK JR., died March 31, 2013. He was a member of Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher for many years. He was in the United States Army, where he served for 28 years.

LARRY NEWTON BLANKENSHIP, 74, died March 5, 2013. He was blessed by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to people and seeing them come to Christ. His first church was Haynie's Branch Baptist Church. He was also the pastor at Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church (Fairmont) and Big Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) before he retired.

BETTY JEAN CALE, 83, died April 12, 2013. She was a member of Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) and was active in American Baptist Women's Ministries, attending circle meetings and spring rallies. She served on the memorials committee and as a deaconess.

M. SUSAN COOPER, 69, of South Charleston, died March 5, 2013. From 1967 to the time of her death, she was a very active member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley), where she taught prekindergarten and served the church in many other capacities. At the time of her death, she was a member of the Chancel Choir and was co-leader of the Baptist Temple B&P Circle. She was involved in the PRO-Kids project in Charleston and in the Gabriel Project.

ELIZABETH JANE CUMMINGS, age 85, of Weston, died April 8, 2013. She was a member of the Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), where she was a former superintendent of Sunday school classes, was active with the American Baptist Women's Ministries, mission circle and choir, where she was a soloist.

FOREST FREELIN FAULKNER, 91, of Milton, died March 29, 2013. He was member of Milton Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he was a former deacon, financial secretary and Sunday school teacher. He was a World War II veteran serving his country in the United States Air Force.

EVA LENORE NICHOLSON GREEN, 81, died August 12, 2012. She was a longtime member of Fairmont First Baptist Church (Fairmont), where she was active in the West Virginia Baptist Women's Circle and the Sew-n-Sew's service organization.

PATRICIA A. LAROCCA, 70, of Cox's Mills, died March 2, 2013. She was a member of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

WANDA "GANGY" ELLEN DOUGLAS MYERS, of Dunbar, died April 21, 2013. She was a devoted member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for 40 years, where she taught Sunday school, worked with the children's choirs and sang with her own beautiful voice.

ROBERT "BOB" LEE POLING, 81, of Buckhannon, died Wednesday, March 13, 2013. He was a member of Sand Run Baptist Church (Broad Run) and attended the Mount Hermon United Methodist Church in Buckhannon. He was a lay speaker for Frenchton United Methodist Charge for nine months and was a full-time Baptist minister for 42 years. He served in the United States Army from 1952-1954 during the Korean War.

MARION RAE REED, 85, of Glenville, died April 15, 2013. She was a member of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where she most recently served as church historian.

JOHN C. STOUT, 93, of Bridgeport, died April 15, 2013. He was a 60-year member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), where he had served as treasurer for 42 years.

FRANCES MARIE TICE, 84, of Vienna, died April 1, 2013. She was a member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 30 years and participated in the "Young at Heart" choir, the Harvesters' Sunday school class, was a deaconess and a Circle Helping Hands member.

CHRISTINE YOUNCE WARDEN, died March 19, 2013. She was a faithful, charter member of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), serving as Sunday school teacher and deaconess.

RUTH MARIE WILCOX, 95, of Charleston, died March 20, 2013. She was a member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for over 70 years. She was a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries. She served on the board of trustees of Alderson-Broaddus College from 1983-2001 and on the college's board of governors from 2002-present. She and her husband were instrumental in the creation of the Wilcox Chapel on the campus of the college.

NELL RAMSEY WISE, 97, of New Martinsville, died March 24, 2013. She was a member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) for 66 years. She was an active quilter with the Baptist Church Quilters' Guild until 2011.

Leadership Updates

Rev. Tom J. Gribble to Harmony Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on January 1, 2013

Rev. Bill Masters to Plum Run Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on March 1, 2013

Dr. Glenn C. Perry to Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as lead pastor on April 15, 2013

Rev. Jonathan Turner to Shuck Memorial Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as senior pastor on March 17, 2013

Trading Post

FREE: Electric organ. For information call Debra Anderson of Meadow Dale Baptist Church (Good Hope) at 304.273.4240 or Margaret Mellon at 304.273.4920.

PRAYER CALENDARS

June 2013

June 1 - The ministry of Jackson's Mill Baptist Church; Gregory Miller, pastor (Broad Run)
June 2 - The ministry of Dent's Run Baptist Church; Josh Radcliff, pastor (Judson)
June 3 - The ministry of Little Laurel Missionary Baptist Church; David McLaughlin, pastor (Elk Valley)
June 4 - Patricia Magal, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
June 5 - Lois Merritt, secretary and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
June 6 - The ministry of Morgantown First Baptist Church; Alvin Cooper, pastor (Goshen)
June 7 - Younger Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 8 - American Baptist Women's Ministries' Annual Conference this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 9 - Children's Drama Camp begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 10 - Junior High I Camp happens this week at Camp Cowen
June 11 - Paul Meadows, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission and pastor, Beulah Ann Baptist Church (Guyandotte)
June 12 - Children's Art Camp begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 13 - The ministry of Barboursville Baptist Church; Todd Godby, pastor (Guyandotte)
June 14 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Worship and Music Conference happens this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
June 15 - The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Ronald Stoner, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
June 16 - Junior I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 17 - The ministry of Mount Olive Baptist Church; Richard Kiley, pastor (Union)
June 18 - Jeff Dieselberg, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
June 19 - The ministry of Bethesda Baptist Church; David Cyphers, pastor (Fairmont)
June 20 - Katherine Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
June 21 - The American Baptist Churches' Biennial Meeting begins today in Overland Park, Kansas
June 22 - William Wilson, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
June 23 - Junior High II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
June 24 - Anita Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
June 25 - Valma Adams, office manager and administrative assistant for Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
June 26 - Rita Chapman, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
June 27 - Roberta Stephens, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
June 28 - The ministry of Rainelle First Baptist Church; Robert Scharnhorst, pastor (Hopewell)
June 29 - Adalia Schellinger, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico
June 30 - Mid-High Camp begins today at Camp Cowen

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

July 2013

July 1 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Gary Crislip, pastor (Eastern)
July 2 - Earl Johnson, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
July 3 - The ministry of Lacoma Missionary Baptist Church; George Terlizzi, interim pastor (Rockcastle)
July 4 - America's right to Freedom of Religion
July 5 - Thomas McComas, president, West Virginia American Baptist Men and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
July 6 - The ministry of Saint Paul Baptist Church; Larry Harker, pastor (Fairmont)
July 7 - Brothers' Keeper begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
July 8 - The ministry of Grass Lick Baptist Church; Jimmie Compton, pastor (Good Hope)
July 9 - The ministry of Ten Mile Baptist Church; Jeffrey Perine, pastor (Judson)
July 10 - The ministry of Mountain Cove Baptist Church; Patsy Crist, pastor (Hopewell)
July 11 - Madeline Flores-Lopez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
July 12 - The ministry of Troy Baptist Church; Jim Ballenger, pastor (Little Kanawha)
July 13 - Danny Mitchell, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor, Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo)
July 14 - Senior High Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 15 - The ministry of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church; Jonathan Turner, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
July 16 - Catherine Longkumer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Guwahati, Northeast India
July 17 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Rick Watson, pastor (Guyandotte)
July 18 - The ministry of Fountain of Life Baptist Church; Rex Thompson, pastor (Logan-Mingo)
July 19 - The ministry of Dunbar First Baptist Church; Phil Shields, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
July 20 - The ministry of New England Baptist Church; Roger Johnson, pastor (Parkersburg)
July 21 - Junior II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 22 - Lisa Williams, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
July 23 - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church (Teays Valley)
July 24 - The ministry of Murphy's Creek Baptist Church; Wease Day, pastor (Broad Run)
July 25 - Rockcastle Association as they celebrate their annual meeting
July 26 - The ministry of Goose Creek Baptist Church; Wanda Butts, pastor (Harrisville)
July 27 - The ministry of Hope Baptist Church; Richard Demastus, pastor (Elk Valley)
July 28 - Family Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
July 29 - The ministry of Goshen Baptist Church; Daniel Meadows, pastor (Goshen)
July 30 - Rob Ely, director of Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
July 31 - The ministry of Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette)

COMING EVENTS

JUNE 2013

June 1

School of Christian Studies Baptist
Polity (E-01) one-day class
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 7-9

American Baptist Women's
Ministries' Annual Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 7-9

Younger Midler Camp (grades 2-4)
Camp Cowen

June 9-11

Children's Drama Camp
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 9-15

Junior High I Camp (grades 7-9)
Camp Cowen

June 10

Bowen Trust
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 12-14

Children's Art Camp
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 14-15

Worship and Music Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 16-22

Junior I Camp Camp (grades 5-6)
Camp Cowen

June 19-24

West Virginia Baptist Convention
Bus Trip To the ABC/USA Biennial
Overland Park, Kansas

June 21-23

American Baptist Churches'
Biennial
Overland Park, Kansas

June 23-29

Junior High II Camp (grades 7-9)
Camp Cowen

June 30-July 6

Mid-High Camp (grades 9-11)
Camp Cowen

JULY 2013

July 4

Independence Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102;
1.800.879.9822. US Postage Paid at
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Executive Minister: Dr. David L. Carrico
Editor: Rev. John E. Simmons
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Valma Adams
Layout: Mrs. Donna Snyder

West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

78TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN AND GIRLS' WEEKEND

"Shaped by the Potter's Hands to go Forth"
Matthew 28: 19-20

JUNE 7-9, 2013

PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER

**Praise and Worship, Special Music, Special
Speakers and Bible Study**

*Workshops: Administration, Personal Development, Mission and Service,
White Cross and Love Gift, Church and Community, Scholarship and
Event Planning.*

Special activities for American Baptist GIRLS.

*For a registration form, see the April issue of Seasons or
contact Kim Jones at kimjones@wvdsi.net. Questions, contact Sandra Foster at
304.343.7234 or slfoster@access.k12.wv.us.*

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 36
Parkersburg, WV