

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

Weirton Christian Center: Spring Events' Report

by Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center

As our ministry continues to grow and expand services to those in need, we continue to need more space and more funding. We could not minister to these children and their families without the support of the West Virginia Baptist churches who put us in their mission budgets, provide for our quarters' fund, collect items we need and take up special offerings for us. We cannot thank you enough for the partnerships we have with so many of you! Thanks for thinking of us when you plan Vacation Bible School or other events that allow you to include our needs, our children and our story. We have a video available to anyone who would like to learn more. Check us out on Facebook for ongoing photo updates and news about the center. We are working to update the site and have just added a staff member who will be able to teach computer classes and help the children with our summer reading program. We had been receiving the Lexia Learning program free from the Hancock County School system, but they didn't renew this year, so we are very thankful the funding has come through from the Pugliese Foundation. We are currently trying to fund our summer lunch program. God has been so awesome at providing support for the Weirton Christian Center for 97 years! Please be in prayer for our children and their families who have so many needs, our staff who sometimes struggle with how to handle behaviors and our facility expansion that is so necessary at this point. Thank you for being part of our ministry!

CARRY THE CROSS RELAY AND CROSS DISTRIBUTION



Zeb carries the cross in the relay race.

Resurrection Sunday 2014 took on a new experience for the Weirton Christian Center kids. Our new staff member, Greg Mullins, constructed two wooden crosses and to help the children understand just a little of what Jesus went through, the kids participated in a Carry the Cross Relay. The relay route was up the hill on our steepest street, and for the younger ones, the side yard hill. They also distributed 100 crosses throughout the neighborhood in an effort to remind others Jesus is risen.

GOODBYE INTERNS - We said goodbye to Katie and Jenna, who completed their internship with us. They were wonderful with our children, helping with homework and programs in the afterschool as well as working with our preschoolers. Both had their career choices solidified by their experiences with us. Katie will be a teacher and Jenna will be a counselor for children.

CAREER DAYS - Career Days help our children see the opportunities available for them in the future. Aerika West, our new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, through the United Way of Charleston, hit the ground running in March 2014. She has had two months of Career Day each week as three different occupational guests are given 20 minutes to tell our youth about their jobs. Featured speakers have included a lawyer, police officer, coach, nurse, FBI Agent, photographer, dancer, actor, veterinarian and many more. This group was the result of a list made by the kids when asked, "What to do you want to be when you grow up?" We have one very ambitious seven-year-old who wants to be an FBI agent, and a scientist so he can cure cancer. Also, for our high school students, we have partnered with First Choice Community Credit Union to provide a six-week curriculum on Financial Literacy.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION - Aerika also orchestrated a volunteer appreciation luncheon as one of her projects. Volunteers, who have come to serve meals on Thursdays, tutor our kids or give any of their time and talents to the center, were invited to a luncheon where they received a mug, designed by our high school girls, letting them know they are the piece that completes our puzzle. We could not do all we do without the help of those willing to voluntarily serve at the Weirton Christian Center.

GRADUATES - Two of our graduates this year are starting a new chapter in their lives. Breona Brown has been accepted at Grace Bible College in Indiana, and is the first of ten in her family to graduate high school and go to college. Her two younger brothers are going to follow in her footsteps.

Clarence Bennett is undecided as to where he will attend school, but as an athlete in football and track, he is leaning toward schools that have contacted him to participate in sports. He also has an interest in culinary arts.



Breona Brown and Clarence Bennett, two graduates from the Weirton Christian Center

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.



Vol. LXXXI, Issue 04 June-July 2014

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HOPE

Hope Springs Eternal



Dr. David Carrico

We stand on the edge of summer after spring arriving later than we had hoped. Most folks would agree we experienced a long difficult winter - one that seemed would never end. The months were filled with long, cold, dark days and it affected people in all kinds of ways. Many churches reported the inability to have Sunday services and many meetings and gatherings were rescheduled or just cancelled. Travel was difficult, and each day a school closing or delay decision filled our early news broadcast. Those decisions challenged child care services and the work schedules of many of our families. Of course, the issue of making up lost school days became a debate in the media. Later, as school became a more regular event, then came the flu and cold season. Winter became a physical, mental and spiritual battle. Yet **HOPE** springs eternal!

Those lost weeks of regular worship hit our church offerings very hard. The cost of heating and maintaining the church kept rising and yet, our offerings did not. Well, into this spring, many of our communities of faith had a deep financial shortfall and some very difficult decisions had to be made concerning the paying of bills. Thank God for solid leadership in our churches who take on the responsibility of being accountable to make those hard decisions.

In the same manner, this winter has not been financially kind to the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The shortfall comes to our organization in gifts to missions. Many churches find the need to cut their support of mission in difficult seasons of the church year. As a pastor, the churches I was blessed to

serve gave to missions first and understood giving as a priority. Each church has its own understanding of missions and stewardship. Through the years, as we have partnered together in doing missions, the strength of our Baptist family has been courtesy and honesty. Our churches have been courteous in sharing as they can, and honest in sharing as God has blessed.

HOPE springs eternal as now you can respond to the need to fill the gap created by the winter. *First, give to your church and her mission in your community. Then as you can, give to the greater Baptist family.* Please be assured nothing is in danger of going away in our Baptist family. Your gifts to all the missions supported by our Baptist family are needed and as we work together that gap will disappear. There is a realization many of our churches are doing all they can financially.

The spiritual challenge is to be in prayer.

- Pray for our united mission efforts and each specific area of focus.
- Pray for our Mountain State Mission Offering, knowing each gift stays in our state to make disciples.
- Pray for the missionaries in our nation and around the world.

Through prayer, **HOPE** springs eternal.

Take God at His word. In my attempt to be honest, I am not overly-concerned, just concerned. I know we will gain strength and church health as we recover from this winter season. I trust you and I trust our good Lord.

"...prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10

May we work together and partner with God to be a blessing.

HOPE springs eternal!

Blessings

WE ARE ONE

One Great Hour of Sharing: We Are One with the Hungry in Jackson County



Packing lunches for delivery to those who are ill or recovering from surgery, Kathy Hudson of Ravenswood First Baptist Church, is a volunteer with the church's CommUNITY Kitchen ministry.

In Jackson County, West Virginia, where 16.7 percent of the population is below the national poverty line, 18.2 percent of residents are at least age 65, and the unemployment rate is 7.4 percent, the **CommUNITY Kitchen** at Ravenswood First Baptist Church (Good Hope) is making a difference. So do you, when you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

On behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has awarded a \$2,000 **One Great Hour of Sharing** Domestic Development Grant to **CommUNITY Kitchen**. These funds will help to provide hot meals for up to 150 individuals monthly.



Photos by Greg Thompson

CommUNITY Kitchen has expanded since its founding in 2008. "It was developed with the goal of providing local residents with a hot meal as well as acting as a stop gap for those who do not qualify for public assistance but yet struggle to make ends meet," says Amy Starkey, the church's treasurer. "During its infancy, the program fed about five people per week. However, with donations and dedicated volunteers, the program has continued to grow. It is the only ongoing soup kitchen in Jackson County and currently feeds about 30 people per week."

But **CommUNITY Kitchen** provides a whole lot more than nutrition. Says Starkey: "Not only does the program provide a hot meal for those in need, but it also provides a safe haven as well as a time of fellowship for the local elderly population who may otherwise be without human contact."

One Great Hour of Sharing
STATE GOAL: \$125,000

SHARING RESOURCES. CHANGING LIVES.
www.abc-oghs.org
JOHN 17:22-23



Baptist Campus Ministries: How Much Better is God's Plan!

It is the end of another school year. Saying goodbye to incredible students is the bittersweet part of college ministry. Below is a testimony from Sarah about how Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) has impacted her life.

"When I first came to college, I wasn't interested in Jesus. I actually remember glancing at the King James Bible my church gave me when I completed confirmation, with my name engraved on the cover, and decided not to pack it with my dorm things. In high school, I had started questioning my parents' faith, and while I never said out loud I didn't believe in Christ, I looked at people who loved Jesus more than anything else and thought they were well-intentioned but a little extreme. I shoved thoughts of God to the back of my mind so I didn't have to deal with my uncertainty.

I also didn't intend to go to Marshall; I originally wanted to move several hours away and "be more independent." But then I received an incredible scholarship opportunity there and couldn't turn it down. Here is one example how good God is and how much better His plan is than my own! Several students from that same scholarship program invited me to BCM my first week at Marshall. I wasn't interested in BCM itself, but I really liked these people and I wanted them to like me, plus I could socialize with new people, and I figured I could handle hearing somebody talk about the Bible for a few minutes.

So, I came to BCM with my new friends and I was astonished at the authenticity I felt in the room. There was no sense of church politics or drama like I was used to. Instead, people worshiped with clear, unreserved joy. In that room for that hour nothing else mattered but Jesus. When I left that night, I felt like an impostor, like I couldn't pos-

sibly belong with all those happy people. But I kept going back. The joy drew me in.

Some weeks later, I was still on the fence. I'd brought my Bible back to campus with me after a trip home. I even signed up to go to Fall Retreat. At Camp Cowen that weekend, I saw a girl from China accept Christ, and in that moment I knew I had to choose to follow Christ or reject Him. And even though (after eighteen years of being in church) I was just beginning to understand a fraction of what that meant. I chose to follow Christ and I never looked back.

God is so good. I know we say that all the time, but it has proven to be completely true, especially in the last few years. I can see the Spirit working in my heart, changing me from who I was to who I am now because of my Savior. He led me to I-Teams, where I realized I now belong in this body of Christ. I am no longer a pretender. I am one of God's own. I even had the humbling opportunity my senior year to lead an I-Team of smart, compassionate young women who taught me so much about the word and walking in the light.

God carried me. Through difficult moments in friendships and the painful trial of losing my father, He carried me and continues to do so. He brought me to Marshall, where I found BCM, grew closer to my family than I'd ever been and met mentors who would lead me spiritually and academically in paths that would be glorifying to Him. It is astonishing how all the smaller decisions I've made, in retrospect, are clearly part of the path God was setting out for me even when I was questioning His existence. My time at BCM is the biggest treasure of my four years at Marshall because God pursued me and now I have a relationship with Him."

Adam Goodwin
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director

Rogers Co-founds Renew Transformational Strategies to Equip Christian Leaders



*by Ed Rogers,
co-founder, Renew Transformational Strategies*

"If you're in a bad situation, don't worry it will change. If you're in a good situation, don't worry it'll change," says John Simone, Jr. Change is inevitable, change is necessary and change can be bad. It can bring anxiety, despair and grief. However, there is good change. As a matter of fact, God calls us to change. Paul says, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Romans 12:2 NIV) We are called to be transformed. As a leader in your local church, you have probably struggled with change. We are called to transformation on three levels. First of all, we are transformed personally. Then as leaders we are called to lead transformation in the church, who then is called to make a difference in the world. While all three levels of change can be challenging according to Paul, it is only when this happens that we are able to know and do God's will.

After 26 years of ministry at South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), I felt God's call on my heart to serve pastors, churches and Christian business leaders in these three areas of transformation. For this reason, I and local Christian business owner, Burt Reed, formed *Renew Transformational Strategies (RTS)*. *Renew Transformational Strategies* exists to equip leaders who lead transformation within their church or business, that in turn impacts the world for Christ. Being a pastor for many years, I appreciated all the help I could get, but often faced two problems

with that help. First, the help was standardized and offered as something that would work in all churches. Second, the help was expensive. For this reason, RTS recognizes the unique context and calling of every church we work with, and we design our services specifically for that church, and we are very affordable.

Some of the services we offer to churches are:

- *Personal pastoral coaching centered around spiritual and leadership transformation*
- *Team building training for leadership teams*
- *Long term transitional consulting that helps transform your church into a healthy body of believers who impact their community and the world*
- *Pulpit supply*
- *Working with your church through an interim period*
- *Renew Conferences - an alternative to a traditional revival consisting of three or four sermons, a training for your lay leadership and one-on-one coaching for your pastor or staff*
- *Leadership training events focused on managing change, setting vision, understanding adaptive change, legacy leadership, etc.*
- *Online leadership classes for clergy and laity*
- *Specific need based consulting - new building projects, staff restructuring, administrative structure changes, satellite ministry, new church planting, etc.*

It has been an honor to serve our Lord as a pastor within this West Virginia Baptist Convention family. It is now an honor to serve you in His name in a different role. If you are interested in RTS helping you in any way, you can contact me at 304.210.8943, or e-mail me at ed@renewts.com.

Be renewed

Palmer Seminary's West Virginia Program Recognizes Graduates

It was an exciting day for Palmer Seminary's West Virginia programs on March 20, 2014. At the annual graduation banquet held at Parchment Valley Conference Center, three M.Div. (Master of Divinity) graduates were recognized: Susan Bartlett, Seth Fallon and Josh Trojack. Also, students from the first D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) cohort were recognized. These students included Allan Copenhaver, Craig Coster, Jana Raines, Ed Rogers and

Mark Stauffer. The official graduation took place on Saturday, May 17, 2014.

For anyone interested in Palmer Seminary's M.Div. or D.Min. programs, please contact West Virginia Site Coordinator/Recruiter Allan Copenhaver at rcopenha@eastern.edu. A new D. Min. cohort will be starting this fall. There is still time to enroll.



M.Div. students recognized: (l to r) Susan Bartlett, Seth Fallon and Josh Trojack



D.Min students recognized: (l to r) Mark Stauffer, Allan Copenhaver, Jana Raines and Ed Rogers. Not pictured is Craig Coster.

The Difference You Make



There is a legend about an ancient village in Spain. The villagers learned the king would pay a visit! In a thousand years, a king had never come to that village. Excitement grew! "We must throw a big celebration," the villagers all agreed. But, it was a poor village, and there weren't many resources. Someone came up with a classic idea. Since many of the villagers made their own wines, the idea was for everyone in the village bring a large cup of their choice wine to the town square. "We'll pour it into a large vat and offer it to the king for his pleasure! When the king draws wine to drink, it will be the very best he's ever tasted!"

The day before the king's arrival, hundreds of people lined up to make their offering to the honored guest. They climbed a small stairway, and poured their gift through a small opening at the top. Finally, the vat was full! The King arrived, was escorted to the square, given a silver cup and was told to draw some wine, which represented the best the villagers had.

He placed the cup under the spigot, turned the handle, and then drank the wine, but it was nothing more than water. You see, every villager reasoned, "I'll withhold my best wine and substitute water, what with so many cups of wine in the vat, the king will never

know the difference!" The problem was, everyone thought the same thing, and the king was greatly dishonored. (unknown origin)

While this story is a legend, the lessons learned from it are very real. As members of a community of faith, we must each give of our best in service to the Lord and in our financial support. As churches that are part of our West Virginia Baptist Convention family, your participation and financial support is critical to the success of the mission and ministries God has called us to do together.

It is far too easy to assume the load will be carried by everyone else. It is far too easy to believe your gift will not be missed if not given - that your mission giving does not make a difference. Let me assure you: Every dollar given to missions makes a difference! And conversely: Every dollar not given weakens our effectiveness in fulfilling our mission.

No one in the village would have dared offer the king less than their best individually. Yet, because the gifts were anonymous and part of the collective, they each assumed the others would make up for their selfishness. Their celebration was ruined because each of them had not fulfilled his/her obligation.

Your gifts do make a difference!
2 Corinthians 9:11

Committed to Missions

Camp Global 2014

Family Mission Camp

"We Are Unstoppable with God"

August 29 - 31, 2014
Camp Cowen

Cost: \$90 per person

\$350 maximum per household

\$40 Saturday only

Groups of five or more - call for discount pricing.

Details and registration available online at www.wvbc.org.
For more information, contact Joan at 800.879.9822 or hall@wvbc.org.

Programming for children, youth and adults!

**Camp begins Friday, August 29 at 6 p.m. and
concludes Sunday, August 31 at 1 p.m.**



Bible Study Leader:
Dr. Charles Jones, Area Director
for Africa, Europe and the Middle East

Missionary Guests:

Carlos and Mayra Bonilla-Giovanetti,
Missionaries to Nicaragua

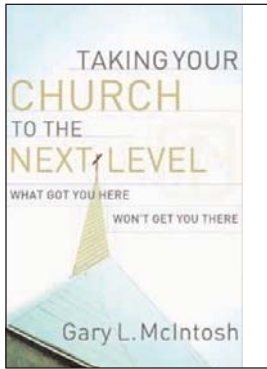


Debbie Mulneix,
Missionary to the Phillipines

David and Leslie Turley,
Missionaries to Okinawa



International Guest:
Manuel Moises Quembo,
General Secretary, Baptist Convention of
Mozambique, Africa



BOOK REVIEW

Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There

by Gary McIntosh

Review by Michael Sisson, pastor, Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh)

Many West Virginia Baptist Convention pastors and leaders are familiar with Dr. Gary L. McIntosh from the insightful gleanings found in the *Growth Points* newsletter provided regularly in the West Virginia Baptist Convention pastors' mailing packet. Dr. McIntosh has authored 18 books on church growth. In his book, *Taking Your Church to the Next Level: What Got You Here Won't Get You There*, the author explains the impact of age and size on churches, and outlines the improvements that must be made at each point for a church to remain fruitful and faithful to its mission.

In part one, the author sets the stage by offering background information regarding the origin and progression of life cycle methodology for determining a congregation's current state of development. McIntosh then identifies five stages in a church's life cycle and explains the dynamics at work within the congregation corresponding to each particular stage.

The second part of the book takes a similar path as in first, but delineates the various categories of church size. Each chapter analyzes how the size of the church impacts and intersects with the church life cycle.

In the third part, McIntosh calls church leaders to action and challenges them to be innovative, proactive and intentional with their revitalization plans. Throughout the book, he points to the need for congregations to have strong leadership. He describes in some

detail the characteristics of leadership required to make the crucial turnaround in a declining congregation and offers choice points of leverage to assist growing congregations move to the next level.

McIntosh introduces readers to the reality of systems at work within the church and the impact of the cause and effect they can create within the dynamics of a congregation. He lists key systems as "ministry capital" consisting of five core resources: spiritual, directional, relational, structural and physical. McIntosh explains ministry capital activates or deactivates the feedback systems thus effecting the life and effectiveness of the congregation in a positive or negative way. He writes, "Wise church leaders will pay close attention to the feedback received along this interconnected highway. If a church is not growing, it is a clear signal the ministry capital is losing power and new capital needs to be discovered, developed and put into place. If the church is growing, it is a signal the current investment of ministry capital is paying dividends." (page 110)

In my opinion, this book is certainly a worthwhile read. It provides a very good primer for understanding the various factors at work in every church, whether they are declining, plateaued or growing, and introduces leaders to thought provoking ideas for "taking your church to the next level."

Gary McIntosh to be Keynote Speaker at 2014 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting



Dr. McIntosh will be the guest presenter at the Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council preconference event this fall and will be the featured keynote speaker as well as workshop leader at the 2014 149th West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting to be held at Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Make plans now to be part of these insightful and motivating events.

Gary McIntosh is president of the Church Growth Network and Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University.

149th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

*October 16 - 17, 2014
at Vienna Baptist Church*

"From Survive to Thrive"

*Keynote Speaker:
Gary McIntosh*

*Annual Sermon Speaker:
Greg Creasy,
Pea Ridge Baptist Church, Huntington*

Plus workshops, roundtable discussion and mission moments from local churches.

Hispanic Ministries: Remember Those in Prison as if You Were There Yourself - Acordaos De Los Presos Como si Estuvieras Allí Mismo

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus commands His followers to demonstrate compassion to the stranger, the naked and hungry and those in prison (Matthew 25:34-45). The reality is those in prison are lonely, forgotten and unseen. My grandmother used to say, "ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente (eyes that see no, heart that feels no)." Out of our sight, and despite the alarming statistics about incarceration, the women and men behind the walls of prisons are for the most part forgotten or ignored by society, even by the church. Perhaps, there is nothing "trendy" or "sexy" about prison ministry.

Lennie Spitale, in his book, Prison Ministry: Understanding Prison Culture Inside and Out, describes prison as "a country whose citizens never bear children, yet the census continues to record wild population growth." The statistics are staggering: one in 100 adults in America is behind bars. One in 31 adults is under correctional control. More than seven million people are either on probation or parole or in jail or prison. The United States has the highest number of people in prison than any other nation at any time in world history.

With the influx of Hispanic immigration, there has also been an increase in the numbers of Hispanic inmates in local, state and federal prisons. In 2012, Hispanics accounted for 48% of sentenced federal offenders and immigration offenses represented 30% of federal convictions. A significant number of Hispanics are in the federal correctional facilities in West Virginia. And through our prison ministry with Hispanic men, I have met many who came to this country to fulfill, with hard work and sacrifice, dreams of prosperity and freedom for their families, but ended up in prison. They are husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, grandchildren and brothers in Christ whose devotion to their families and work propelled them in a journey of hope.

Several years ago, Armando embarked on that journey. He emigrated from Mexico as a young adult with many dreams. He formed a family and his four children were born in Texas. He was blessed with a job and normal life. Unfortunately, his wife passed away four years ago. One day, tragedy struck again and he was caught driving without a driver's license. His life and family were torn asunder. He was sent to jail and then deported. He came back to the United States to reunite with his children and shortly after was caught again driving without a license. By re-entering the country after deportation he committed a federal offense. He was sent to a federal prison in West Virginia and then was deported to Mexico. His children remained in the United States and joined thousands of other kids in the foster care system. Armando first heard the gospel when he was ten years old at a church in Mexico. That church had a feeding program sponsored by Americans. He is now 50 years old and the seeds germinated. He gave his life to Christ in prison.

The writer to the Hebrews encourages us to "keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, ... Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself." (Hebrews 13:1-3) Even within prison walls, God is present and His Spirit is at work changing lives.

May the voice of Jesus, "I was in prison and you came to visit me," be heeded by His followers. May we realize we bring hope and encouragement to those behind bars by being there, by being a caring presence. Jesus Christ has the power to make all things new (2 Corinthians 5:17) - even the lives of broken, incarcerated women and men.

"Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

2014 Association Meetings

JULY 31 • Rockcastle Association
• **Hanover Missionary** • 8:00 a.m.

AUGUST 5 • Greenbrier-Raleigh Association • **Beckley First**
• 9:00 a.m.

AUGUST 5 • Harrisville Association
• **South Fork** • 10:00 a.m.

AUGUST 7 • Little Kanawha Association • **Enon** • 5:00 p.m.

AUGUST 14 • Broad Run Association
• **Fisher Camp** • 8:30 a.m.

AUGUST 17 • Good Hope Association
• **Hopewell** • 2:00 p.m.

AUGUST 17 • Goshen Association
• **Place and Time To Be Announced**

AUGUST 23 • Elk Valley Association
• **Gassaway** • 8:30 a.m.

AUGUST 24 • Eastern Association
• **Dorcas** • 2:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 13 • Hopewell Association • **Little Laurel**
• 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 14 • Fairmont Association • **Willow Tree** • 3:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16 • Parkersburg Association • **Williamstown First**
• 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17 • Fayette Association
• **Mount Hope** • 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20 • Twelve Pole Association • **Tabors Creek**
• 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 21 • Judson Association
• **Hepzibah** • 2:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21 • Panhandle Association • **Weirton Heights Memorial** • 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21 • Teays Valley Association • **Saint Albans First**
• 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 25 • Kanawha Valley Association • **Bethel** • 3:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 27 • Coal River Association • **Healing Stream**
• 9:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 28 • Logan Mingo Association • **Logan First** • 3:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 28 • Union Association
• **Simpson Creek** • 4:00 p.m.

Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

BROTHERS' KEEPER 2014

This year, **Brothers' Keeper**, a mission work camp and non-profit ministry program of Parchment Valley Conference Center in conjunction with Community Resources, will perform its 14th year of service for the citizens of Jackson County. This event is a mission work opportunity sponsored for the youth of our churches across the state, and is now partnering with the youth from churches in Ohio. This camp impacts homes and lives of the less fortunate here in Jackson County, and blesses the lives of all who participate. In July 2013,



The Brothers' Keeper 2013 team.

Brothers' Keeper gave 204 youth and their adult leaders a whole new perspective on the Christian ideals of servanthood by fully investing of oneself. This resulted in transformed lives for more than 50 residences and their families.

This year, July 6-10, we anticipate hosting over 200 youth and their adult counselors as they come to serve this county in the name of Jesus Christ. The youth are responsible for

raising their own cost of \$225 to register for camp. Most are repeat campers, which truly bring a blessing of HOPE to everyone.

It is by the contribution of sponsorships from the churches that enable this ministry to grow year after year. For \$500, we can include the name of your church in our publications as a **Brothers' Keeper 14** sponsor, and help to accommodate the youth and offset the cost of building supplies. We will be printing the T-shirts soon and need your sponsorship information now. The most critical step to a successful **Brothers' Keeper** is in securing sponsorships for building supplies. This allows us to accurately process the work request applications with Community Resources, and begin evaluating the sites for safety so the youth and adults will be in a safe work environment.

Without the dedicated and skilled help of our crew chiefs and adult leaders, this event would not be possible. Everyone displays a willing attitude to teach the youth important skills, and how to conduct the projects with a servant's heart. Through the strength of our teens and their organized leaders, we have given 6,528 labor hours back to the community. The **Brothers' Keeper** evangelism team surrounds the group with awesome music and inspiring messages, which touch the hearts of everyone involved during the weeklong mission camp. Will you join the **Brothers' Keeper** team and help continue doing a work that reaps rewards out of this world?

We would like to thank the churches and the incredibly gifted youth who are being empowered to become leaders. Please contact me now at 800.489.8564 or miller@wvbc.org to be a sponsor and help make the difference of a lifetime.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2014

Your mission and ministry support of Parchment Valley Conference Center is much needed and always appreciated. We are working cohesively to insure your planned event at Parchment Valley Conference Center is a blessing, and as you depart, our hope is you experience the Lord's peace within you. We are preparing for the busy summer season and our lagoon is closer to an approved plan of repair with the Department of Environmental Protection and more details of funding will soon follow. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sue Cross to the team as our new receptionist. Sue faithfully serves as a member of Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope) and is currently enrolled in the School of Christian Studies.

The dorm conference rooms which were heavily damaged from the winter's harsh freeze are now being repaired. The lodging area is being noted as the bunk house. This new area will comfortably house 40 additional people and is being fully furnished with all new and improved shower facilities with handicap accessibility. With the assistance of FOX Engineering and Construction, along with some American Baptist Men and other volunteers, we are well on the way to completing the work

for the conference season. South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) has chosen this as a campus-wide mission project for building the bunks.

Any donations of wood to construct the new bunks are certainly welcomed.

A very special thank you to those who joined the Don Loudermilk Society and are generously donating to Building for Generations. Please contact me today to discover how you and your group can actively support and be part of a viable and blessed ministry.

We thank God for you and the opportunity He gives to reach out with hands prepared for service and hearts filled with joy in serving Jesus Christ.



The walls are going up in the new bunk house area.

by **Rob Ely**, Director of Discipleship,
Camping and Youth



1 Corinthians 16:13-14

¹³Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴Do everything in love.

Life is full of challenges, and the **West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen** wants to help our campers get ready to face those challenges. As students look at the above logo and read the scripture, we want them to be prepared to take a stand for **Christ**. Our society continues to make it tough on followers of **Christ**, and we want to encourage and strengthen them for whatever happens in their lives.

Summer 2014 will host approximately 2,000 campers, over 350 volunteers and numerous visitors, who are looking for and needing support. Our prayer is **Camp Cowen** provides that much needed courage. Each person can feel stronger when 250 Senior High campers yell, "**Praise the Lord**" after an "attitude check." Counselors are encouraged when a camper asks a question about God's word. Staff is encouraged when they hear 17 students accepted **Christ** last week! It is going to be a great summer as people are prepared to take a stand for **Christ** at **Camp Cowen** ... *Where people meet Jesus and grow (stronger) as His disciples in a community of faith!*

2014 Cowen Schedule

YOUNGER MIDLER CAMP (grades 2-4)
June 6-8

JUNIOR HIGH I CAMP (grades 7-9)
June 8-14

JUNIOR I CAMP (grades 5-6)
June 15-21

JUNIOR HIGH II CAMP (grades 7-9)
June 22-28

MID-HIGH CAMP (grades 9-11)
June 29 - July 5

SENIOR DAY (2013 High School Grads)
July 12

SENIOR HIGH CAMP (grades 10-HS Grads)
July 13-19

JUNIOR II CAMP (grades 5-6)
July 20-26

OLDER MIDLER CAMP (grades 3-4)
August 3-6

FAMILY CAMP (all ages)
July 27-August 2

CAMP GLOBAL (all ages)
August 29-31

AB MEN'S CAMP (men and boys)
August 8-10

RALEIGH, ROCKCASTLE AND GREENBRIER
July 6-10

HOPEWELL ASSOCIATION
July 11-13

Men's Work Weekend Prepares Cowen for Summer Camping Season

On May 2-3, 2014, West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen experienced another great turnout for their annual American Baptist Men Work Weekend. This gathering is to prepare Camp Cowen for their summer camping season.

Bill Wilson organized more than 40 men to convene and handle the tasks at hand. On opening night, we were blessed with an outstanding meal of soup beans, cornbread, ham and all the trimmings. After dinner, we assembled at vespers and were challenged by David Carpenter's inspiring message.

The spirit of the Lord is truly upon this place as we see many difficult projects come to completion through the dedicated American Baptist Men of West Virginia, working together to prepare the way for more than 2,000 youth who will experience camp at Cowen this summer.



Men's Work Weekend participants work on taking down the rock wall.



Men from Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) at work on Allen Cabin.



Paul Ritchie dismantles the old climbing wall.

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Worship and Music Conference

"Then Sings My Soul"

June 19-20, 2014
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Guest Clinician:

Mary McDonald

Worship Leader:

Michael Hopkins

Accompanist:

Michael Barnhouse

True worship is not about getting excited or about "feeling the spirit." True worship is giving all of yourself to God.

The event begins with registration in Hill Hall at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2014 and concludes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20, 2014.

The purpose of this event is to provide a conference which will help those who work in the local church to sharpen their skills, broaden their horizons and enrich their lives through fellowship with others who are involved in Christian music.

Music Leadership:

Eddie Bucklen, Director of Music at Charleston Baptist Temple

Nancy Cleghorn, Organist at Simpson Creek Baptist Church

Pamela McClain, Choral Director at Parkersburg High School

Judy Prater, Director of Music at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Parkersburg

Michael Stephens, West Virginia Baptist Convention Transitional Consultant

Worship Highlights

• **Devotions** - led by worship clinician Michael Hopkins

• **Harmonizing Pulpit and Music - The Elements of Worship** - led by Michael Hopkins

• **"The Texture and Substance of Worship - Multi-sensory Elements of Worship"** - led by taskforce members Michael Stephens and Judy Prater

• **Closing worship with the Lord's Supper and choral music created and led by clinicians and conferees**

• **"Music is Service - Answer the Call" workshop** - led by taskforce members Pamela McClain and Eddie Bucklen

FELLOWSHIP TIME

On Thursday night, June 19th, following Mary McDonald's concert, we will have a time of fellowship together. Please bring a snack to share.

WEST VIRGINIA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

To commemorate the birthday of our wild, wonderful state of West Virginia, we will have a celebration of our "Home Among the Hills" on Friday afternoon, June 20th.

Registrations must be postmarked by June 6, 2014 to receive the early bird fee. For registrations postmarked after June 13, there will be no meals provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A REGISTRATION FORM, VISIT www.wvbc.org OR CONTACT DONNA AT 800.879.9822.

Music Highlights

• **Three hour-long reading sessions of excellent choral music** - led by guest clinician Mary McDonald

• **All music used in reading sessions is yours to keep.**

• **"Straight from the Heart" roundtable discussion** - led by Mary McDonald

Farnsworth Reflects on Ministry at Weirton Christian Center

Doris Farnsworth started working at Weirton Christian Center in 1956. She served as a director for the five kindergarten classes taught at the center. She always looked forward to the end-of-school programs that highlighted what the children had learned through the year. The ministry at the center focused on immigrant children whose families had moved to Weirton to work in the steel mills. Many of the workers had moved to the area to escape the harsh work in coal mines. Many others simply came to be with family and start a new life. The educational opportunities offered through the center gave the children a chance to learn English, develop social skills and most importantly, learn about Jesus.

Doris recalls with fondness her final year at the center as that is when Betty Killian joined the staff. Trained and called as a missionary, when Doris left the center she moved to Puerto Rico. It was there she began working with refugees from the Dominican Republic - a ministry she has continued for more than 50 years.

It was a privilege to meet Doris on a recent trip to Puerto Rico for the annual meeting of the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico.



Lisa Simmons (l) with Doris Farnsworth in Puerto Rico.



Children's Art Camp

For children entering grades 3-6.

July 1-3, 2014

at Parchment Valley Conference Center

Cost: \$150.00, includes meals, lodging, instruction, supplies, camp picture and camper address sheet. Registrations must be received by June 16, 2014. Space is limited to the first 36 children registered and paid in full.

Art Director: Jocelyn Robison

Camp Director: Koreen Villers

Registration is from 4-5 p.m. on July 1. Camp will close on the evening of July 3 with a gallery opening displaying the children's art work at 7 p.m.

For more information and a registration form, visit www.wvbc.org or contact Valma at 800.879.9822 or adams@wvbc.org.

Baptist Campus Ministries Back on Fairmont State University Campus

by Jason Sleeth, Auxiliaries in Ministry, Fairmont State College

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) is once again up and running at **Fairmont State University**. Through lots of prayer and God's grace, Baptist Campus Ministries is able to have a presence in the lives of the student body at **Fairmont State University**.

We started 2013 with an outreach tent at the home **Fairmont State** football game, held during family weekend on September 14. The students were able to get a free BCM t-shirt, an informational handout and a bottle of water, just for stopping by. We were able to compile a list of 48 students that weekend. Praise God!

Now, we currently have six students attending our Sunday evening worship service at Fairmont First Baptist Church (Fairmont). Starting with only two on the first night, I can say we are making progress.

I am blessed to have a solid core of Christian students, the majority of them coming from the **Fairmont State University** softball team. We are definitely building a strong foundation as we continue to grow with Jesus leading the way!

I encourage everyone to help spread the word that BCM is back at **Fairmont State**, and the potential of doing God's work on this campus is endless. Please don't hesitate to contact me (jsleeth_yes@yahoo.com or 304.775.2205) if you have any questions.

Resurrection Sunday Baskets Given for Veterans' Affair Veterans

On April 7, 2014, the members of Glen Falls Baptist



The Glen Falls Baptist Church basket delivery team.

Church (Judson) delivered Resurrection Sunday baskets to veterans in Clarksburg's Veterans' Affair (VA) Medical Facility. After three months of collecting personal and comfort items, church members came together to assemble these

beautiful baskets to give to our veterans at the hospital. In addition to personal items, each veteran received a military Bible, a booklet about God and of course, candy! The veterans and staff were touched by everyone's generosity. It was a blessing for all involved to see how Christ can work in all our lives when we follow Him.



Baskets delivered to the veterans at the Clarksburg VA Medical Facility.

Associate Pastors Installed at West Union Baptist Church

On April 13, 2014, Palm Sunday, West Union Baptist Church (Broad Run) installed two new associate pastors. Adam Cheeseman and Ben Blair recently accepted the call from the American Baptist Churches to minister in the areas of outreach ministry and youth ministry respectively. Cheeseman is a teacher at Doddridge County Middle School as well as an assistant football coach. Blair is currently a full-time college student, working full-time and was recently married. West Union Baptist Church is certainly blessed with having such gifted individuals with servant's hearts, answer God's call to ministry.



Adam Cheeseman (l) and Ben Blair, recently installed associate pastors at West Union Baptist Church.

8th Annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Churches for Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble Results

On May 3, 2014 at Greenbrier Hills Golf Course in Rainelle, six teams met for the 8th annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Churches for Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble. Churches represented included Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Millbrook Baptist Church (Hopewell) - two teams, Page Baptist Church (Fayette), Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell) and Send the Light Fellowship (Greenbrier-Raleigh).

The top three teams received prizes from Bolivia with Crab Orchard Baptist Church winning first place, Page Baptist Church placing second and Summersville Baptist Church coming in third.

Hole sponsorships this year included Great Lakes Minerals, LLC from Wurtland, Kentucky (Larry Anderson), Page Baptist Church and John and Jenny Jones from Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) in memory of Iris Morales.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and director of the tournament, stated after all expenses were paid, \$1,440 was raised, and plans for 2015 are to hold this event the first Saturday of May at Greenbrier Hills.

Special thanks are extended to Terry McClung, manager of Greenbrier Hills, for taking such good care of each team and golfer. Without his help, both physically and financially, this tournament would not be successful!

On behalf of Mario Morales and the 72 ministries of the House of Hope in Bolivia, a heartfelt thank you is extended to all West Virginia Baptist Convention churches and individuals for your prayerful and financial support.

Shriver Honored with 100th Birthday Celebration at West Warren Baptist Church



Mrs. Shriver (l) pictured with her sister Eileen Maher of Fort Myers, Florida, and Braxton (l) and Austin Hilley, who honored her with a song, along with their brother, Caiden.

Wilma Steel Shriver, known as "Mom Mom" to her church family and friends, was honored with a program and dinner in celebration of her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 9, 2013 at West Warren Baptist Church (Fairmont). Wilma, who continues to attend church regularly, became a member of West Warren on July 6, 1947. She served as clerk and adult Sunday school teacher for a number of years.

Missionary Speakers Available

Interested in meeting and hearing from an International Ministries' missionary? Our region will be hosting four missionary units this summer into late fall. Who is coming?

- **Debbie Mulneix** is an International Ministries' missionary in the Philippines, working specifically with Samaritana. This ministry is an anti-human trafficking ministry in Manila. Limited time available. Contact Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@wvbc.org to schedule.
- **David and Leslie Turley** are International Ministries' missionaries in Okinawa. Contact Lisa Simmons to schedule.
- **J.D. and Rhonda Reed** are International Ministries' missionaries in Bolivia serving in the area of leadership development. Contact directly at jd.reed@internationalministries.org or Bill Morlan at bill@gassawaybaptist.net.
- **Carlos and Mayra Bonilla - Giovanetti** are International Ministries' missionaries in Nicaragua. They are available September 1 - 10, 2014. Contact Lisa Simmons to schedule.
- **Manuel Moises Quembo**, Executive Secretary of the Baptist Churches of Mozambique. Quembo will be an interna-

Adult Discipleship: A Call to Action



You hear it everywhere! New ideas, new foods and new diet and exercise plans are being touted in newspapers, on TV, on the radio, on billboards, on Facebook, through flyers and the list goes on. Eat this food and dramatically reduce your risk of this disease or that. Try this food regimen and lose weight. Drink this and have more energy and a healthier heart. We in the United States are constantly looking to improve our health. Notice the word "looking!" We search and read and plan for better health, but it is not working for many. Why? Because searching, reading and planning are not a substitute for action.

Many times, it is the same for adults and their life-giving walk with Christ. We read, search and plan, but never really put the information into action. We have the information, but never make the decision and put forth the effort to put that information into action in our everyday lives. We know a lot, but do not do a lot.

Steven Macchia, in his book *Becoming a Healthy Disciple* says a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ learns to love what God loves and PRACTICES His teachings in daily life. To practice means to apply, live out, carry out, perform and/or do. George Barna says, "True discipleship is about a lifestyle, not simply about stored up Bible knowledge."

Weight Watchers, juicing, water aerobics and vegan diets (just to name a few) have no power to help your life if you do not put them into action. You cannot be a Christian disciple without showing you are a disciple. Jesus does not call His followers just to be learners, but to be doers. We cannot imitate Christ without the action part of His life.

Here is a challenge: Think of your favorite action hero. Did that person practice what they learned and believed? What made that person a hero? How does that compare with what God is asking His disciples to do and be?

For more information and assistance with adult discipleship in your local church, contact Lisa Simmons at 304.273.9693 or lsimmons@wvbc.org.

Lisa Simmons
Associate in Mission Support and Adult Discipleship

tional guest at the World Mission Conference and will be coming to West Virginia with the group returning from the World Mission Conference. He is coming to learn more about West Virginia Baptist churches and to share about the work of the Baptists in Mozambique. He is available from July 28 - August 28, 2014. Contact Lisa Simmons to schedule.

• **Raul Figueroa**, from the Convention of Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. Raul was part of the Puerto Rican Baptist Convention mission team who came last year to the Moorefield area and will be coming to work on staff at Camp Cowen this summer. He is high energy and eager to speak in churches and with youth groups on his time off. He is available for Sunday mornings only from June 15 - August 28, 2014. Contact Lisa Simmons to schedule.

All of these speakers would love to meet with groups on Sundays and Wednesdays, but would also enjoy meeting with small groups and individuals to share their work and strengthen relationships. Consider inviting them to a picnic, a hike, a fishing trip, swimming or just a backyard cookout.

God is at work and calls you to learn, pray and support His plans!

For more information, contact Lisa Simmons at 304.273.9693 or lsimmons@wvbc.org.



CHALLENGE 52

Scripture Verses

for

June and July

June 2014

NIV	KJV
<p>June 1 Mark 2:17 On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."</p> <p>June 8 Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."</p> <p>June 15 Isaiah 40:31 ... but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.</p> <p>June 22 Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."</p> <p>June 29 Psalm 46:10 He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."</p>	<p>June 1 Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."</p> <p>June 8 Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.</p> <p>June 15 Isaiah 40:31 But that they wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.</p> <p>June 22 Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.</p> <p>June 29 Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.</p>

July 2014

NIV	KJV
<p>July 6 James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.</p> <p>July 13 Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.</p> <p>July 20 1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.</p> <p>July 27 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.</p>	<p>July 6 James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.</p> <p>July 13 Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.</p> <p>July 20 1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.</p> <p>July 27 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves, and edify one another, even as also ye do.</p>

Helpful Apps

- Fighter Verses (\$2.99)
- Memorize Now (\$4.99)
- Remember Me (\$2.99)
- Memorize Anything (\$1.99)

Using Your Smartphone

- Take a screenshot of the Bible verse and set it as the picture on the lock screen.
- Use a digital calendar and set multiple daily reminders.
- Text the verse to your friends. Typing it helps in memorization.
- Use the verse as your wake up message.

MATTHEW ALAN ALFRED, 45, of Parkersburg, died April 6, 2014. As a child, he attended Seventh Street United Methodist Church. He was the son of Robert Alfred, pastor of Boaz Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

FRANK J. BAIRD, 91, of Beckley, died April 7, 2014. He was a faithful member of Crab Orchard Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) for over 60 years, where he was a member of the Fellowship Class and assistant teacher for many years. He served in the Merchant Marines and served in the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II in the European Theater.

BILLY W. "BILL" BARNES, 75, of Augusta, died April 4, 2014. He was a member of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern).

DENZIL PAUL BARTON, 78, of Mineral Wells, died April 17, 2014. He was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg) where he was a deacon and had served in many other areas and committees of the church. He was a United States Army veteran.

DAVID HARRISON BENNETT, 62, of Maysville, died April 28, 2014. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church (Eastern), where he was a deacon and trustee. He also served in the United States Navy from 1969-1973.

RUTH MARIE CURNES MCCLURE BLAINE, 90, of Saint Albans, died April 22, 2014. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). Through her many years, she served as a deaconess, member of the board of Christian Education, member of the board of music, Sunday school teacher, member of the Good News Sunday School Class, sponsor of youth work and retired as financial secretary.

BETTY CALDWELL (NEE ANDERSON), 84, of Charleston, died March 3, 2014. She was an active member of Kanawha City Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as a Sunday school teacher for 12 years and served several terms on the trustee board. She was active in the American Baptist Women's Ministries, serving as treasurer and secretary.

BILLIE GENE COOK, 75, of Mineral Wells, died March 24, 2014. He was a member of Sams Creek First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served as treasurer and deacon.

RODNEY (ROD) GIVEN, 93, died March 31, 2014. He was a former member and deacon on Saint Albans First Baptist

Church (Teays Valley), and more recently a member and deacon of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). In World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps.

FRANCES ANN HESS HUMPHREYS, 86, of Clendenin, died March 29, 2014. She was a life-long member of Clendenin First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), and was honored by her church as deaconess emeritus.

CHARLES LOUIS (LOUIS) KAU, 93, died March 17, 2014. He was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to India.

DOROTHY M. LINCOLN, 90, of New York, died February 11, 2014. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti and Nicaragua.

THOMAS BURRELL LONG, 96, died March 7, 2014. A devoted member of the Baptist Church, he served as a deacon and youth teacher at Toned Baptist Church (Rockcastle), a deacon at Madison Baptist Church (Coal River), and in later years an active member of the Eastern Avenue Baptist Church in Saint Cloud, Florida. He served as a delegate to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, on the American Baptist Convention Board of National Ministries and on the American Baptist Churches General Board. He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II.

MICHAEL R. "MIKE" MYERS, 75 of Barboursville, died March 26, 2014. He was an active member of Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte). He was a United States Air Force Veteran.

WILLIAM D. "BILL" REED, JR., age 77, of Stonewood, died April 16, 2014. He was a member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), where he served as usher, finance chair, was a trustee and served on the board of directors of Parchment Valley Conference Center. He was a member of the United States Army.

NORA LOU SMITH, 83, of Charleston, died March 9, 2014. She was a long-time member of South Charleston First Baptist Church (Kawawha Valley). She served the church as the chair of the board of Christian Education, and in later years worked in the infant and baby nursery.

JESSICA M. "JESSIE" THOMPSON, 38, of Winchester, Virginia, died February 13, 2014. She was a member of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern).

LILLIAN LEE SMITH WEAVER, 89, died April 14, 2014. She was a former American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

NINA R. SIMMONS WHIPKEY, 92, of Parkersburg, formerly of Nobe, died March 23, 2014. She was a member of Auburn Baptist Church (Harrisville), where she served as mission chairman. She had served as mission chairman and as youth director for many years during her lifetime. She had attended the American Baptist Women's Conference at Alderson-Broaddus College for 27 years.

WANTED:

Part-time Accounting Assistant

*B.S. in Accounting preferred with
non-profit experience.*

Send resume to: P.O. Box 1019,
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019 or
e-mail to: jsimmons@wvbc.org.

Leadership Updates

REV. SAMUEL GRAY to Olive Branch Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on December 18, 2013

REV. MARY BETH MCCLOY to Lifespring Jackson (Parkersburg), a satellite of South Parkersburg Baptist Church, as pastor on May 1, 2014

REV. GROVER MORRIS to Highland Avenue Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as pastor on March 16, 2014

MR. BEN MOSES to Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) as youth pastor on May 1, 2014

REV. BENJAMIN SIMMONS to Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on April 1, 2014

REV. TERRY THOMPSON to Macedonia Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) as pastor on April 3, 2014

MR. ANDREW WALKER to Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) as director of worship, communications and creative arts on April 1, 2014

REV. STEVEN WILSON Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern) as pastor on March 1, 2014

June 2014

JUNE 1 - The ministry of Sand Run Baptist Church; Donald Butcher, pastor (Broad Run)
JUNE 2 - The ministry of North Shinnston Baptist Church; Jeff Dytzel, pastor (Judson)
JUNE 3 - The ministry of Long Run Baptist Church; Robey Godfey, pastor (Elk Valley)
JUNE 4 - Patricia Magal, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JUNE 5 - David Carpenter, pastor, Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run) and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JUNE 6 - American Baptist Women's Ministries' Annual Conference this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 7 - Younger Midler Camp at Camp Cowen
JUNE 8 - Junior High I Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 9 - Dagoberto Zelaya, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) Missionary to Honduras
JUNE 10 - The ministry of Amy Baptist Church (Coal River Association)
JUNE 11 - Sandy Phares, second vice-president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JUNE 12 - The ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church; Daniel Cunningham, pastor (Fairmont)
JUNE 13 - The ministry of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church; Bobby Dailey, pastor (Guyandotte)
JUNE 14 - The ministry of Fairview Baptist Church; Michael McCoy, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JUNE 15 - Junior I Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 16 - David Hoge, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JUNE 17 - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Paul Jay Byrd, pastor (Union)
JUNE 18 - Jan Martin, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JUNE 19 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Worship and Music Conference at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 20 - Katherine Niles, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
JUNE 21 - The ministry of Gauley Bridge Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
JUNE 22 - Junior High II Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 23 - The ministry of Lauckport Baptist Church; Richard Eaton, pastor (Parkersburg)
JUNE 24 - Anita Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa
JUNE 25 - Valma Adams, West Virginia Baptist Convention office manager and administrative assistant, Discipleship Ministries
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 Evergreen Baptist Church; Thomas Comer, pastor (Hopewell)
JUNE 29 - Mid-High Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 30 - Michael Harper, pastor, North Hills Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission

July 2014

JULY 1 - Children's Art Camp at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JULY 2 - Larry Hooper, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JULY 3 - The ministry of Black Eagle Baptist Church; Gilbert Dodson, pastor (Rockcastle)
JULY 4 - America's right to Freedom of Religion
JULY 5 - Ken Skidmore, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JULY 6 - Brothers' Keeper this week at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JULY 7 - The ministry of Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church; Keith George, pastor (Coal River)
JULY 8 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Andrew Robinson, pastor (Good Hope)
JULY 9 - The ministry of Nutter Fort First Baptist Church; Don Fowler, pastor (Judson)
JULY 10 - The ministry of Mount Urim Baptist Church; Ryan Trescott, pastor (Hopewell)
JULY 11 - Madeline Flores-Lopez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JULY 12 - The ministry of Grantsville First Baptist Church; Ron Chesser, pastor (Little Kanawha)
JULY 13 - Senior High Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JULY 14 - The ministry of Charity Baptist Church; George Rose, pastor (Elk Valley)
JULY 15 - The ministry of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church; Bill Bryan, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JULY 16 - The ministry of New Life Ministries; Charles Chipps, pastor (Fairmont)
JULY 17 - The ministry of Zoar Missionary Baptist Church; Chris Venoy, pastor (Guyandotte)
JULY 18 - The ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church; Charles Elkins, pastor (Teays Valley)
JULY 19 - The ministry of Montgomery Baptist Church; C.J. Rider, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
JULY 20 - Junior II Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JULY 21 - World Mission Conference this week at Green Lake, Wisconsin
JULY 22 - Sandra Lutz, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
JULY 23 - The ministry of Simpson Creek Baptist Church; Michael Hopkins, pastor (Union)
JULY 24 - The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church; Carl Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run)
JULY 25 - Ruth Mooney, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Costa Rica
JULY 26 - The ministry of South Fork Baptist Church; Randy Landes, pastor (Harrisville)
JULY 27 - Family Camp this week at Camp Cowen
JULY 28 - Marilou Legg, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JULY 29 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Ed Moats, pastor (Goshen)
JULY 30 - Rob Ely, director of Discipleship Ministries, Camping and Youth, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JULY 31 - The Rockcastle Association Annual Meeting today at Hanover Missionary Baptist Church

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

Coming Events

June 2014

June 6-7

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

June 6-8

Younger Midler Camp (grades 2-4)
Camp Cowen

June 8-14

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

June 15-21

Junior I Camp (grades 5-6)
Camp Cowen

June 19-20

West Virginia Baptist Convention Worship and Music Conference
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 22-28

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

June 28

School of Christian Studies West Virginia Baptist History (E-02)
One-Day Elective Class
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 29 - July 5

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

July 2014

July 1-3

Children's Art Camp
Parchment Valley Conference Center

July 4

Independence Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

July 6-11

Brothers' Keeper
Parchment Valley Conference Center

July 12

Senior Night for 2014 High School Graduates
Camp Cowen

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.

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West Virginia Baptist Convention
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American Baptist Women's Ministries'

Annual Conference

Women and GIRLS' Weekend

A Time to Serve and Make a Difference

*To equip His people for works of service,
so that the body of Christ may be built up ... Ephesians 4:12*

June 6-7, 2014

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Speaker: *Debbie and Baillie Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionaries to Mexico*

*Registration begins at 3 p.m. on June 6. The program begins at 7 p.m.
The conference will conclude at 4 p.m. on June 7.*

Experience a Kaleidoscope of Kindness - Group activities that will benefit the homeless, military, children at risk and you, as you learn to be a light in your community.

Meet your state leadership, participate in officer training, renew friendships from around the state, join in inspirational worship, visit the bookstore and hear missionary stories!

Take the Challenge 10! Groups of 10 or more that register together (separate checks accepted, but all must be sent in the same envelope) by May 16 will receive \$5.00 off each registration.

**REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.wvbc.org
AND IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF SEASONS.**

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