

# The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

February - March 2017

## Weirton Christian Center Celebrates 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY in 2017

**WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
**BUILD A BUILDING**  
**PROJECT**

The Weirton Christian Center is celebrating 100 years of ministry this year! We have been so blessed by our West Virginia Baptist family through all these years. And, as we plan for a new building to serve our children and families even better, you are playing a crucial role in bringing the vision to reality. Many of our churches are supporting the Build-A-Building Project financially and with your prayers. God is on the move in Weirton, West Virginia!

As of December 31, 2016, our West Virginia Baptist churches and members have given \$83,514 (includes donor bricks) of our total projected request of \$150,000. This leaves a balance of \$66,486. The American Baptist Women have reached their goal of \$12,000 for the new preschool. Foundations and trusts total \$190,000 and the One Great Hour of Sharing will provide \$30,000 for the construction of the kitchen, plus \$20,000 for equipment and \$10,000 for feeding expenses our first year in the building. Corporate, organizations and individual donations total \$11,520. Our matching grant from the Christian Fellowship Foundation will provide \$300,000 once the rest is collected. Also being covered is LED dimmable lighting and extra insulation for better energy efficiency and our sustainability. Based on receiving the projected funds from West Virginia Baptist churches, we are only \$73,480 away from being totally funded for the \$735,000 building project ... and there are grant possibilities. Our plan is to break

ground by May 2017 so we will not have to return any of the foundation dollars due to them not being spent within the year. Once in the new building, we will be equipped to apply for 21st Century Learning funding to cover personnel and program expenses as well as feeding funds through our USDA-approved kitchen. We cannot express enough appreciation for all those who have worked so hard to come up with ways for churches, women's

groups and individuals to help support this building project.

Our CHRISTmas celebration at the center was such a blessing to be a part of. Sharing the story of Jesus coming to earth to save us with our children, knowing they understand the true meaning of the day and can share this with their families made my celebration most meaningful. There were many churches, groups and individuals that helped us provide items for Christmas: shoeboxes for each child from Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg), t-shirts and ornaments from Beulah Baptist Church (Union), toys from Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont), the "sock" collection from the West Virginia Baptist Convention Children's Rally, coats from New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and hats and gloves from New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) and the Church of the Beatitudes in Florida. Our local Boy Scouts collected pajamas and slippers, a wonderful donor supplied pillow pets and Weirton Medical Center Home Health and Accounting Departments helped make Christmas special with gifts and financial donations. The Family Christian Bookstore in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania design-

ated the Weirton Christian Center as the recipient of their donate a Barnabas Bear to a child in need program, and we were expecting about 150 bears. But that store had the highest collection of donated bears in the nation: 360. They attribute it to the fact many people knew of our ministry and we promised to share any extras with the two geriatric centers our children visit. We were able to distribute all but around 50 bears before Christmas. There are so many friends of the center. I thought I should share a few of the smiles we saw during our celebrations. God bless you all for your generosity, continued prayers and ongoing support.



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.

by David L. Carrico, Executive Minister



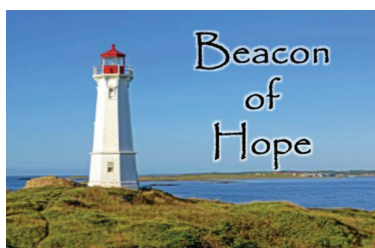
## There's an App for That!

The West Virginia Baptist Convention app is available for Android and Apple products. Download yours today!

Vol. LXXXIV, Issue 02 February-March 2017

## Table of Contents

Commentary: Post-Truth	2
Executive Committee Report/ West Virginia Baptist Convention Flood Relief Report	3
Bible Conference Coming to Parchment Valley Conference Center on March 25/Pastors4Pastors' Spring Event Begins March 23	4
Thinking Missions: Are You Listening?/ Road Trippin' for Discipleship Opportunities	5
Hispanic Ministries: How Far Should Love Reach? - ¿Hasta Dónde Debe Llegar El Amor?	6
Brothers' Keeper 2017	7
Parchment Valley Conference Center: Great Expectations for 2017/America for Christ Offering 2017	8
Take Root, Bear Fruit in 2017 at Camp Cowen/2017 Camp Cowen Schedule	9
American Baptist Men Annual National Prayer Breakfast/Join Us for Women's Camp 2017!	10
Southeast and Northwest Area News	11
Southwest and Northeast Area News	12
Senior High Convention 2017/Junior High Convention 2016 Service Project Focuses on Recovery Point	13
Obituaries: August 2016 - January 2017/ Leadership Updates/Trading Post	14
Prayer Calendars: February and March 2017	15
Coming Events: February - April/ 2017 Church Officers' Training	16



## Post-Truth



Dr. David Carrico

The Oxford Dictionary word of the year is **post-truth**. As if many of us were not confused enough, this concept comes into vogue. The dictionary defines **post-truth** as meaning that opinions, rather than being shaped by objective facts, are shaped more by personal opinions and emotions. This is really not a new concept. If facts are less important than emotions or personal beliefs, then we tend to reject any facts that might conflict with our personal beliefs. When **truth** is no longer reliable it then becomes the focus for debate. Many folks have nothing to do with religion because they feel its **truth** is not reliable, so they look for **truth** in other resources. Our society is drowning in information. With the advancement in technology and media sources, the amount of accessible information is overwhelming.

In the church, multiple sermons, conferences, seminars and Bible studies are all good. Yet, it seems some of us have sat and soaked in all this information so long we have soured because we have not acted on what we have learned. Worship has become a spectator-oriented event, having attachment without commitment. Many folks want to be included on the church roll without taking a role in the church. If we are invested in our churches, then we need to take care of our investments! We need to put into action what we have heard in worship, at conferences and in Bible studies.

A survey was conducted on church attendance with the question asked, "Why do young folks not attend worship?" Some of the responses were telling:

- *Worship services are boring.*
- *Worship services are too predictable.*
- *Worship services are irrelevant.*

Many times the same messages are preached, the same songs are sung and the same prayers are spoken. And

yet, there are those who find Jesus! There is no simple answer as to why many folks of all ages drop out of church. Could it be they are looking for **truth** in other places? Could it be they base their opinions of worship on emotions and personal opinion rather than objective facts (are they there to

worship God or to have a "feel-good" moment)? Has worship become a **post-truth**?

So how do we handle the anxiety caused by "tmi" (too much information) or **post-truth**? The beginning of our journey with Christ is a great place to start coping with our information anxiety. When we are saved we meet Jesus. Repentance is not just being sorry for our past, it is about change. The church is a community of believers with the purpose of transforming people into disciples of Christ, and empowering them to overcome anxiety by studying the word of God.

*Christian Counseling Today* (Vol. 21, No. 4) offers some concepts to get us started on overcoming the anxiety caused by the idea of **post-truth**.

- *Reject the idea of, "I think, therefore it is." We can be sure of what happened yesterday, but we cannot be certain of what will happen tomorrow.*

Proverbs 27:1

- *Learn to live in the now.* Matthew 6:34
- *Balance your decisions.* Proverbs 18:2
- *Think in a positive matter.*

Philippians 4:8

- *Response vs. reaction.* Proverbs 14:9
- *Declutter your life.* Proverbs 12:25
- *Practice peace.* Philippians 4:6-7
- *Focus less on what and more on who.* Jeremiah 29:11

As we move into the heart of a new year, may we seek to know Jesus who is **The Truth**, not the **post-truth** of our anxiety-filled society.

*Blessings*

# ***Executive Committee Report***

## ***Executive Committee Accepts Executive Minister Retirement Announcement***

**PARKERSBURG** - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in its January 6, 2017 meeting received a letter of pending retirement from Executive Minister, Dr. David Carrico. Dr. Carrico, in his letter to the President, notified the Committee of his intention to retire on the occasion of his 70th birthday, August 17, 2017 in compliance with the bylaws of the Convention.



*David Carrico, speaking at the 2016 Annual Meeting.*

"My retirement comes with deep appreciation for my years of service to the good Lord and the wonderful people of the West Virginia Baptist Convention," Carrico wrote. The Executive Committee received the letter with great appreciation for the 12 years of faithful leadership Dr. Carrico has provided.

Dr. Carrico leaves a legacy of mission. Under his leadership, the Convention has seen mission involvement grow as well as support for overseas missionaries. Dr. Carrico's passion for missions is undeniable. The first Hispanic Ministries' Strategist position was created and developed under his leadership.

The Executive Committee reported to the Executive Board their receipt of the letter. It also announced the search process for a new executive minister would begin soon. Convention President, Rev. Mark Wood, will chair the search committee in consultation with Dr. C. Jeff Woods, the Associate General Secretary for Regional Ministries, ABC-USA.

## ***Employment Opportunity Associate Director of Camping and Youth***

**PARKERSBURG** - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in conjunction with the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen Board is pleased to announce the creation of a new position: ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CAMPING AND YOUTH. This will be a full-time professional staff position beginning July 1, 2017.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelors Degree and/or a significant work history in camping ministries. Candidates must be mature Christians, a member of an American Baptist Church and hold appreciation for the unique values of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. They should demonstrate a vision driven work ethic and have skills in developing disciples of Jesus Christ.

The one hired for this position will be responsible for the daily operations at Camp Cowen; they will supervise the staff at Camp Cowen; they will manage the budgets and operations at Camp Cowen; and as the Associate Director of Youth they will coordinate state youth events and supervise the Youth Leader Core (YLC) and Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT). The full job description is available on the Convention website: [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).

This position reports directly to the Executive Minister of the Convention with supervision from the Director of Student Ministries. Housing is provided at the camp for the associate director and residency there is expected when there are activities at camp.

Resumes may be submitted confidentially by email to: [jennifer@wvbc.org](mailto:jennifer@wvbc.org). Deadline for consideration is March 15, 2017.

## ***West Virginia Baptist Convention Flood Relief Report***

A total of \$214,741.44 has been given for West Virginia flood relief. Funds were donated by individuals, churches, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware (ABCOPAD). Expenses totaled \$140,708.34, with \$74,033.10 remaining in the flood relief fund as of January 3, 2017.

Grants were provided for ten churches, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen, the Crouch House at Cowen and three businesses (for supplies), totaling \$111,374. The funds

were used for mattresses, heaters, rebuilding, washers and dryers, air conditioners, yard supplies, food and putting six families back in their homes.

The total expense for supplies was \$29,334.34. This included the following: two tractor-trailer loads of lime; 100 rakes; 20 fans; 25 push brooms; 47 dehumidifiers; and ten cases of Shock Wave disinfectant, sanitizer and cleaner. Reimbursement for delivery and tools was also included.



***Bible Conference Coming to Parchment Valley  
Conference Center on March 25***

A portrait of a man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly. A small, dark rectangular object is pinned to his left lapel. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage.

*Dr. Gerald Keown*

This year, we will be studying the book of Amos. Mark your calendar and plan to join us as we dig deeper into this fascinating Old Testament treasure. Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa and the classic country preacher, begins his beautiful book with the word of the Lord in a rhythmic denunciation of evil, "For three sins ... even for four, I will not relent." One by one, Israel's neighbors are admonished for their sins, until finally their turn comes in the list. Come and see what message the ancient prophet will bring for you and your people.

Due to popular demand, Dr. Gerald Keowan, professor of Old Testament and expert on biblical prophecy, will again be our instructor. Do not miss this great opportunity for learning and growth!

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., the event at 9:30 a.m. with lunch included and ends at 3:00 p.m.

***Bible Conference***  
***March 25, 2017 • Registration Form***

*COUPLES MAY USE THE SAME FORM.*

***Please complete the following:***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/Org.: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please check the appropriate box(es) below.***

  X   \$15.00 - Conference Registration Per Person (REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 - Conference Registration Second Person

\$25.00 - School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Credit

Apply credit to: \_\_\_\_\_ Two-Year General Studies or

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*Three-Year Congregational Transform.*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 - School of Christian Studies **ADVANCED Couple Credit**

Apply credit to: \_\_\_\_\_ Two-Year General Studies or \_\_\_\_\_

(First Person) \_\_\_\_\_ Three-Year Congregational Transform.

Apply credit to: \_\_\_\_\_ Two-Year General Studies or \_\_\_\_\_

(Second Person) \_\_\_\_\_ Three-Year Congregational Transform.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

**To provide adequate arrangements, registration must be post-marked and payment included by March 17, 2017.**

*Make checks payable to: West Virginia Baptist Convention. Please mail your form and check to: West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attn: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019.*

## *Pastors4Pastors' Spring Event Begins March 23*

The Pastors4Pastors: Ministers' Council Spring Event will take place March 23-24, 2017 at Parchment Valley Conference Center. The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. The featured speaker will be Dr. Gerald Keown who will be leading us in the book of Job.

This event is for pastors, pastoral staff and ministerial students. You will enjoy the camaraderie of colleagues in ministry as we study, eat, play and grow together in relationship with one another and with God.

Evening breakout sessions include Ed Rogers: leadership and David Hulme: ministers' choir. The following fellowship opportunities will be available: recreation tournaments, project for Parchment Valley, an evening ice cream social and a campfire program.

An initial cost of \$75.00 is currently being negotiated with discounts and scholarships for students and others. Additional information will be forthcoming.

by **John Simmons**, Associate Executive Minister  
Missions and Administration

## Are You Listening?

The call of Samuel is one familiar to many of us. How can we forget the story from Sunday School when the young boy, living in the temple, thought his master was calling for him after they had gone to bed. Upon hearing a voice calling his name, Samuel runs to Eli who had not called him. After the second interruption of his sleep, Eli realizes it is God's voice that Samuel is hearing - a very rare occurrence in those days. He tells Samuel to respond to the call of God by saying, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)

Upon hearing and obeying the call of God, Samuel's life was forever changed. God had not called Samuel to an easy task. His first test was to tell Eli - the man who had raised him from birth, the man who had instructed him in the ways of the Lord, the mentor he respected and loved, that God was bringing judgment upon his house. Samuel listened to God!

Juan and Denise Aragon heard the voice of God calling them to serve as missionaries in Chiapas, Mexico. Keith and Debbie Myers heard the call of God calling them to Africa, which upon further discernment was a call to Puebla, Mexico. J.D. and Rhonda Reed obeyed God in accepting a call to serve in Bolivia. These are just a few of the many to whom God is speaking.

I would argue God speaks to each of us. God has a mission for each of us. God desires for each of us to be engaged in God's mission in the world.

How you engage God's mission is different and unique to you - your gifts, your circumstances, your calling. We should not get so busy we fail to hear God's voice when God speaks. Each of us should take time each day in the quiet of the morning or evening to still our hearts and minds so we can hear God speak.

I believe the ministries of our churches would be greatly enhanced if the leadership were listening to God. I believe we would be a force for dynamic changes in our communities if we listened to God and followed God's direction for action. I believe we would have surplus resources for ministry if we each listened to God and allocated our money as God instructed.

Let it not be said of us as it was of Israel, "In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions." (1 Samuel 3:1) But let us quiet ourselves as Samuel did and say to the Lord, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

### ARE YOU LISTENING?

*Committed to Missions*

## Road Trippin' for Discipleship Opportunities

The Discipleship Ministries' Commission for the West



Virginia Baptist Convention is hard at work finishing the final details for the *Road Trippin' for Discipleship* events to be held around our state in 2017. Three sites are currently confirmed for the year. These are New Hope Baptist

Church (Parkersburg), Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and Sabraton Baptist Church (Goshen). Confirmed dates will be announced in the next *West Virginia Baptist* Newsletter.

Road Trippin' events will be customized to meet the needs of the area and will include several training and information sessions to choose from. These are events for every adult in the church, not just leaders. The event will include a light lunch at the site for the cost of \$6.00 per person. Pre-registration for the meal is a must. Registration forms will also be in the next *West Virginia Baptist* Newsletter and online at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).

Training and information modules will include:

- **Contagious Christianity** - Focusing on how to be a witness for Christ every day wherever you are, without a formal script to follow.
- **Supporting Families of Addicts** - How can the family of faith support and encourage family members

who are coping with members who are suffering from addiction?

- **Faith in the Workplace** - What is the place of faith at your place of employment? How can you be a missionary in the workplace? Can Monday be more than a "Moanday?"

- **Supporting and Connecting with Community Leaders** - What is the place of the church and its members in the community? How can the community of faith support and encourage community leaders?

- **Personal Spiritual Growth** - Ideas and suggestions for maturing in your spiritual growth. Going beyond just reading Bible verses each day.

- **Mentoring** - First steps for establishing a mentoring program within your church, American Baptist Women's Ministries, American Baptist Men's Fellowship or other small group.

- **Reaching out to Muslims in Your Community** - What are the best ways to begin a relationship with Muslims in the community? How can we best show Christ to them?

Watch for the dates of these events and bring a carload or two for a day of learning, sharing and fellowship. For more information, contact Lisa Simmons, director Discipleship Ministries, at [Lsimmons@wvbc.org](mailto:Lsimmons@wvbc.org).

## Hispanic Ministries: How Far Should Love Reach? - ¿Hasta Dónde Debe Llegar El Amor?

"Can you help me get to 'el Norte' (the North)?" was the brave request of a young man I met in Chiapas, Mexico. "El Norte" is what many in Mexico call the United States. The dire poverty in his village was an obvious reason for his desire to migrate to the United States.

I was dumbfounded by his upfront plea, but managed to ask, "Why do you want to go to the United States?" With a blend of sadness and hope, he said, "I was working in Cancun, but I made barely enough to pay my rent and buy my food. I couldn't help my family. I missed them so much I decided to come back. I know over there [in the United States] I'll make enough to help my family."

Certain that he had dreams, I probed deeper, "If money wasn't an issue, what would you do with your life?" His eyes got teary and his jaw started to tremble. I had struck a nerve. "I'd be a biologist," he responded. "There are many medicinal plants that could help a lot of people, yet we don't know how to use them."

Poverty, injustice and lack of opportunity shatter lives and dreams. This young man is only one of millions across the globe who see migration as their only hope in search of a better future. In our global interconnected neighborhood, every day we are flooded with an unceasing stream of news about the oppressive realities afflicting people everywhere: violence, injustice, poverty and disasters. It is in this context Christ calls and sends us to show grace and love to our neighbors - local and global.

Yet these tragedies, rather than passionately propelling us to share God's love may tend to numb us. After all, what can we do for the wounded and hurting people across the world? And does God really expect us to care for the needs of others?

In his famous parable, the Good Samaritan, Jesus offers some light. Luke says a religious expert raised a tricky question to draw from Jesus an answer suggesting that one could "inherit eternal life" while bypassing the law (Luke 10:25). But Jesus didn't take the bait; He threw the question back to him. In his answer, the lawyer quoted the great commandment (Luke 10:27). Jesus commended his answer and challenged him, "Do it and you will live." Attempting to justify himself, he pressed, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

For first century Israelites, a neighbor was a fellow Jew. So, the purpose of his question was in fact to make a clear distinction between who was and who was not a neighbor - who was within and without his reach of love. But Jesus didn't play his game, instead he outwitted him by telling a dramatic story with a surprising plot twist that would have scandalized the lawyer and those listening with him.

"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho ..." (Luke 10:30) Travelers passing through this 17-mile treacherous and dangerous route knew it was plagued with thieves hiding in the caves along the road. The man is stripped of his clothing, beaten and left half dead, cast off at the side of the road.

Fortunately, help was on the way. A priest and a Levite were going down the same road. But when presented with the opportunity to practice their faith, they chose to elude it (Luke 10:31-32). Perhaps they feared being prevented from performing their temple duties, which would have occurred should they have had contact with a dead man. If that is the case, such fear was baseless. Since they were "going down," we could assume they had already served their duties and were heading home.

Shocked by what they just heard, the original listeners wondered what would happen next. Jesus surprised them with an entirely unexpected hero: a half-breed, despised foreigner, a Samaritan. When the Samaritan saw the man, he had a gut-wrenching experience (Luke 10:33) and was moved to action: he went to him, bandaged him, poured oil and wine on his wounds, put him on his donkey, carried

him to the inn and took care of him. He generously provided, from his own money to make sure the man had a place to recover (Luke 10:34).

While the religious men avoided, the outcast saw, felt and served. Jesus shredded the lawyer's prejudiced, limited view of neighbor. Jesus called and challenged everyone listening to bestow the love and grace they had lavishly received to anyone anywhere. The needs in our world are so vast we surely run the risk to become unresponsive and impervious. But God, says Jesus, expects you and me to be proactive to break through ethnic, cultural and religious barriers to show His mercy to serve those in need across the street and across the world.

*May God continue to bless you!*



**Juan Aragon, (right) and his family will soon be American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society missionaries in El Chiapas, Mexico.**

*Photo by Clara Mullins*



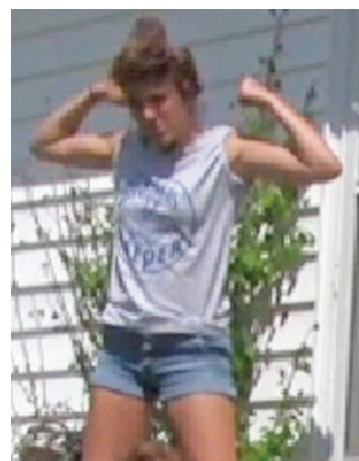
A ministry of the *Parchment Valley Conference Center* and established in 2000, **Brothers' Keeper** reaches out every year to the Jackson County community for mission projects, which youth groups from around West Virginia and surrounding states complete. Youth get a chance to serve, learn, grow and fellowship without having to worry about a passport. Multiple youth and project applicants accept Christ each year. Please help us continue to provide that opportunity!



*Reach out of your  
comfort zone,*



*get down,*



*muscle up*



*and share the  
love!*

# **BROTHERS' KEEPER 2017**

## **June 25-30**

*Now looking for:*  
**SPONSORS, YOUTH GROUPS,**  
**CREW CHIEFS AND PROJECTS**

To register, call 304.372.3675 or e-mail [conference@wvbc.org](mailto:conference@wvbc.org).

*The West Virginia Baptist/February-March 7*

# Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

## Great Expectations for 2017

With spring quickly approaching, Parchment Valley Conference Center has great expectations for an even better year in 2017. This is a time to rise and shine for Jesus.

Currently, we are remodeling the original conference room in the administration building (the barn), room four. We were blessed to receive a donation enabling us to paint the walls, remove the old air conditioning unit and install new carpet. We have also dismantled the apartment. On your next visit you will see fresh paint, tile, vanities and new carpet. God is so good.

As we cleaned out the apartment, my wife, Teresa, discovered a Bible in one of the closets. When we investigated who the owner was we discovered it belonged to a young lady in Winfield. She had mistakenly left her Bible here 25 years ago, when she was only eight-years-old. It was a blessing to read the words she had written inside the cover about her day of salvation. We located her and mailed her Bible back to her. Needless to say, she was overjoyed.

The Jackson County Health Department donated several bicycles for all sizes for guests to use to take in the grounds for free. Hiking the trails is also a fun thing to do. If you enjoy working outdoors, please contact us about a lifeguarding position at our pool this summer.

Our winter/spring calendar is filling up. Now is the time to call us and schedule your 2017 conference, camp or family event while space is still available.

In January, we will begin our new minutemen cooperative agriculture program. This program works in conjunction with the county, state and West Virginia University agriculture agencies, which will offer a detailed training curriculum and provide for farming opportunities. Those selected to participate will

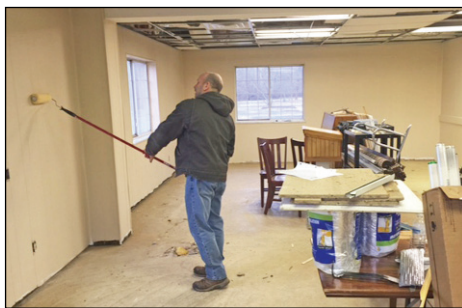
learn a new career and grow vegetables year round in high tunnels. The product sold is another step in promoting healthier lifestyles and provides a means of competitive income to those completing the four-year course.

What a privilege it is to lead such an incredible ministry here at Parchment Valley, surrounded by an outstanding crew of volunteers and dedicated staff. These folks never tire and always lend a hand to help others and offer words of encouragement that always brighten your day. We are thankful for our volunteers, customers

and staff who work together for the ministry of Parchment Valley - a place where lives are changed.

Most of all, thank you for your support, donations and involvement as we grow together, sharing the gospel message to the world, for His glory.

*Be blessed in the Lord*



**Nelson Fisher, of the Parchment Valley maintenance staff, paints the walls of room 4 in the administration building (the barn).**

**AMERICA  
FOR CHRIST  
OFFERING  
2017**

*Your America For Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.*

[www.abhms.org](http://www.abhms.org)

*The America for Christ Offering is received during the month of March. Materials should arrive at your church by February 1, 2017.*



**State Goal: \$120,000**

**1/3 of this offering stays in West Virginia for the ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.**

*Thank you for your faithful mission support in 2016.  
The year end total collected was \$2,711,090.00.*

**CULTIVATING  
LEADERS**  
EQUIPPING  
DISCIPLES  
HEALING  
COMMUNITIES  
**Luke 4:18-19**



## Take Root, Bear Fruit in 2017 at Camp Cowen

Have you ever bitten into a berry with the expectation of a sweet burst of flavor only to instantaneously respond with the pucker that accompanies tart fruits? What a disappointment! The odd reality is the similarity in how the tart fruit looks in comparison to the sweet fruit. Sometimes, the only way to tell the ripeness or goodness of a berry is to pop it in your mouth. It is uncanny how similar mankind is to the berry-eating process. A person can appear strong and healthy on the outside. Once thoughts are shared, however, the true flavor of the heart becomes known. For the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen, the mission statement of it being a place **“where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith”** is more than just a catchphrase. Camp Cowen is a place where the tartness of the world is shed for the sweetness of Christ.

The 2017 camp season theme, *“Take Root, Bear Fruit”* focuses on Colossians 2:6-7:

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Bearing the fruit of Christ is purely dependent on the way one knows Jesus and is disciplined in their relationship with Him. The 2017 camping season is encouraging the discipleship of campers in their relationships with Christ so they may be rooted in the gospel to bear fruit of truth in a world that doesn't understand it.

One of the great ways for campers to understand what the fruit of Christ looks like is through examples set before them. The rapid rebuilding of the Crouch House at camp is one such example. The house, which was destroyed in the 2016 flooding, has been quickly rebuilt in the month of December. Now that the structure is in place, the focus can be turned toward the electrical and plumbing work on the inside. While there is still plenty of work to be done, the new house will be ready for the 2017 camping season. The fruit of the relationships many people in the West Virginia Baptist Convention have with Christ is pouring into this ministry for youth and children to be disciplined into a relationship with Him also.

As the 2017 camping season approaches, please pray about how you can be involved in this ministry where young campers can learn to take root in Christ in order to bear His good fruit.



*The Crouch House was quickly rebuilt in the month of December.*

### 2017 SCHEDULE



WOMEN'S CAMP	March 31- April 2
OLDER MIDLER (grades 3-4)	June 4-7
YOUNGER MIDLER (grades 2-4)	June 9-11
JUNIOR 1 (grades 5-6)	June 11-17
JUNIOR HIGH 1 (grades 7-9)	June 18-24
JUNIOR 2 (grades 5-6)	June 25-July 1
HIGH SCHOOL 1 (grades 9-high school grads)	July 2-8
JUNIOR HIGH 2 (grades 7-9)	July 9-15
SENIOR DAY (2017 high school grads)	July 15
HIGH SCHOOL 2 (grades 9-high school grads)	July 16-22
FAMILY CAMP	July 28-31
AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN AND BOYS' CAMP	August 4-6
CAMP GLOBAL	August 11-13



All registration forms are available by calling Jennifer at the West Virginia Baptist Convention office at 304.422.6449. You may download any of the registration forms at [www.campcowen.org](http://www.campcowen.org). Don't forget to print a health form for each individual attending.

The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen camping program is sponsored by the West Virginia Baptist Convention and is conducted at 276 Baptist Camp Road, Cowen, West Virginia 26206.

**American Baptist Men of West Virginia**  
**Annual National Prayer Breakfast**  
**February 25, 2017**



Locations throughout our state are now being sought for this very important day in the American Baptist Men's ministry year. This is a time for our West Virginia Baptist Convention men to gather together for concentrated prayer and biblical teaching in conjunction with a fellowship breakfast.

If your church is already planning to host a prayer breakfast on February 25 or if your church would be interested in hosting a prayer breakfast on that date, please complete and mail the registration at right.

Your location will be added to our list to provide contact information to those who are seeking to participate in this event. The reported sites will be posted to our website and publicized via e-mail.

If you desire, you can be contacted with information and provided assistance with speakers and materials. Please visit [www.wvbc.org/partners/WVBC Auxiliaries](http://www.wvbc.org/partners/WVBC_Auxiliaries) for location information and to download the prayer guide. For more information, contact Frank Miller at 800.489.8564 or [miller@wvbc.org](mailto:miller@wvbc.org).

**American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast**  
**Saturday, February 25, 2017**  
**Yes, my church will be hosting a**  
**prayer breakfast on this date.**

**Church Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Association:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to Frank Miller, AB Men of WV Prayer Breakfast Coordinator, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

*Cut on this line and return top portion.*

*Return bottom portion with your offering.*

**American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast**  
**Attendance Report/Offering Slip**

**Church Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Association:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Number of Men in Attendance:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Amount of Offering:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Offerings received have been designated to support the Pastors' Emergency Fund.**

Return this form to Frank Miller, AB Men of WV Prayer Breakfast Coordinator, 1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV 25271.

**Join us for Women's Camp 2017!**

We would love to have women 18 years and older join us for Women's Camp 2017 at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. There will be fun for all ages including a snack and book swap, craft night, special interest groups with offerings including fitness, hand lettering, budgeting, etiquette, hospitality and more.

The planning team is working this year to incorporate a special Women in Missions session, featuring ladies who have served in missionary roles near and far.

The theme verses are from 2 Timothy 3:14-17, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

The featured speaker will be Leigh Ellen Eades. She is a writer and speaker on a mission to tell Jesus' story. She is pas-

sionate about her family, treasures coffee with friends and relishes quiet moments reading a book. She has been married to her college sweetheart, Jason, for 14 years. Together they are raising one full-of-life little boy.

Also speaking is Sandra Lutz. Sandra is passionate about teaching God's word and women's ministries. She is a retired teacher and currently serves as the coordinator of Mission and Service for the West Virginia State Board of American Baptist Women's Ministries. She and her husband, Jim, currently serve at Hamlin First Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he is the interim pastor. Sandra enjoys reading, traveling and running and caring for her twin "grandblessings," Jaxon and Evan.

We pray you join us for the journey that Women's Camp 2017 will be as we continue to learn from scripture how to live as women of the word in this world.

The registration form is available at [www.wvbc.org/partners/WVBC Auxiliaries](http://www.wvbc.org/partners/WVBC_Auxiliaries) or by contacting Tracie at [temerick@wvbc.org](mailto:temerick@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449.

## ***Send the Light Fellowship Assists in Flood Relief***

While everyone is aware of the terrible damage and loss of lives during the June flood in many of our small towns in the Southern part of the state, rural regions also suffered, as was the case in Northern Greenbrier County.

Send the Light Fellowship (Greenbrier-Raleigh), a home church with a grant from the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and in cooperation with Mennonite Disaster Relief are removing tons of rock and debris and reseeding the yard of a home on the Buckeye Road north of Frankford. The resident of the home, a widow, expressed her thanks and appreciation to Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention and pastor of Send the Light Fellowship for the work that has occurred and for work that will happen in the spring of 2017.



*This home had rock and debris removed and the front yard reseeded.*

## ***Parkersburg Baptist Association Holding Prayer Meetings***

One of the most common questions we receive at the Parkersburg Association concerns ideas for things associations can do together. It is hard to think of an activity more biblical, productive and doable than prayer. In 2016, the Parkersburg Association began to hold regular quarterly prayer meetings. Listen to a word from the heart of Rev. Bill Law, pastor, Union Valley Baptist Church (Parkersburg) concerning this while you contemplate something similar in your area.

With everything that has been going on in the country over the last couple years, those in the Parkersburg Association decided to try having some prayer meetings for the entire association. Meetings were held quarterly in 2016 at various churches. The main purpose was prayer. The format is simple: a brief welcome, followed by God's children praying to the Heavenly Father. A bond quickly developed with the brothers and sisters from other churches as everyone gathered praying for the lost, fallen, sick, military, government leaders and Christ's church! Those attending found an important bonding with one another as they gathered as parts of the larger body of Christ.

## ***Hopewell Baptist Association Approves Two for Ordination***

On Sunday, December 4th, in what was believed to be a first time occurrence, the Hopewell Baptist Association Ordination Council met at Mount Urim Baptist Church (Hopewell) to question two men for ordination.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention was elected as moderator and Allan Donaldson, pastor, Sunday Road Baptist Church (Hopewell), was elected to lead the questioning.

First to be questioned was Brad Starcher, licensed by Mount Urim Baptist Church to preach the word. Brad is also the youth coordinator for the Hopewell Association. After a thorough examination, Brad was unanimously approved to have his church proceed with ordination.

Second to be questioned was David Bush, pastor, Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell), who earlier in his life was licensed to preach by Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette). Again, after a thorough examination, David was unanimously approved for his church to proceed with ordination. That service has been set for Sunday, January 15th, 2017 at 6 p.m. at Rainelle First Baptist Church.

Jim had both men bring their wives forward for introduction. A fellowship reception followed and was enjoyed by all.

# Northwest Area News

It is amazing how strong the Spirit of our Lord has been present in those prayer meetings! The praying is silent, but there are always tears being shared. There is an awesome feeling of the Holy God touching His children binding them together as He listens. In fact, it was decided at the last meeting the association would try and continue this in 2017, and attempt it on a monthly basis.

Meetings will be on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. and will end sharply at 10:00 a.m. Churches hosting will be as follows:

- January 7      New Hope Baptist Church
- February 18      Sunrise Baptist Church
- March 18      Parkersburg Baptist Temple
- April 22      Zion Baptist Church
- May 20      Union Valley Baptist Church.

The hope is to have other churches volunteer to host some of the meetings for the remainder of the year. Other dates will be decided on as spring approaches. If any of the sister churches in the Parkersburg Association would like to host or attend, please feel free to contact Bill Law at Union Valley Baptist Church at 304.428.6773 for additional information.



**Max Hill**, Southwest Area Minister

## ***Big Hurricane Missionary Dedicates New Sanctuary and Celebrates 147 Years***

On December 4, 2016, Big Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole) dedicated their new 6,900 square foot sanctuary. It also marked the 147th anniversary as it was established on December 4, 1869. Approximately 150 were in attendance. Mike Workman opened in prayer, followed by Marc Workman with announcements and introductions. Charlie Workman gave a history of the church, followed by former pastor, Mike Carter and West Virginia Baptist Convention Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Administration, John Simmons. Assistant pastor, Randy Ratcliffe spoke and church pastor, Tony Perry delivered the dedication sermon. Nerissa Young was also in attendance, who donated the piano played by Darla Napier. *Kings Seven* sang great and Calvin Plummer gave the dedicatory and closing prayer. A reception was given by the ladies of the church following the service.



## ***Man First Holds Annual Christmas Dinner***

One of the favorite times of the year at Man First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo) is their annual Christmas dinner. This year's celebration was held December 11th in the fellowship hall. Rev. Clyde Robertson, pastor of the church, and his wife, Phyllis, hosted a joyful time of fellowship and feasting. West Virginia Baptist Convention Southwest Area Minister, Dr. Max Hill was the church's special guest for the occasion. The church enjoyed an exciting year of ministry in 2016 and is looking forward to a productive new year.



***Clyde Robertson, right, talks with attendees of the annual Christmas dinner.***

## **Northwest Area News**

**David Hulme**, Northwest Area Minister

### ***The Baptist Afterschool Special Still Going Strong After 40 Years***

*by Larry Harker*

Do you remember your school days? When the last bell of the day rang you were seeking a place to go with friends and lots of food. Kids haven't changed. They are still looking for a place to hang out, spend time with friends and good food. Add Christianity to the mix and you have the perfect recipe for a successful afterschool program.

A small church in northern Marion county has enjoyed the fruits of a weekday Christian education ministry for youth and their families for 34 years! Saint Paul Baptist Church (Fairmont) holds a Wednesday afternoon and evening program for kids ages preschool through senior high, plus adults. Many kids are second and third-generation participants.

The name of the ministry is the Baptist Afterschool Special. Larry Harker, pastor of Saint Paul Baptist Church, explains: "During my time as pastor of Logan First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo) from 1975-82, our daughters ran home from school every Wednesday to watch a new television show called the ABC Afterschool Special (1976). Before watching, they and their new friends raided the kitchen refrigerator. 'Why can't the church do this?' I thought, only with a Christian emphasis. And so with the help and support of the congregation, we launched a new youth ministry I call the Baptist Afterschool

Special (BASS). BASS was the popular name and it became an instant success. Space is limited in downtown Logan, so we played football in the streets, walked to the local bowling alley owned by a member who helped to start a bowling league. We also sponsored church basketball and softball teams. The highlight of the year was a spiritual growth retreat at Parchment Valley Conference Center in May."

When I returned to my home town of Fairview as pastor of Saint Paul Baptist in 1982, I wanted to try BASS, but was uncertain. Would it work? It not only did, but after 34 years it is still attracting kids. It is difficult to measure how many people have been introduced to Christ and the local church through the Ministry of BASS, but I know one thing: It has kept our church young. The last time we took a survey the average age of our congregation was 39. I believe it is even younger now.

We welcome news from other churches about afterschool ministries or if you would like more information, contact me at [ljharker@ma.rr.com](mailto:ljharker@ma.rr.com) or call 304.449.1306 or 304.366.2448.

## ***New Life Ministries Celebrates Note Burning***

New Life Ministries (Fairmont) celebrated a note burning on December 18, 2016. Participating in the service were pastors Charles and Sheila Chipps; David Carrico, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention; John Simmons, Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention; and David Hulme, Northwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention. The church also presented the convention with a very generous gift of \$10,000 as a thank you for its assistance.

# Senior High Convention

**February 24-26, 2017**  
**South Parkersburg Baptist Church**

*Theme: Dead I, New I, Ask Why*

*"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20*

**Cost: \$35.00, including adults, if postmarked by February 17, 2017.**

**\$45.00, after February 17 or at the door.**

*(Money must accompany registration for early bird fee.)*

**Housing Deadline: February 17**

**SPEAKER: Eric Samuel Timm - Orator. Author. Artist. Visionary.**

**BAND: Jason Lovins Band**

Registration forms are available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or by contacting Jennifer at 304.422.6449 or [jennifer@wvbc.org](mailto:jennifer@wvbc.org).

*The experience was truly amazing. In every moment, I felt fulfilled by the Spirit as nearly 60,000 other people praised the name of Jesus Christ. Physically, it was exhausting; spiritually, it was a call to awaken that could almost never be refused. In worship, I couldn't help but lose my voice as we lifted the name of our Lord. In teaching, it was sound; we were able to learn from many great speakers, giving us a new perspective on lessons of old. They were filled with truth and spiritually stirring. All in all, I was refreshed. I felt truly passionate for Christ.*

*James Clayton Curry, Marshall University Student and attendee at Passion Conference 2017*

## **Junior High Convention 2016 Service Project Focuses on Recovery Point**

The students at Junior High Convention 2016 utilized part of their time together in a unique and beautiful service project. With the drug epidemic in our culture standing as a painful reminder of the vast arm's length at which our culture holds God, the students worked on care packages for men who are focusing on shortening that length. *Recovery Point* is a detox and drug rehabilitation program that addresses this epidemic. A free program for participants, *Recovery Point* currently serves 108 men, guiding them through the 12-step Alcoholics Anonymous program. As a service of support to the men travelling through this journey, the students from Junior High Convention worked together to build care packages for each man involved in the program. Care packages included items like socks, soap, deodorant and personalized letters from students. This project was two-fold in nature. Because of the epidemic in the current culture, the students on the Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) not only wanted to support the work at *Recovery Point*, but they also wanted to discourage the growth of the epidemic by utilizing the stories of men who had been caught up in it. Under the leadership of YMPT member, Josh Eastman, five members of *Recovery Point* were interviewed as part of the educational portion of the project. Those interviews were then shared with the convention attendees as a personal form of

discouragement from the addiction lifestyle. Below is a portion of an article written by Josh about the project.

"Junior High Convention came and went with successful care-package packing. One student at the convention even sought me out and told me a cousin of hers was actually a client at *Recovery Point* right now. She addressed her care package and wrote notes directly to him. I thought that was pretty awesome.

My hope is hearing these men's stories and serving them through the care packages will also open the eyes of at least one student. If one student is nudged away from drug experimentation by the video or care-packages, it will have been a success. But, regardless, *Recovery Point* received 108 fully packed care packages - one for every man in the program. Beyond this, we donated the offering taken at Junior High Convention to *Recovery Point*, a total of \$373.13. And above it all, the glory was and is the Lord's, for the work He does at *Recovery Point*, through Youth Ministry Planning Team and in the hearts of West Virginia Baptist Convention youth. In all things, all glory and honor to Jesus Christ forever and ever, amen."

**FRANCES S. BALL**, 91, of Parkersburg, died November 2, 2016. She was a member of North Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 40 years and was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for over 15 years, where she taught Sunday School.

**VELMA "JEAN" COBB CARNES**, 84, of Charleston, died December 16, 2016. She was a member of Starcher Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) since 1969, where she was a deaconess, Sunday School teacher and choir member.

**HAZEL MARIE CAVENDER**, 97, of Charleston, died December 27, 2016. She was a longtime member of Starcher Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). She sang in the choir, served as a deaconess and a trustee.

**KATHERINE DAMRON CUMMINGS**, 98, died December 5, 2016. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

**KENNETH RAY CUMMINGS**, 86, of Hamlin, died, January 1, 2017. He was a member of Hamlin First Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he served as a deacon and chairman of the official board.

**MAXIE L. FERGUSON**, 99, of Belle, died November 17, 2016. He was a 60-plus year member of Judson Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he also served as a deacon.

**CLARA LELIA "LEE" GIVEN**, 97, of Clover Lick, died December 2, 2016. She was an active member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and later, a member of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh).

**JOHN DENNIS HAMRIC, SR.**, age 85, of Clarksburg, died November 11, 2016. He was a longstanding member of Reynoldsville Baptist Church (Judson). He enjoyed going to Judson Association Baptist Church camp each year, where he would help with various duties.

**JIMMY F. HESS**, 90, of Clendenin, died November 15, 2016. He was a member of Clendenin First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for over 60 years.

**JOANNA MONTGOMERY HODGES**, 93, of Jupiter, Florida, died November 7, 2016. She was an American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) and American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) alumna.

**JEANETTE ELAINE FINCH KNOX**, 71, of Parkersburg, died December 19, 2016. She was a member of New England Ridge Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she sang in the choir and helped at Vacation Bible School.

**BILL R. MARTIN**, 75, of Sistersville, died November 24, 2016. He was a member of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle). He previously taught Sunday School, was a trustee and youth leader at Sistersville First Baptist Church (Panhandle).

**AUDREY FAYE MCCLURE**, 86, of Yawkey, died August 30, 2016. She was a member of Yawkey Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River), where she had served as treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

**CHARLES H. MULLEN**, 85, of Harrisville, died December 30, 2016. He was a member of Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville). He was an American Baptist minister in Smithville, Auburn, Troy and Rock Grove. Charles and his wife, Marie, served as independent missionaries in South Korea for 10 years, and later founded the Fall Run Community Church and a campground ministry in Silver Springs, Florida. Prior to answering his call to ministry, he had been active in Gideons International, travelling throughout the state presenting the need for Bibles to be distributed all over the world as well as serving as state treasurer.

**RENNA POLING**, 71, of Buckhannon, died December 26, 2016. She was a member of Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run).

**FRANK G. TUTWILER, II**, 88, of Augusta, died November 3, 2016. He was a faithful, devoted member of Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern), where he had been a deacon and Sunday School superintendent as well as serving as a trustee since 1994.

**THOMAS ALLEN WHALEY**, 84, of Sand Fork, died November 12, 2016. He was a member of the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, director of the Southern Mission Project and the Man Christian Center. While working on the staff, he served as coordinator for flood recovery in the 1972 Buffalo Creek disaster in Logan County and the 1977 flood in Mingo and McDowell Counties. Part of his work with the convention involved setting up and conducting Vacation Bible Schools, Sunday Schools and other educational programs within a six-county area. He pioneered Christian service type ministry by providing assistance in emergency and crisis situations. At the Man Christian Center, he supervised distribution of food, clothing and bedding to the needy, provided counseling, taught Bible and other classes including giving karate lessons.

**EARL HUBERT "POPPY" WHITESIDE**, 84, of Gauley Bridge, died, December 11, 2016. He was a member of Gauley Bridge Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), Ammiel Sunday School Class and the church choir.

### Leadership Updates

**REV. JAMES A. HAMRICK** to Maysel Missionary Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as pastor on December 4, 2016

**MR. DAN HARDESTY** to Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen) as pastor on October 9, 2016

**MR. RODNEY KITTLE** to Bridgeport Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on December 18, 2016

**DR. JAMES M. LEONARD** to Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen) as pastor on September 1, 2016

### Trading Post

**FREE: SEVEN OAK PEWS.**

Please call Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley) at 304.757.9110.



## February

**FEBRUARY 1** - Colleen Folger, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**FEBRUARY 2** - Roger Sites, treasurer, Eastern Association  
**FEBRUARY 3** - The ministry of Mount Hope Baptist Temple; Jim Ash, pastor (Fayette)  
**FEBRUARY 4** - Church Officers' Training today at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**FEBRUARY 5** - The ministry of Morrisvale Baptist Church; David Cook, pastor (Coal River)  
**FEBRUARY 6** - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; Roland Ramsey, pastor (Elk Valley)  
**FEBRUARY 7** - The ministry of Lubeck Community Baptist Church; Mark Houser, pastor (Parkersburg)  
**FEBRUARY 8** - The ministry of Hurricane Baptist Church; Jason Robbins, pastor (Good Hope)  
**FEBRUARY 9** - Isabelle Damasceno, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to the United Kingdom  
**FEBRUARY 10** - Joani Brohard, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**FEBRUARY 11** - The ministry of Indian Fork Baptist Church; William Coffindaffer and Daniel Fisher, co-pastors (Broad Run)  
**FEBRUARY 12** - The ministry of Charleston First Baptist Church; Paul Dunn, pastor (Kanawha Valley)  
**FEBRUARY 13** - The ministry of Burnsville First Baptist Church; Tony Conrad, pastor (Little Kanawha)  
**FEBRUARY 14** - The ministry of West Warren Baptist Church; Bob Scharnhorst, pastor (Fairmont)  
**FEBRUARY 15** - The ministry of Kingwood Baptist Church (Goshen)  
**FEBRUARY 16** - Tan Coats, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand  
**FEBRUARY 17** - Nancy James, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Haiti  
**FEBRUARY 18** - The ministry of Fairview Baptist Church; Warren Eades, pastor (Hopewell)  
**FEBRUARY 19** - Judy Akers, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**FEBRUARY 20** - The ministry of Scott Street Baptist Church; Garry Moore, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)  
**FEBRUARY 21** - The ministry of Poca Baptist Church; Thomas Moore, pastor (Teays Valley)  
**FEBRUARY 22** - Richard Wood, vice moderator, Greenbrier-Raleigh Association  
**FEBRUARY 23** - The ministry of Bethlehem Baptist Church (Judson)  
**FEBRUARY 24** - Senior High Convention this weekend at South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg)  
**FEBRUARY 25** - Boyden Myers, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Mexico  
**FEBRUARY 26** - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Gary Crislip, pastor (Eastern)  
**FEBRUARY 27** - Rebecca Mann, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand  
**FEBRUARY 28** - Bill Brown, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg)  
**FEBRUARY 29** - Barbara Bolick, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Chile

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

## March

**MARCH 1** - Emerson Wu, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to East Asia  
**MARCH 2** - Annie Dieselberg, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Thailand  
**MARCH 3** - David Parajon, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Nicaragua  
**MARCH 4** - Nora E. Kalkman, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to the Czech Republic  
**MARCH 5** - Matthew Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Japan  
**MARCH 6** - Jeannie Bess, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**MARCH 7** - The ministry of Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont)  
**MARCH 8** - Danny Mitchell, moderator, Logan-Mingo Association, pastor, Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo)  
**MARCH 9** - The ministry of Huntington Baptist Temple; Andy Magnusson, pastor (Guyandotte)  
**MARCH 10** - Nathan Reed, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Bolivia  
**MARCH 11** - Joan Hall, assistant for Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**MARCH 12** - The ministry of Faith Baptist Tabernacle; Timothy Scaggs, pastor (Elk Valley)  
**MARCH 13** - The ministry of Gauley Bridge Baptist Church; Jason Skaggs, pastor (Kanawha Valley)  
**MARCH 14** - Jim Anderson, Southeast area minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**MARCH 15** - The ministry of Dallas Pike Baptist Church; Ben Nobile, pastor (Panhandle)  
**MARCH 16** - Dana Gatewood, President, West Virginia Baptist Convention Education Society; member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell)  
**MARCH 17** - Miki Hwang, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) (youth) to Japan  
**MARCH 18** - Tim Long, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to Mexico  
**MARCH 19** - Richard Gutierrez, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary to South Africa  
**MARCH 20** - The ministry of Simpson Creek Baptist Church; C. Michael Hopkins, pastor (Union)  
**MARCH 21** - Steve McCartney, Site Maintenance manager, West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen  
**MARCH 22** - The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Spencer Oxford, pastor (Rockcastle)  
**MARCH 23** - Valerie Gittings, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission, pastor, Fairmont First Baptist Church (Fairmont)  
**MARCH 24** - Donna Snyder, assistant for Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**MARCH 25** - The ministry of Pond Creek Baptist Church; Lester Morgan, pastor (Parkersburg)  
**MARCH 26** - Ruth Stanton, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society (ABFMS) missionary (youth) to Hungary  
**MARCH 27** - The ministry of Weston First Baptist Church; Kenneth Miller, pastor (Broad Run)  
**MARCH 28** - Jim Daniels, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**MARCH 29** - The ministry of Olive Branch Baptist Church (Hopewell)  
**MARCH 30** - The ministry of Reynoldsville Baptist Church; Jon Hayes, pastor (Judson)  
**MARCH 31** - Women's Camp this weekend at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen

# Coming Events

## FEBRUARY 2017

### February 4

Church Officers' Training  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### February 20

President's Day Holiday  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

### February 21

School of Christian Studies Theology II  
(T-02) Six-Week Class Begins  
Various Locations

### February 24-26

Senior High Convention  
South Parkersburg Baptist Church

### February 25

American Baptist Men's Prayer  
Breakfasts  
Various Locations

## MARCH

### March 7

MMBB Retirement Seminar  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### March 11

Spring Children's Rally  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### March 23-24

Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers'  
Council Event  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### March 25

Bible Conference - The Book of Amos  
with Dr. Gerald Keown  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### March 27-29

Interim Ministry Training  
Parchment Valley

### March 31 - April 2

Women's Camp  
Camp Cowen

## APRIL

### April 8

School of Christian Studies Hospital  
Ministry (E-04) One-Day Class  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

### April 14

Good Friday Holiday  
West Virginia Baptist Convention  
Office CLOSED

### April 22

Omega  
Genesis Fellowship

## West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102;  
304.422.6449. US Postage Paid at  
Parkersburg, West Virginia.

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**Layout:** Mrs. Donna Snyder

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

## 2017 Church Officers' Training Event

**February 4**  
**Parchment Valley Conference Center**

*The cost will be \$25 per person for the day.  
If you bring eight from the same church, the next  
two registrations are at no cost.*

*Each participant will select one workshop for the  
morning session and one for the afternoon session.*

### Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Registration - Hill Hall
9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Worship - Hill Hall
10:15 - 11:45 a.m.	Workshop Session #1
12:00 Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - The Barn or Greenlee
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session #2
2:30 p.m.	Head home

*The registration deadline has passed.*

*All registrations are now \$25.00 and lunch is not included.*

The following workshops are being offered: American Baptist Women's Ministries - Women's Leadership Academy; Inclusion - Part I and II; Associational Leadership; Children; Church Security; Clerks; Deacons; Discipleship (two different workshops); Exploring a Call; Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and Finance Committees; Missions (two different workshops); Pastoral Relations Committee; SCS ADVANCED Personal Transformation (Part I and II); Senior Adults; Technology; Trustees; Worship and Music; Young Adults and Youth.

*For more information and a registration form,  
please visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or call Donna at 304.422.6449.*

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