

Agricultural Tradition Continues with Parchment Valley Veterans' Therapeutic Program

More than 50 years ago, Parchment Valley Conference Center was a valley where crops thrived and dairy herds were well tended to. In the course of nearly half a century, West Virginia Baptists have followed their hearts, answered the call and allowed God to cultivate their faithful work and transform this place to where "lives are changed" for the kingdom. This place is your West Virginia Baptist Conference Center at Parchment Valley.

Quite often, I am reminded our infrastructure has weathered the storms, but not without major repairs along the way. We still need your support through donations to the *Don Loudermilk Society* and *Building for Generations*. Yet, each passing year it is evident God's hand is upon us and through His people our needs are met. There is much to be said about our volunteers: they mow, paint, dig, build, cook, clean, answer phones, repair and so much more. Our volunteers are remarkable and caring people who continue to bless this place.

We would like to celebrate a new program with a volunteer group that comes from our armed forces: Parchment Valley Veterans' Therapeutic Program (PVVTP). It is evident God is in this program. As fields are being plowed and vegetables are being planted, these veterans are discovering that working the soil brings a sense of purpose to their lives. Many of these individuals suffer with physical injuries related to war and many of their scars are not visible, such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

As the agricultural program develops, we are blessed to have had a tractor and farm implements donated to do the work more efficiently. Our three veteran farmers: Kevin Ritter, Ryan Curry and Eric Grandon are young men who served honorably in the military, and are now leading this therapeutic program at Parchment Valley Conference Center. With their heads held high, the men, with their families alongside them, work the soil.

Requests from major companies and educational institutions for organic grown produce continue to come in.



Potatoes anyone?

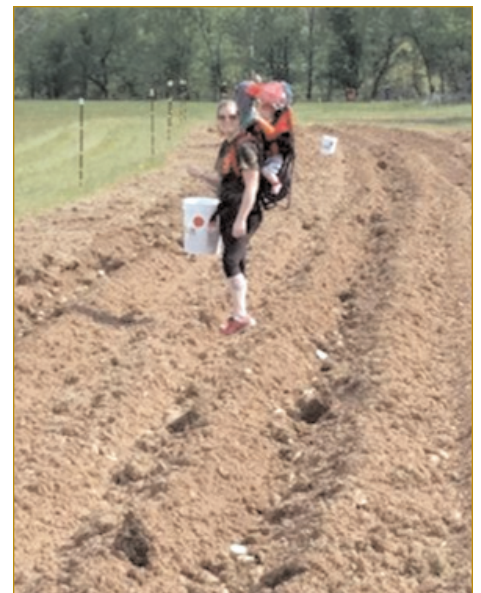
Retired Captain James McCormick works closely with me and the veteran farmers to identify opportunities that will bring more agricultural training events and partnerships to Parchment Valley.

If you would like to receive more information on how to be part of this ministry, please call our office at 800.489.8564 or go to www.parchmentvalley.org. Thank you for caring and making a difference in others' lives.

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



Veteran farmer, Kevin Ritter, preparing the ground for planting potatoes.



Kathlyn Curry, wife of Ryan Curry, and son, Lincoln, planting 1,000 pounds of potatoes.



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The Chest of Joash



Dr. David Carrico

This past winter was long and difficult for many churches in many ways. Folks have contacted the convention office asking if we had new ideas for making up the lost Sundays when no offerings were received. Here is an old idea that may have new life. When Dr. Norman Cox was pastor of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte), he introduced what is known as "The Chest of Joash" service, which was to underwrite the church budget for the coming year. Dr. Cox served as pastor at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in the 1930s and life was difficult at times then, but this appeal always seemed to work.

We realize those were different times. The appeal of the Chest of Joash in the 1930s had some elements that may help us meet our financial needs today. The goals were clear and rehearsed with the congregation before the event. Expectations were built up with stories, personal testimonies and personal contacts. Everyone in the congregation was contacted! Was it a lot of work by the church leadership? Yes! Hours and hours were invested in preparation and in the event itself. Follow-up was also a part of the process. The outcome was celebrated and the event pointed always to the goodness of God.

We can learn from some of these old ways to make a difference in a new way. The keys to the success of this event included:

- *Hard work in planning and preparation*
- *Acceptance on the part*

of the congregation

- *The leadership's personal relationship with the church membership*

Another approach is a part of a program from the American Baptist Foundation. The program is titled "Strengthening Your Financial Future" and focuses on three elements:

- *Vision*
- *Communication*
- *Celebration*

A church must discover its vision ... the 'why are we here' statement. The church must communicate that vision clearly and often to its people so there is no doubt why they are there and what they are to be about. When goals are reached and a vision becomes reality, celebrate that achievement, preparing the way to give birth to new aspects of the vision. It is a process, just like the Chest of Joash service, that will take work and commitment.

Our culture has filled us with the idea of entitlements. What are you entitled to? Nothing! All you receive is an undeserved gift from God. In our new core values, we seem to forget God's gifts to us. We need to rejoice that God does not give us what we deserve and our salvation is a free gift from Him. Celebrate that gift with your gifts to make things financially better for your church. Out of gratitude, may your gifts overflow to our Lord. God is good all the time! Let us affirm His goodness in our giving.

Blessings

Goodwin Resigns from West Virginia Baptist Convention as Director of Baptist Campus Ministries

Rev. Adam Goodwin, director of Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), has resigned to join the staff of Kenova First Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) as the teaching minister for Marshall Community Fellowship. His resignation will become effective August 31, 2015.

Adam has been a valuable and valued member of the West Virginia Baptist Convention's professional ministry team for the last eight years. Under his dynamic leadership and guidance, BCM has continued to expand its ministry across the Mountain State. The West Virginia Baptist Convention has been blessed to have Adam as part of the staff and pray God's continued blessing for this new phase of his ministry.



Rev. Adam Goodwin



PROVIDING RELIEF IN NEPAL

American Baptist Churches and International Ministries Partner with Baptists and Others in Nepal to Bring Vital Relief in the Aftermath of the Earthquake

The Urgent Need

With each new day, the count of those killed or injured rises, as rescue and relief efforts continue in the aftermath of the massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal on Saturday, April 25, 2015. Although initial reports estimated that injuries and loss of life in the hundreds, by Wednesday, April 28, Nepal's National Emergency Operation Center announced that the official death toll had exceeded 5,000 and that some 10,000 have been found injured, and those numbers are expected to rise as rescue workers reach remote villages. An estimated 450,000 have been internally displaced by the

quake and eight million-over a quarter of the nation's people have been affected.

Additional relief aid is urgently needed. To give through your church, designate your gift for "One Great Hour of Sharing - Nepal Earthquake Relief." (Line 7 on the remittance form.)

State Goal: \$120,000



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES
COME. GROW. CHANGE.
www.internationalministries.org

Baptist Campus Ministries: Taking a "Cue" for a Campus Christian Center

Imagine having a Campus Christian Center here at West Virginia University. A place where different campus groups can meet on a weekly basis with an opportunity to build genuine friendships. A place that can also unify the campus groups to impact students with the gospel. It would be a place to have a safe environment, a home away from home. Well, look no further; "The Cue" (downtown on High Street) is a place for these things to happen.

"The Cue" was once a local bar and pool hall for many years, but the owner of the place has a desire to use it for advancing the kingdom of God. The owner, Gregg Metheny, who came to know Christ about four years ago, wants to impact the campus and especially the downtown area. He recognizes the darkness that hovers over Morgantown and He wants this place to be a light.

Matthew 5:14-16, English Standard Version (ESV):

"¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

This is a crucial time in a college student's life to find positive influence and accountability to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ during their college years. This facility will hold



The Cue - a Campus Christian Center comes to West Virginia University Baptist Campus Ministry.

opportunities for worship, Bible studies, music, small groups, discipleship and evangelism. "The Cue" will be a place that will reach out to the hurting and lost. Solid relationships are going to be built and those friendships will last a lifetime. This place will be a center that will raise up the next generation of church leaders and missionaries to make an impact in this world.

So, how can you be a part of this? First and foremost, please be in prayer for the different campus ministries that will be using "The Cue" each week. Secondly, we are looking for individuals or churches that will be willing to donate to keep "The Cue" running. Your donations will help us continue to change lives that change

the world. You can donate however God leads you. Any amount will help. Please be in prayer about how you want to give: a one-time gift or monthly gifts.

Please make out your check to West Virginia Baptist Convention and send to: West Virginia Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102. Earmark your check to WVUBCM-The Cue.

*Tim Gray
Baptist Campus Ministries' Director,
West Virginia University*

Hispanic Ministries: Welcome in the Name of Christ - Bienvenido en el Nombre de Cristo

Essential to our identity as followers of Jesus are the practices of hospitality and loving strangers. For us as Christians, these practices are rooted in God's extravagant and gracious love (John 3:16, Romans 15:7, 1 John 3:1). In the Old Testament, numerous times God instructs His people to love, care and be hospitable to the strangers living among them (Exodus 22:21, 23:9; Leviticus 19:10, 19:33-34; and Deuteronomy 24:21, 27:19). They understood firsthand the painful experience of being strangers, immigrants and refugees in a foreign land. We also find the remarkable episode in which Abraham and Sarah offered hospitality to strangers, messengers from God, who came to reveal Sarah would conceive in her old age (Genesis 18:1-8).

In the New Testament, Jesus receives hospitality on different occasions (John 2:1-11, Luke 10:38-42, Luke 19:1-10) and instructs the 12 disciples to depend on hospitality for their missionary endeavors (Matthew 10:11). Hospitality was a peculiar hallmark of early Christian communities and Christian leaders (1 Timothy 3:2, 5:9; Titus 1:8). Because of its significance and relevance, Paul encourages Christians in the city of Rome to engage in the practice of hospitality with those from within and without the community of faith (Romans 12:13, 15:7, 16:2, 16:23). Peter enjoins followers of Jesus to "cheerfully share [their] home with those who need a meal or a place to stay." (1 Peter 4:9) Moreover, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us "to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!" (Hebrews 13:2)

The Greek word hospitality (*philoxenia*) means "loving the stranger." In the gospels, Jesus identifies Himself with the stranger and challenges His followers to love and welcome the stranger as they would love and welcome Him. When they respond to the needs of the strangers and welcome the least of these, Jesus assures them, they are responding and welcoming Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:35, Luke 9:48).

I'd like to suggest four ideas which may help you to practice hospitality in your community:

First, be intentional about creating spaces to meet with strangers. Pray for God to open your eyes to opportunities and for inspiration for creative ideas to create venues in which you can meet and get to know immigrants. For instance, Comunidad Nueva Esperanza (Good Hope) in Ravenswood partners with several sister churches to bring lunches to Hispanic seasonal migrant workers along the Ohio River. At the end of the harvest season, we invite all the migrant workers to "La Fiesta de la Cosecha," a big celebration in which we share meals, games and God's love. We've made friends who join us for church when they come back to Ravenswood.

Second, listen to their voices and learn their stories.

As you meet and know immigrants, ask and learn their names. For example, you want to take on the challenge to learn the

names of two or three waiters at your favorite Mexican, Chinese or Ethnic food restaurant. If you dine in that restaurant regularly, the odds are they already know your name! As you learn their names, ask them about their lives, their hopes, their challenges. Ask them about their families back home. Your interest will make them feel welcomed, accepted and cared for. Hispanic immigrants, in particular, will be very eager to share their life stories, if you only ask.

Third, practice praying for their needs. As you get to know immigrants in a personal way, you will likely know about their needs. That gives you an opportunity to pray for them and for God to intervene in their lives. One may have an aging, ill mother or father. Another may have an alcoholic brother or sister. Someone else may have a relative involved in a serious accident. Yet another may have a loved one who recently passed away, and she may need God's peace and comfort.

Lastly, demonstrate compassion and love in tangible ways. We all know the saying: "Actions speak louder than words." Hospitality requires us to share and be generous with our time, gifts and resources. Help to meet concrete needs. For instance, I know two nurses whose love for Christ and desire to serve immigrants propelled them to carry out a free basic health clinic for over 20 Hispanic immigrants working in Mexican restaurants.

How you practice hospitality will depend on your context. Pray for opportunities and ask God to give you creative ideas! In today's world, as we seek to share God's love with people from different nationalities, cultures, languages, customs and physical appearances, the practice of hospitality is crucial.

"In a world of deadly ethnic tensions and vast socioeconomic differences and injustices, acts of hospitality," Christine Pohl observes, "are what Philip Hallie calls 'little moves against destructiveness.' ... Hospitality is an important expression of recognition and respect for those who are despised or overlooked by the larger society. When we offer hospitality, when we eat and drink together, when we share in conversations with persons significantly different from ourselves, we make powerful statements to the world about who is interesting, valuable and important to us."

God sends His church to be the tangible, unmistakable evidence of His love for a hurting world. As the church embraces and practices the gift of hospitality, she turns the world upside down. As the church engages in "little acts against destructiveness" by welcoming and loving strangers in the name of Christ, she becomes an outpost of hope bridging the future reality of the coming kingdom of God here and now. In your community, where do you see opportunities to practice hospitality?

*Juan Aragon
Hispanic Ministries' Strategist*

Disengaged, but not Coasting

After nearly 13 years of ministry on the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, I am taking a sabbatical. Our policy manual says, "Sabbatical leave must be for the enhancement of job related skills or knowledge, but will not be limited to academic endeavors." Last year, the Executive Committee approved my proposal to disengage from my role with the Convention.

I am very excited about this time away from the daily work of the Convention. I will spend significant time writing and preparing curriculum to train pastors in the areas of personal spiritual development and theology.

I have partnered with Dr. Jolly Rimai, the secretary for Missions and Evangelism of the Counsel of Baptist Churches of North East India (CBCNEI) to create a Pastor Training Institute (PTI). We will offer this training program to village pastors in each of the six state conventions of the CBCNEI. Each three-day event will help the pastors grow in their faith and knowledge of Christ and gain practical knowledge that will help them lead their churches.

There are many very educated leaders in the CBCNEI. However, there are hundreds of rural pastors that have not had

the opportunity for theological education or formal training. Those that receive such training rarely return to the village as the average pastor's salary there is about \$40 per month. When Jolly and I were discussing the greatest needs in the churches, he told me they needed more trained leaders. So, we sat down and developed the PTI concept and chose the first course offerings.

Please keep me in your prayers as I complete my sabbatical journey returning to work on August 1, 2015. I will be traveling thousands of miles, sleeping in lots of different environments, eating different foods, adjusting to different climates and riding on roads that defy imagination. All so that I may proclaim the gospel and train others to share Christ in their communities.

As you can clearly see, while I may be disengaged from my Convention work, I will be fully engaged in the work of the kingdom of God.

I look forward to sharing my experiences with you.

Committed to Missions

Camp Global 2015

Destination: World

Save the date:
September 4-6, 2015
Camp Cowen

Cost: \$90.00 per person
\$350 maximum per household
\$40 Saturday only

Programming for children,
youth and adults!

Camp begins Friday, September 4 at 6:00 p.m.
and concludes Sunday, September 6 at 1:00 p.m.

Bible Study Leader:



Ray Schooler,
International Ministries ABC-USA

Missionary Guest:

Rick Gutierrez,
Missionary to South
Africa



Watch your mail in June
for Camp Global
registration information. Details and
registration also available
online at www.wvbc.org.

by **Kim Weaver**, Director,
Weirton Christian Center

Weirton Christian Center: BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT

First and foremost, I need to thank all of you for the tremendous support we have received for the past 98 years from our West Virginia Baptist family. Your mission budgets, church and Vacation Bible School offerings, American Baptist Women's Ministries' Circles and special projects and the generosity of so many wonderful individuals are truly what keep our doors open. We are your ministry, and we thank you for making the difference in the lives of so many children and their families. In 2014, 277 children went through our doors. We do not charge for any of our services, so your donations are a huge part of our operating dollars. In hopes of not affecting your regular giving, we would love to invite you to be a part of our **BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT!**

For the current school year, we were given the use of the former facility used by the Boys and Girls Club. This added space was a blessing, allowing us to divide age groups between two locations. Unfortunately, our time in the facility ends July 1, 2015 unless we are able to purchase or lease the facility and start paying utility expenses. We could not afford operating expenses with a lease, and if it was possible to purchase the building it would involve too many repairs. We plan to be better stewards of our funding with a facility that will stand the test of time, in a downtown neighborhood that needs our services most.

In an effort to accommodate a growing number of after school students, our Elm Street facility desperately needs updated. It is a former church building, and has no access between floors. Currently, we have nine doors accessible to children and for their safety, we need them all under one roof with a security screening system at the two main entrances. The 18-block neighborhood surrounding our property has the highest rate of drug, violence and theft arrests taking place in the city. Our children here are at risk more than in any other area - the center is the one consistent factor in their life. They are with us from 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. daily, and during that time we make sure their homework is done, they have afterschool snacks and dinner, have computer access and most importantly, have many opportunities for learning about the Lord each day.

The plan is to expand our facilities with new construction adjacent to the current two-story structure and three-bedroom house currently used for programming. After meeting with an architect, we have determined we can build an energy-



efficient 40' x 80' two-story building next to our current facility by purchasing the adjoining property. This facility would enable us to house all age groups in one secure building with enough space for easily divided age groups in each classroom. It would provide space for two separate computer rooms, kindergarten - 5th grade and 6th - 12th grade on separate levels and a large multipurpose room to be used for recreation, training, movie nights, guest speakers, holiday events and preschool graduation.

It is also large enough to create a kids' cafe for serving dinner in smaller groups and a state of the art kitchen to feed our kids on a daily basis. Both floors would be handicap accessible and the property would provide for additional parking in the rear for staff, volunteers and guests. Currently, we only have four parking spaces on the street and one is handicap accessible. We would have space for four offices to house the executive

director, assistant director, financial manager and behavior counselor (currently in three locations). The setup will allow for secure entrance and exit on both levels as well as state of the art safety features currently lacking for our children.

The best news is ...

*If we raise 60% of the total cost of the building,
we have a donor that will contribute the remaining 40%!*

OUR GOAL:

\$750,000 to build a building;
\$58,000 in the bank to purchase property;
\$300,000 Christian Fellowship Foundation;
\$242,000 Requests to Foundations, Grants,
Corporations and Individuals;
and with support from our
West Virginia Baptist Churches ...
the remaining \$150,000 is taken care of!

**We would truly appreciate your prayerful
consideration of additional support to the
Weirton Christian Center -
specifically designated to the**

WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER
BUILD A BUILDING
PROJECT.

Palmer Theological Seminary: West Virginia Program

by **Allan Copenhaver**, West Virginia Recruiter and Site Coordinator,
Palmer Theological Seminary: West Virginia Program

Palmer Theological Seminary: West Virginia Program Holds Annual Graduation Banquet



Bob Hayes (l) of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and Eric Kendall of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run) are recognized for their completion of the Master of Divinity Degree.

Photo by Rick Garavaglia.

Palmer Theological Seminary's West Virginia Program annual graduation banquet was held on March 19, 2015 at Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall. Approximately 60 individuals attended the banquet, which honored this year's graduates: Bob Haynes and Eric Kendall, who both received the Master of Divinity Degree (M.Div.).

The evening was filled with several other highlights as well. Dr. Lloyd Hamblin, Jr. received the Robert E. Matherly Award for his dedication to Palmer's West Virginia Program. A new partnership between the seminary and the West Virginia Baptist Convention was signed.

Also, Ben Vincent, a resident of Braxton County, shared the story of his grandfather, Boyce Moody. He was one of the founding students of the original Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and was also among its first graduates. Vincent brought his grandfather's diploma to display. Another highlight was the recognition of the graduates' spouses, who received an M.S.S. degree (Master in Spousal Support). Congratulations to Donna Haynes and Sarah Kendall!

If you would like more information about the seminary's programs here in West Virginia, please contact Allan Copenhaver at rcopenha@eastern.edu or 304.763.8564.



David Carrico (l) and Edwin Aponte, dean of Palmer Theological Seminary, sign an updated partnership agreement between the West Virginia Baptist Convention and Palmer Theological Seminary.

Photo by Rick Garavaglia.



Lloyd Hamblin, Jr. receives the Robert E. Matherly Award, which is awarded annually in recognition of those individuals that have provided ongoing support of the West Virginia Program.

Photo by Rick Garavaglia.

PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: WEST VIRGINIA PROGRAM 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR COURSE OFFERINGS

September 2015-June 2016

SUPV-530/531 THEOLOGICAL FIELD
EDUCATION 2A/B

Two credit hours each semester - four
credit hours total.

SUPV-522 CLINICAL PASTORAL CARE
PRACTICUM

Three credit hours

SUPV-532 CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION
Three or six credit hours.

INTENSIVE COURSES:

August 17-21, 2015

CHHM-510 THE CHURCH IN MISSION
THROUGH HISTORY

Three credit hours, Dr. George Hancock-
Stefan

INTG-530 INTEGRATIVE SEMINARY

Three credit hours, Dr. Deborah Winters

September 21-25, 2015

INTG-620 THE POOR WILL ALWAYS BE
WITH YOU: UNDERSTANDING AND
RESPONDING TO POVERTY IN APPALACHIA
Three credit hours, Dr. Allan Copenhaver

October 26-30, 2015

THLE-520 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND
ETHICS: VISION OF COMMUNITY
Three credit hours, Dr. Kent Berghuis

January 4-8, 2016

PRMN-510 FOUNDATIONS OF PASTORAL
CARE AND COUNSELING
Three credit hours, Rev. Jana Purkis-
Brash

February 8-12, 2016

DNOM-510 BAPTIST EMPHASES AND
POLITY
Three credit hours, Dr. Michael Sisson

April 4-8, 2016

CHHM-637 THEOLOGIES OF THE
REFORMATION: THE HISTORICAL ROOTS
OF THE BIRTH OF PROTESTANTISM AND
THE MODERN WORLD
Three credit hours, Dr. George Hancock-
Stefan

June 6-12, 2016 (Philadelphia/King of
Prussia Campus)

THLE-521 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AND
ETHICS: REIGN OF GOD
Three credit hours, Dr. Kent Berghuis

For more information:

Craig M. Miller, Associate Registrar
Palmer Theological Seminary
800.220.3287, cmiller7@eastern.edu.

Help Us Make Brothers' Keeper 2015 A Success



This year, we will have over 100 youth doing work around Jackson County. Due to the rising cost of materials, we are asking you to sponsor **Brothers' Keeper** and the work being done in Christ's name. If you own a business and donate more than \$500, you will have your ad on the backs of over 130 **BK** workers all around Jackson County. Any church that gives will have their name listed, no matter the amount. You may consider sponsoring the amount a youth participant pays to attend, a meeting space cost or even sponsor a project. Call us at Parchment Valley Conference Center for more information. We would love to put your name or logo on our 2015 shirts.

Youth groups this year at **Brothers' Keeper** will be working with a devotional designed to prepare them for their experiences, help them stay focused on the mission of the work and to debrief their experiences. Structured lessons will

be student led, youth leader led and crew leader led at different points of the day. Youth will be looking at examples of people through history and today and their different views on missions.

We currently have a crew going out to a number of our 54 work applications for the next couple of days to see the places the youth will be working on, and also to make an initial connection with the families there on behalf of Christ, **Brothers' Keeper**, Parchment Valley Conference Center and West Virginia Baptists. Below is a testimony of former employee, Kevin Hanna, and some of his experiences on the work site evaluations.

Kevin Hanna: "Years ago, as I was evaluating projects for **BK**, we came to a home where a man on disability and his wife and four children lived. The house was two single wide trailers placed side by side and bolted together with the inside walls cut out for a pass through. They had no furnace or duct work, no plumbing, except a cold water hose bib that came up through the floor where the furnace used to be. On one side, the hose would reach the washer and on the other,

the tub. The wife asked if we could do some plumbing for her, and before I left she told me to look around and if there was anything someone else could use to please take it with me. We (**BK**) decided we would plumb the kitchen sink, tub, vanity, toilet, washer and water heater. We also managed to get a wood stove for them to help with heating. We invited her to come to our Thursday night worship. As time came for it to start, I watched and she wasn't there. Part of the way through the service she arrived, and when the mic was passed to her she told us she was late because **Brothers' Keeper** participants were doing last minute wiring for the water heater. Her tears fell as she told us how grateful she was and that we had no idea what it was like to go to the sink and have hot water - no more boiling water on the stove. I thought to myself, 'Yes, I do know, but I just take it for granted.'

There is a lot of stress and frustration in planning and pulling off an event like this, but testimonies like that are what it is all about!"

Why We Do What We Do Where We Do It: **BROTHERS' KEEPER**



As of the census of 2000, there were 28,000 people, 11,061 households and 8,207 families residing in Jackson County. The population density was 60 people per square mile.

There were 11,061 households out of which 31.90% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 61.60% were married couples living together, 9.40% had a female householder with no husband present and 25.80% were non-families.

In addition, 22.70% of all households were made up of individuals and 10.30% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.50

and the average family size was 2.92.

In the county, the population was spread out with 24.10% under the age of 18, 7.90% from 18-24, 27.70% from 25-44, 24.90% from 45-64 and 15.30% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females, there were 94.80 males. For every 100 females age 18 or over, there were 91.40 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$32,434 and the median income for a family was \$38,021. Males had a median income of \$32,991 versus \$20,253 for females. The per capita income for the county was \$16,025. About 12.20% of families and 15.20% of the population were below the poverty line, including 21.60% of those under age 18 and 9.00% of those age 65 or older.

West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen

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

Camp Cowen Hosts American Baptist Men of West Virginia Work Party

Forty men and boys gathered at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen May 1-2, 2015 for the annual spring work party. As always, this was a great time of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Of course, it is a work party and much work was done on several significant projects. Among the projects undertaken were these:

- Six trees removed. Among the trees taken down were four large ones that threatened the roadway and/or electric lines.
- The front porches of two cabins were enlarged and reworked.
- In Hylbert Hall, the electric rewiring was continued. Along with the structural modifications from fall of 2014, this will help to make the usable space more functional as well as much larger.
- Finally, the foot bridge outside of Hylbert Hall was doubled in size.
- In addition, the walkway is being covered with a new roof.
- As always, there were numerous other smaller projects completed.

Next year's spring work party will be held April 29-30, 2016. Please put that on your church's calendar and bring a group of men to Camp Cowen, *"Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."*



Participants in the men's work party build a porch and stairs for the Clarksburg cabin.



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



The men work to enlarge the bridge to Hylbert Hall.

2015 Camp Cowen Schedule

JUNE

*Hopewell
June 5-7*

*Older Midler
(grades 3-4)
June 10-12*

*Younger Midler
(grades 2-4)
June 12-14*

*Junior I
(grades 5-6)
June 14-20*

*Junior High I
(grades 7-9)
June 21-27*

*Junior II
(grades 5-6)
June 28-July 4*

JULY

*High School I
(grades 9-12)
July 5-11*

*Junior High II
(grades 7-9)
July 12-18*

*Senior Day
2015 High School
Graduates
July 18*

*High School II
(grades 9-12)
July 19-25*

*Raleigh/Rockcastle
Teays Valley
July 26-31*

*Family Camp
July 31-August 3*

AUGUST

*Men's Camp
August 7-9*

SEPTEMBER

*Camp Global
September 4-6*

Adult Discipleship: Spiritual Formation Practices - Reflective Reading



"Spend time in the Word." I remember this being one of the first pieces of advice I received as a new Christian. The Word, being the Bible. The stories, messages, teachings and commandments found inside it are for Christians the "manual for life" here on earth and the "travel brochure" for things to come.

What does spending time in the Word actually mean for everyday life today? Does spending time mean quantitatively or qualitatively? Should I be concerned about how much time each day, week or month I am reading from the Bible or should the concern be how is the Bible reading impacting my daily life and walk with Christ?

In my younger years, it was all about keeping track of the minutes spent reading the Bible or how many chapters I read. Some churches even kept track each Sunday of how many verses the Sunday school classes or congregation had read that prior week. It seemed to me quantity was the goal. Get a "Read the Bible through the Year" plan and go for it. Memorize the verse of the week from the Sunday school literature. I was good at that. Yes some of them hit home, but in reality I learned to reflect on Bible reading when attending a church sponsored Bible study. Personal reading of the Bible was encouraged, but personal reflective reading tools were not offered.

For spiritual formation to continue, adults must be involved and committed to reflective reading of the Bible on a personal level. A church assists in this practice by regularly providing individuals with opportunities to learn and mature in this skill and to put it to action. The goal is always to make the Bible part of us!

A good discipleship program for adults includes at least a yearly opportunity for adults to learn personal Bible reflection skills and also provide for all new Christians to have a well-planned, well-executed basic Bible reflection class, soon after conversion. Reflective reading instruction should take into account "right brain and left brain" needs of each person. John Throop suggests there are "left brain" methods for reflective reading which take into account facts, original context, language and other scripture passages, etc. This is called deductive study. These studies can be helped through use of Bible study booklets and guides. The "right brain" method encourages the reader to

take into account what may "resonate" with the individual's inner life and personal experience. It is inductive and seeks to open the reader up to experience God's Holy Spirit working within the heart and soul. Again, there are good booklets and study materials available to help this process.

Church leadership must carefully and realistically develop a plan to encourage and develop adult disciples to be reflective Bible readers. Realistically evaluate what adult disciples in your church need in this area. Informal conversations with individuals is best. Break out of the idea the Discipleship Committee or Christian Education Board knows what is going on. Take time to ask questions and ***LISTEN***.

Be sure the classes offered and materials made available are quality and lead learners into good reflective study habits. Buy a sample and read and work through it first before sharing with a larger group. Don't just take suggestions from others or the internet. Be sure you know what the material entails, what the goals are and how it assists in learning. The goal is to help the disciple be able to reflectively read the Bible for themselves.

A final idea is for the church leadership to suggest reflective reading material every quarter. Most people learning this skill need a study book of some kind, others may use their Bible only as they become adept at reflective reading.

Psalms 119:11 (KJV) says, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." The Word "hid" is more correctly translated "treasured" and shows the word of God is to be stored up to be used. Specifically, to be used in everyday life to walk in a manner worthy and righteous before God. Reflective reading of the Bible adds to our storehouse daily.

QUICK RECAP

- Adult disciples must learn to be reflective readers.
- The church should assist adult disciples to learn and maintain this skill.
- The goal of reflective Bible reading is to make the Bible and its message part of us.
- Reflective reading training should involve both deductive and inductive Bible study education.

Lisa Simmons
Associate in Mission Support

Mercer to Lead Third Church Transformation Event



Tom Mercer,
pastor, High
Desert Church,
Victorville,
California

Over the past two years, the West Virginia Baptist Convention has sponsored two Church Transformation events that have been of great help to many of our churches and inspired other events and classes that are now helping us to move forward. The first event was led by Mike Bonem, a ministry consultant from Dallas, Texas. The second Church Transformation event was led by Dr. Tim Brown, executive minister of Growing Healthy Churches, formerly American Baptist Churches of the West. Both of these sessions were spiritual, meaningful, practical and well led.

Now, we are pleased to announce the third event in the Church Transformation series. The event will be held at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, November 14, 2015. While that seems like a long way off, this conference is so important you will want to get it on your calendar now! Tom Mercer, pastor of High Desert Church in Victorville, California and author of 8 to 15: The World is Smaller Than You Think, will be our leader. Tom is a pastor who will speak in a practical and helpful seminar that will help to lead our churches to ever better ministry in the 21st Century. More details will be made available as the date draws near. Please mark your calendar now and make plans to be at Parchment Valley Conference Center on November 14, 2015.

West Virginia Baptist Convention

Worship and Music Conference

June 18-20, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

with Guest Clinician: **Heather Sorenson**

Worship Leader: **Jason Robbins**

Accompanist: **Michael Barnhouse**

This conference is designed to help workers in local churches - from small to large - sharpen their skills, broaden their horizons, become familiar with available resources and enrich their lives through fellowship with others involved in Christian music, whether traditional, contemporary, praise, gospel or other.

The conference begins with registration in Hill Hall on Thursday, June 18 at 6:00 p.m. and concludes after 12:30 p.m. with the closing worship service on Saturday, June 20.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC TASK FORCE:

JIM BRYANT: Simpson Creek Baptist Church, Bridgeport
JOHN CAMPBELL: 5th Avenue Baptist Church, Huntington
LILY CORATHERS: Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUDY PRATER: Emmanuel Baptist Church, Parkersburg
JASON ROBBINS: Highlawn Baptist Church, Saint Albans
BARRY SKEENES: Calvary Baptist Church, Charleston
MIKE STEPHENS: Parkersburg Baptist Temple

Worship and Fellowship Highlights

- Devotionals led by worship leader Jason Robbins
- Closing worship service led by Heather Sorenson with the Lord's Supper led by Jason Robbins, using music and text created and led by clinicians and conferees
- Jammin' and Jellin' fellowship and instrumental jam session
- If you are an instrumentalist, please bring your instrument(s) to the conference

Music Highlights

- Three one-hour music reading sessions of excellent choral music led by Ms. Sorenson
- All music used in reading sessions is yours to keep
- Ms. Sorenson performs in concert Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.
- "My Alleuia" personal and conference theme led by Ms. Sorenson

Workshops

- Discover Worship Online Resources
 - Instrumental Music Resources
 - Keyboard Music Resources
 - Drama in Worship
 - Visual Arts in Worship
- Roundtable Discussion: Variety in Worship - Blending Arts and Styles

Exhibits and Music Stores

Several vendors will be on hand to sell music of all kinds - sheet music, song collections and CDs - musical gifts, books, instruments and more. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet local and national music dealers and Christian supply stores.

Financial Assistance and Course Credits

- Several scholarships are available for financial help.
- Conference fee waived for students.
- School of Christian Studies' students can receive course credits.

For registrations postmarked after June 1, housing and meal reservations cannot be assured.

For more information and a registration form, visit www.wvbc.org or contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org.

150th Anniversary of West Virginia Baptists will be Observed by the American Baptist Historical Society

Preorder Your Copy Today!



The September 2015 issue of the *American Baptist Quarterly* will exclusively feature articles devoted to the early history, formation and development of Baptist church life in West Virginia. Articles in this publication have been written by Bill Bryan, Jean

Cunningham, Valerie Gittings, Linda Hepler, Lucky Ray, Truett Rogers, Barbara Smith and Deborah Van Broekhoven.

Copies of this edition of the *American Baptist Quarterly* will be available for \$10.00 at the West Virginia Baptist Convention in October 2015. Advance copies may be purchased for \$8.00 and will be available at the Annual Meeting in October. Please fill out the form (at right) for purchase in advance and mail to: Dick Helper, 16 Scenic Woods Drive, Morgantown, WV 26508. **Advance orders must be submitted by June 15, 2015.**

Preorder Form for the September 2015 *American Baptist Quarterly*.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone Number: _____
Number of Copies: _____
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(Please make check payable to WVBHS.)

2015 Spring Green Lake Project a Success

by *Lucky Ray*
executive director, American Baptist Men USA

I am very proud of the response we had for the April 2015 project at Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin. A group of 25 volunteers from five states had a wonderful week of fun, fellowship and great food, and we completed many tasks necessary to help prepare the facility for the 2015 season. Some of those tasks included: cutting lumber, sanding and staining nearly 1,000 pieces used in assembling bunk beds, cutting trees and clearing brush, painting, preparing the green house for spring, removing bathroom stalls and a wall to remodel for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, preparing a ceiling in the Pillsbury building for a new ceiling and many other small jobs. I thank you for answering the call. American Baptist Men USA has had a long and fruitful relationship with Green Lake and we look forward to a continued partnership, working with a very professional staff and enjoying all the great facilities the Green Lake Conference Center offers its guests. If you haven't been there, please consider Green Lake for your next family, church, association or regional conferences or gatherings. You will enjoy beauty, serenity and fun activities while being served by a competent and caring staff.

Participants were: Chuck and Bev Searcy, Mark Nelson, Ronald Jacobs and Paul and Gail Stivers of Illinois; Cheryl Bingemer of Indiana; Bill and Margo Humenczuk of Kansas; Butch Vander Velden, Ron Stacey, Paul Richards, Ron Westby and Charles Dunning of Wisconsin; Lucky Ray, Dave Hannon, Jack Cobb, Susannah Bradbury, Gene and Joyce McVicker, Jerry

Walter, John Holt, Mike Hood and Tom and Carol Dale of West Virginia.

Please mark your calendars for our return trip to Green Lake in September 2015. The dates are: September 20 (travel day), September 21 to 25 (work days); September 27 (travel day), September 28 to October 2 (work days). Call Green Lake Conference Center and tell them you will be participating in the "ABMen Work Project" and tell them the days you will be there. You can come for a week or a day, whatever is convenient for you. However, the groups for each week cannot be more than 50. Plan early, call early and don't miss another great opportunity to receive God's blessings.





BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT
2015

An American Baptist Gathering
Overland Park/Kansas City, June 26–28

Biennial Mission Summit
American Baptist Churches Biennial Mission Summit will be returning to Overland Park, Kansas June 26-28, 2015.
Additional events occur before and after the official Mission Summit dates.
Go to www.americanbaptists2015.com for additional information.

The Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians (FABM) hosts its 50th annual Conference for Church Musicians at the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin this July 18-25! Conferees of all ages will work with nationally and internationally renowned clinicians in ensemble and workshop settings. Workshops are designed to further educate and train those involved in church music leadership. In addition to daytime activities, the conference will host five evening concerts.

2015 Clinicians include:
Adult/Young Adult - **John Dickson**
Worship - **Thomas G. Long**
Youth - **Kenney Potter**
Children - **Heather Potter**
Handbells - **Stephanie Wiltse**
Instrumental - **Dan Goeller**
Organ - **Howard Helvey**
Piano - **Lloyd Larson**

Registration scholarships for youth (entering 8th - 12th grade), children (entering 3rd - 7th grade) and adults are available through FABM. Scholarship applications and registration information can be found at: www.fabm.com. Housing reservations may be made by calling the Green Lake Conference Center at 920-294-3323. Group discounts for registrations are also available. Find us on Facebook!



Heartsong

My heart is steadfast,
Oh God; I will sing &
make music with
all my soul.
Psalms 108:1

50th Year Celebration

Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians

LONNIE LEE AKERS, 67, of Alderson, died March 21, 2015. He was a member of Flint Chapel Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). He was a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

BETTY L. BEAMAN, 87, died April 22, 2015. She was an International Ministries staff alumna.

AGNES ALMENA (BEAVER) BEARD, 87, of Southside, died March 16, 2015. She was a member of Harmony Baptist Church (Teays Valley). She was an evangelistic minister for many years. She served as a moderator of the Teays Valley Association and served two terms on the Executive Board of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and also served on many state committees. She served as president of the West Virginia Baptist Women and served the national board of American Baptist Women as representative of the Eastern Area.

DOUGLAS C. BUMGARDNER, 87, died March 9, 2015. He was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley). He had worked as a minister and choir director at Emmanuel (Kanawha Valley) and Tyler Mountain Baptist Churches. He served in the United States Army for two years.

ELIZABETH LOUISE BUTLER, 71, died March 27, 2015. She was a member of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), where she had served as the assistant Sunday school superintendent, oversaw the personal development group and was active within the ladies' group of the church. She was the wife of Carl Butler, pastor of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church.

HARVEY HULIN COLLINS, 87, of Nitro, died March 7, 2015. He was an active and faithful member of Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) for many years, where he served as chairman of the deacon board and, in 1960, served as chairman of the committee overseeing construction of the education building. In most recent years, he attended the Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he was an active member of the Wifani Sunday School Class and

served terms on the board of trustees and by-laws committee. He served his country during World War II with the United States Navy, serving as a machinist on LST 118, other LSTs as well as an LSM, all in the Pacific. He received the American Theater Ribbon, Pacific Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon while he served his country.

WANDA WHARTON CONLEY, 93, of Vienna, died April 24, 2015. She was a member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she had served as secretary for 27 years.

BETTY RUTH VAUGHN DODSON, 86, of Mullens, died April 8, 2015. She was a member of Black Eagle Baptist Church (Rockcastle). She was the wife of Gilbert Dodson, pastor of Black Eagle Baptist Church.

ROBERT HENRY EMERY, of Kingwood, died April 4, 2015. He was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen). He served as a Private First Class in the National Guard and an Aviation Machinist's Mate in the United States Navy.

FRANK EARL FINDLEY, 87, of Bridgeport, died April 08, 2015. He was a member of Boothsville Baptist Church (Fairmont), where he was a former trustee, Sunday school superintendent and member of the American Baptist Men's Association. He was also in the United States Air Force from 1951-1955. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

NAOMI RUTH FITZPATRICK, 91, died March 15, 2015. She was a lifelong member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she served on various committees, kept the nursery, sang in the choir and was a member of the Sunday School Fellowship Class.

DENNY E. GOSSETT, 69, of Marietta, Ohio, died March 24, 2015. He was a member of Parkersburg Baptist Temple (Parkersburg). He held a position as Senior Adult Ministry leader. One of his greatest joys was to cook and plan dinners for the seniors he loved so much.

CAROLE SUSAN (CLIFTON) GRANDAL, 77, died March 24, 2015. She was a member of South Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

SANDRA NEVADA ALLEN HANDLEY, 74, of South Charleston, died April 19, 2015. She attended American Baptist churches as well as River Ridge Church in Charleston. She was the wife of retired pastor, Robert Handley.

FREDA ANN COOK HARLESS, 71, of Oceana, died April 20, 2015. She was a member of Hanover Missionary Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where she was church pianist and choir director.

EREWANNA LAVON JEFFREY, 78, of Point Pleasant, died April 21, 2015. She was an active member of Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where she taught Sunday school and headed up the prayer ministry for many years.

JAMES CORNELL JONES, 93, of Scott Depot, died April 6, 2015. He was a longtime member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served at various times as deacon, trustee and Sunday school teacher. He had a heart and passion for missions and one of his fondest memories was a mission trip to Haiti to help build a church there. He served in the United States Army in the 32nd Infantry Division, serving in the South Pacific during World War II.

MARIE C. CLARKE LOSH, 89, of Claremont, California, died February 5, 2015. She was an American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary who served in the Philippines.

VIRGINIA LEE NEPTUNE, 101, of Parkersburg, died April 13, 2015. She was a member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg) since 1928. She had served as the first female moderator, serving from 1978-1980, 1991 and as president of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Continued on page 14 ...

... Continued from page 13

BEAURA RUSSELL "BUD" PAHL, 97, of Parkersburg, died March 31, 2015. He was a longtime member of Mount Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he served in many capacities, including deacon, trustee and usher. He was also on many boards. He was a veteran of the United States Army Air Force and served during World War II in Panama.

LARRY ALLAN PARKER, 80, of Walnut Creek, Ohio, died April 16, 2015. He was an American Baptist pastor, serving congregations in West Virginia and Ohio. He also graduated from the West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies. In retirement, he was a volunteer chaplain at Camden Clark Medical Center. He also served as the state chaplain of the Ohio Good Sam's RV Club.

GARLAND L. "BUZZ" REYNOLDS, 81, of Nitro, died March 6, 2015. He was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). He was an Army veteran of the Korean conflict.

BERKELEY C. SHILLING, 85, of Morgantown, died April 14, 2015. He was a member of Sabraton Baptist Church (Goshen), where he served as deacon, Sunday school teacher and choir member. He served in the United States Army in Alaska from 1947-1949.

MARIE (SMITH) SKINNER, 71, of Glenville, died March 10, 2015. She was a faithful member of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where she served as assistant Sunday school secretary.

BRADEN GREGORY STEVENS, 26, of Nitro, died April 5, 2015. He was a member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). He was the son of Tom and Debbie Stevens. Tom is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

JUNE MARIE GIDLEY THOMAS, 86, of Kingwood, died December 25, 2014. She was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen) and the American Baptist Women's Missionary Society.

PAULINE S. TOOTHMAN, 93, of Kingwood, died March 23, 2015. She was the oldest attending member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen), where she was a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries.

JANET LEMASTER TOTTEN, 73, of Delbarton, died March 28, 2015. She was a member of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo), where she was very active with youth and people in her church family. She also enjoyed singing in the church choir.

LAVADA PRICE VICKERS, 80, of Charleston, died April 23, 2015. She was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). During her years of service, she mentored at the Bob Burdette Center, taught Bible school, helped in the nursery and was a part of many other activities.

PATSY ELLEN WATKINS, 77, of Kingwood, died May 1, 2015. She was a longtime active member of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen), having served as Sunday school superintendent and deacon.

Page Baptist Church Collects Soup Cans for Association Food Pantry

by Nancy Wolfe
clerk, Page Baptist Church

Recently, the congregation of Page Baptist Church (Fayette) donated to the Fayette Plateau Ministerial Association Food Pantry. Each month, a different food item is collected - with one of the winter items being soup. Approximately 2,000 cans of soup were collected to benefit this community service project. The American Baptist Men will deliver the soup to the food pantry for distribution this month. We feel blessed to have young people who are interested in sharing the love of our Lord while serving others.



Page Baptist Church Jr. High Caravan Club kids put "Jesus Loves You" labels on soup cans.

Leadership Updates

REV. RICK BERGDOLL to Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern) as pastor on May 1, 2015

MR. GREG RAMEY to Crum Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) as pastor in March 2015

REV. LEWIS SANSON to Gentry Baptist Church (Fayette) as pastor on March 14, 2015

Trading Post

FREE: CHOIR ROBES. Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) has 32 robes in adult sizes and three cuffed robes for musicians. Robes are light gray/blue polyester with a satin blue yoke that velcro for a collar style robe. Robes also have the initials EB on the stole/yoke. Please contact Tamatha at the church office: 304.342.4988 from Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or come to the church at 1401 Washington Street West in Charleston to look at the robes.

WANTED: MAPS OF THE WORLD, UNITED STATES AND STATE FOR CAMP GLOBAL 2015. Please mail your map(s) to West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn: Joan Hall, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.

June 2015

JUNE 1 - Kurt Smalley, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Hungary
JUNE 2 - The ministry of Marshville Baptist Church; Scott Smith, pastor (Judson)
JUNE 3 - The ministry of Maysel Missionary Baptist Church (Elk Valley)
JUNE 4 - Patricia Magal, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand
JUNE 5 - American Baptist Women's Ministries' WOMEN AND GIRLS' Conference this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 6 - The ministry of Bethesda Baptist Church; B. David Cyphers, pastor (Fairmont)
JUNE 7 - The ministry of Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church; Bryan Pruett, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JUNE 8 - Phil Smith, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Brazil
JUNE 9 - Dilia Zelaya, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Honduras
JUNE 10 - Older Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 11 - Allen Burnsworth, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JUNE 12 - Younger Midler Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 13 - The ministry of Mount Union Baptist Church; Terry Blake, pastor (Guyandotte)
JUNE 14 - Junior I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 15 - Vital Pierre, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua
JUNE 16 - Greg O'Neal, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
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 - 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 - Junior High I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JUNE 22 - Robin Crouch, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JUNE 23 - The ministry of Williamstown First Baptist Church; Glenn Perry, pastor (Parkersburg)
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 - Peter McCurdy, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JUNE 28 - Brothers' Keeper happens this week at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JUNE 29 - Junior II Camp happens this week at Camp Cowen
JUNE 30 - Donald "Doc" Adkins, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission

July 2015

JULY 1 - Gerald Bissett, moderator, Eastern Association
JULY 2 - Tom Dale, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JULY 3 - The ministry of Saulsville Baptist Church; Michael Knotts, pastor (Rockcastle)
JULY 4 - Pray for our country that we will "humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways"
JULY 5 - High School I Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 6 - Ron George, Jr., member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JULY 7 - The ministry of Healing Stream Baptist Church; George Pauley, pastor (Coal River)
JULY 8 - Tim Rice, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
JULY 9 - The ministry of Ten Mile Baptist Church; Jeffrey Perine, pastor (Judson)
JULY 10 - The ministry of Swiss Missionary Baptist Church (Hopewell)
JULY 11 - Madeline Flores-Lopez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to the Dominican Republic
JULY 12 - Junior High II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 13 - James Saunders, clerk/treasurer, Logan-Mingo Association
JULY 14 - The ministry of Hope Baptist Church; Richard Demastus, pastor (Elk Valley)
JULY 15 - The ministry of Beaver First Baptist Church; Steve Gibson, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JULY 16 - Catherine Longkumer, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary
JULY 17 - The ministry of Barboursville Baptist Church; Ronald Burnsworth, interim pastor (Guyandotte)
JULY 18 - The ministry of Saint Albans First Baptist Church; Joel Harpold, pastor (Teays Valley)
JULY 19 - High School II Camp begins today at Camp Cowen
JULY 20 - The ministry of North Mill Creek Baptist Church; Bradley Thorne, pastor (Eastern)
JULY 21 - Gordon Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Japan
JULY 22 - Sharon Radabaugh, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
JULY 23 - The ministry of Bethany Baptist Church (Union)
JULY 24 - The ministry of Murphy's Creek Baptist Church; Wease Day, pastor (Broad Run)
JULY 25 - Ruth Mooney, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Costa Rica
JULY 26 - The ministry of North Fork Baptist Church; Darrell Farley, pastor (Harrisville)
JULY 27 - The ministry of Quiet Dell Baptist Church; Edward Carpenter, pastor (Fairmont)
JULY 28 - Clark Swepston, president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JULY 29 - The Rockcastle Association Annual Meeting happens tomorrow at Cook Memorial Baptist Church
JULY 30 - Rob Ely, director of Discipleship Ministries, Camping and Youth, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JULY 31 - Family Camp begins today at Camp Cowen

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

Coming Events

JUNE

June 5-7

American Baptist Women's Ministries' WOMEN AND GIRLS' Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 10-12

Older Midler Camp (grades 3-4)

Camp Cowen

June 12-14

Younger Midler Camp (grades 2-4)

Camp Cowen

June 13

School of Christian Studies Baptism and Communion (E-06) One-Day Class

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 14-20

Junior I Camp (grades 5-6)

Camp Cowen

June 18-20

Worship and Music Conference

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 21-27

Junior High I Camp (grades 7-9)

Camp Cowen

June 26-28

Mission Summit 2015

Overland Park, Kansas

June 28-July 3

Brothers' Keeper

Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 28-July 4

Junior II Camp (grades 5-6)

Camp Cowen

JULY

July 3

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,

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American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia

WOMEN AND GIRLS' Conference

June 5-7, 2015

Parchment Valley Conference Center

A Time to Serve and Thrive

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV

Inspirational Speaker and Bible Study Leader: Lisa Simmons

Worship Leaders: Marsha Raker and the Praise Team from Oakwood Baptist Church

A registration form is available in the April issue of SEASONS.

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