

# The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

August-September 2018

## Dr. Mike Sisson Installed as Executive Minister

**GASSAWAY** - The churches of the West Virginia Baptist



*Dr. Lee Spitzer (l) congratulates Dr. Mike Sisson on his installation as Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.*

Convention gathered at Gassaway Baptist Church (Elk Valley) on July 14, 2018 to install Dr. Mike Sisson as its Executive Minister. The service was emceed by Rev. Mark Wood, Immediate Past President of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and chair of the Search Committee that called Dr. Sisson.

Host Pastor Rev. Mark Stump welcomed everyone to the church and had the opening prayer.

The service of installation was led by Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches, USA. Dr. Spitzer focused his remarks on Acts 14, which demonstrated the regional work of Paul and how it was the model for regional executive ministry. Executive Ministers are called to authentic spiritual ministry - to preach, shepherd, disciple, encourage and to help maintain the truth of the gospel. Spitzer went on to say an Executive Minister must: 1. Remain a pastor at heart, 2. Be prophetic in holding God's people accountable and 3. Be apostolic in calling churches to be faithful to fulfill the Great Commission.

Dr. Sisson shared in his response his desire to serve and his passion for helping churches reach the lost for Christ. Dr. Sisson pledged to listen to God as he asked for the prayers of the people so together we can advance the kingdom of God. "We stand on the precipice of a great movement of God!" he said. "Pray! Dream! Expect to see God at work!"

Ginny Prunty coordinated the reception that followed the service with the assistance of the hospitality team from Gassaway Baptist Church.

Special guests included: Dr. David Bronkema, Interim Dean of Palmer Seminary; Rev. Jim Bell, International Ministries; Dr. Jeff Allen, Executive Director of the West Virginia Council of Churches; Past Executive Ministers, Dr. Lloyd Hamblin, Dr. David Carrico and Dr. Mike Stephens; Convention Staff; and a host of friends.

Dr. Sisson began his tenure as Executive Minister on April 1, 2018, having served previously as Senior Pastor of the

Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) and Sutton Baptist Church (Elk Valley). Dr. Sisson has served as an Adjunct Professor for Palmer Theological Seminary in both their Masters and Doctoral programs.

## Koreen Villers to Lead Discipleship Ministries

**RIPLEY** - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention unanimously approved the recommendation from Executive Minister, Dr. Mike Sisson to call Koreen Villers to serve as the Director of Discipleship Ministries upon the retirement of Lisa Simmons who has served in that role since 2002. Villers will take over for Simmons on January 1, 2019.



*Mrs. Koreen Villers*

Villers has served part-time as the director of Children's Ministries and Special Events for the Convention and will continue to fulfill those roles as a part of her new full-time portfolio.

As the Director of Discipleship Ministries, Villers will staff the Commission on Christian Discipleship, equip churches in the area of discipleship, plan special events for the Convention and department of Mission Support, work with the program committee for the Annual Meeting, coordinate two children's events each year and serve as the Convention liaison to the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Koreen is married to Rev. Jon Villers and they reside in Philippi. They have four adult children. You may contact Koreen through her e-mail: [villers@wvbc.org](mailto:villers@wvbc.org).

## Arkell Called to Serve as Southwest Area Minister

**RIPLEY** - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention met as the Personnel Committee on June 9, 2018. Dr. Mike Sisson, Executive Minister, with the unanimous support of the Search Committee recommended Rev. Evan Arkell to be called to serve on Convention staff as Area Minister for the Southwest Area, which includes: Coal River, Guyandotte, Kanawha Valley, Logan-Mingo, Teays Valley and Twelve Pole Associations.




*Rev. Evan Arkell*

Rev. Arkell began his duties on July 1, 2018. He may be contacted at: [evan@wvbc.org](mailto:evan@wvbc.org) or 304.575.3323.

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.



***There's an App for That!***

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

Vol. LXXXV, Issue 05 August-September 2018

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## A Personal Prayer Life



*Dr. Michael Sisson*

Howard Hendricks once pointed out that if we opened our Bible to Matthew and were to read through to John, we would never find an instance where the disciples asked, “Lord teach us how to witness” or “teach us how to perform miracles” or “teach us how to teach.” However, we do find the disciples asking, “Lord, teach us to pray ...” You see the disciples, as do most Christians, believed prayer played a very important role in the life of the believer. Perhaps one of the most neglected aspects of prayer is “personal prayer.” By personal prayer I am not referring to our faithfulness in praying for others, the church or even provision. Instead, I am thinking more of the time we spend in silence before the Lord. Time spent meditating, reflecting, listening and enjoying Emmanuel, God’s presence with us. Time alone with God is so significant even His Son, Jesus, made a regular practice of spending great amounts of time alone with His Father in prayer. For example, we read in Luke’s gospel, “And it came to pass in those days, that He [Jesus] went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12). Richard Foster, in his excellent book *The Celebration of Discipline*, explains, “Prayer catapults us onto the frontier of the spiritual life. Of all the spiritual disciplines, prayer is the most central because it ushers us into perpetual communion with the Father.”

Personal prayer changes us. Foster writes, “Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us.” However, “If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives.” Simply put, the closer we come to God through prayer the more we will see our need and the more we will desire to become like Christ. The principle is this: One cannot come into the presence of a Holy God and remain the same. Just as Moses’ face glowed after spending time with the Lord on Mount Sinai, so our lives too will also be noticeably transformed when we spend time with Him. As the apostle Paul writes, “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Spending time alone with God changes the way we think. “In prayer, real prayer,” writes Foster, “we begin to think God’s thoughts after Him: to desire the things He desires, to love the things He loves, to will the things He wills. Progressively, we are taught to see things from His point of view.” When our attitudes become influenced by seeing things as God sees them our life takes on new dimensions, it has new meaning. Prayer then becomes no longer a means by which we try to move God, but the means by which God moves us. The result is we develop a spiritual mindset that will inform every area of our life and enable us to live according to His will and design. Take time to get alone in prayer with God. You will be forever glad you did.

*Rich Blessings,  
Mike*

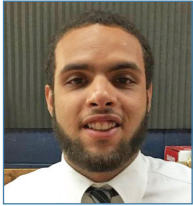
# Millennials Making a Difference

## Leadership Development Initiative (LDI)

The West Virginia Baptist Convention has launched a pilot program to match churches/associations with summer interns. The program seeks to enhance the ministry of the church and to provide structured environments for young adults to learn how to do ministry in the local church context.

### LDI Interns for 2018

**Justin Brown**  
Panhandle Association



Justin Brown is a 23 year-old from Follansbee. He is a youth ministry intern for the Panhandle Association. He is leading youth programs for the summer and will also be working at the Weirton Christian Center. The association has a mini Brothers' Keeper and other youth events for which Justin will provide leadership.

**Breellen Fleming**  
Convention Communications

Breellen Fleming, 19, is a native of Elizabeth and the daughter of Lesa and Larry Fleming of Glenville First Baptist Church (Little Kanawha). She is working at the Convention office as a graphic design and journalism intern. She is using her graphic design and journalism skills to develop a new look for the Convention logo and share the message of the Convention.



**Emily Fordyce**  
Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette)



Emily Fordyce is a 22 year-old from Charlton Heights. She is a youth and children's ministry intern with Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette). Emily loves children and missions. She traveled to Mexico and Honduras this summer on mission and continued to work with the children at the church. Her passion is to share Jesus with children and show them the love of Christ.

**Rebekah McCloy**  
Newark Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

Rebekah McCloy is an 18 year-old from Elizabeth and the daughter of Mark and Mary Beth McCloy. She is serving the Newark Baptist Church as an intern in children's ministry and as a leadership trainee. She desires to get people on fire for God and truly enjoys imparting God's love into children.



## Mission-Encounter-Education-Training (M.E.E.T.)

Mission-Encounter-Education-Training (M.E.E.T.) is a ministry of the Convention that matches young adults who feel led to possibly pursue a call to missions with International Ministries' (IM) missionaries for summer mission externships. The program requires the externs to have training in cross-cultural ministries and mission context prior to their going.

### M.E.E.T. Externs for 2018

**Isaac Brown - Gage Ross - Andrew O'Callaghan**  
Chiapas, Mexico with Juan and Denise Aragon



"My time in Chiapas was a life changing experience that has widened my vision of missions and God's intent for my life."

**Gage Ross, Milton Baptist Church (Guyandotte)**

"One thing the Lord has laid on my heart while in Mexico is the challenge of being truly satisfied with Him and only Him."

**Isaac Brown, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg)**

"I have had the opportunity to experience firsthand the life of missionaries in action as they serve the Lord through great sacrifice and perseverance."

**Andrew O'Callaghan, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg)**

**Jordan Lallemont - Puebla, Mexico**  
with Keith and Debbie Myers



"I have gotten to see what the daily life of a missionary is like. We have visited communities, and have just gotten to be present in one another's lives."

**Jordan Lallemont, Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg)**

For more information on LDI interns or M.E.E.T. externs, go to [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org).



# Why Sunny Day?

Perhaps that seems a strange question to ask. You have been hearing about the capital campaign to raise money for the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* for a couple years. So maybe it seems odd to ask, “Why Sunny Day?” The more conversations I have the more I realize that is just the question I need to be answering.

## Why is it Called Sunny Day?

The phrase “sunny day” has deep meaning for Camp Cowen. First, it is in honor of Alissa Shamblin Cantrell. For many people who are familiar with Cowen, the words “pretty, sunny day” can cause an instant smile. Those words bring warm memories of an amazing person who truly personified a “pretty, sunny day.” Alissa loved and served the Lord during her lifetime with passion and consistency, and as she served the Lord she always did so with a smile and a hearty laugh. Her catch phrase, “I hope you have a pretty, sunny day!” meant so much more than a weather forecast. Alissa understood the hope and joy of the gospel and it radiated from her. The *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* is appropriately named for a woman of faith who dedicated her life to advancement of the gospel to the next generation.

How many days at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen are we in need of a Sunny Day? Though the weather may bring storms, rain, heat or cold, this new building will provide us a place to have a sunny day no matter the weather. As we develop new programs, community outreach and disciple and equip leaders, it will also provide a sunny day for people whose life story is anything but sunny.

## Why would this be Important for me to Support?

I will give you three reasons:

First, the building of the gym facility will increase the ministry impact to campers at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen by providing year-round recreation space. While we love the outdoors and will continue our focus on those experiences, the reality is the weather is not always conducive to outdoor play (as the rain storms have continued to show so far this year). The gym would provide campers ample year-round space for groups of 250 plus for games, sports and gathering room we currently do not have on site.

Second, this project provides us the opportunity to minister to those in need right in Camp Cowen’s backyard: Webster County. Imagine us being able to host school groups, sports activities, partnering to host parenting classes, ministry to grand-

parents raising their grandchildren ... the list is endless. How exciting would it be to make a difference in the lives of the very people in our community?

Third, the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* will pour into the lives of young adults and youth leaders for generations. *Camp Cowen has been a place where lives have been changed for 75 years and campers have come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior and grown as disciples.* As we seek to continue to identify leaders, provide training and give experiential opportunities in leadership, the classroom space will be pivotal in being a place set aside for this important task!

## Financial Update

As of this writing, \$307,342 has been raised towards the \$1.5 million goal. More than \$13,000 came in during the month of June alone. Let me share with you what that looks like: We receive donation checks of \$1,000-\$5,000 and in smaller values, making the compounding impact of the giving astounding.

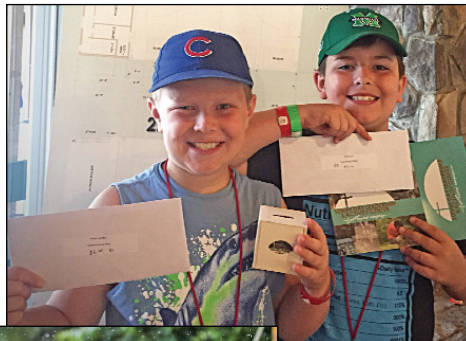
These boys (pictured above) blessed us so much with their giving hearts! Early in the week during Junior 1 Camp, they asked their counselor how they could give some of their money to support the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* Building campaign. All week long they waited and made sure they had extra money left on checkout day to give. On Saturday, these boys were SO excited to give their money to help build *Sunny Day*. Thank you for your generosity.

Gassaway Baptist Church’s (Elk Valley) Vacation Bible School adopted the *Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center* as their project this summer. They raised \$780! (See photo at left.) Thank you so much.

## A Call to Prayer

On July 8, 2018, pastors and churches across the West Virginia Baptist Convention joined in prayer for God’s leading and provision for this project. If your church did not participate, consider partnering with us in prayer and scheduling a date this fall.

Jill Narraway  
Associate Director of Camping and Youth

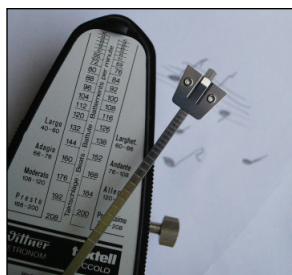


Rain, rain go away!



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

## Living in Time



If you have ever sung in a choir or played in a band you know how important it is for everyone to be on the same beat. It is typical for each participant to have rehearsed their part. It is also very likely the director/conductor has worked with the different sections of voices or instrumentation to prepare the group to play together. Whether one plays/sings the melody or another part, everyone must be in the same time for the performance to be done well.

When I was in high school many years ago, I was privileged to participate in several honor performance groups. Our band/orchestra director would work with us so we would learn the music. He made us practice and practice even more so when we got to the time of the performance we would be ready to be our best. However, when we got to the actual time of the performance there would be a "guest conductor" who would

lead. He/she would have us express their own interpretation of the music. They would often change the flow of each piece to reflect or emphasize how they felt the music should move. No matter how well we knew the music we had to keep our eyes on the conductor so we could stay in time with the rest of the orchestra.

To perform well in a band/orchestra/chorus one must practice their part. And as my first band director said, "You must practice correctly as practice does not make perfect, it makes permanent." It is in our correct practice that we prepare to be part of the performance.

To perform well you must also follow the direction of the conductor/director and play/sing in time with the time set by him/her.

The same can be said of our daily living. We choose each day how we are to live. Do you march to your own beat or do you live in time - in rhythm following the direction of God?

*Committed to Missions,*  
*John*

## Weirton Christian Center Building Dedication August 26

by *Kim Weaver, director, Weirton Christian Center*

The new Weirton Christian Center building is now ready for our children! This has been a long journey and we are dedicated to provide service to the community for at least another hundred years and this building will take us there.

Many thanks to all our family of Baptist churches, American Baptist Women's Ministries' groups and friends. We really appreciate all the generous donations, the fundraisers and offerings, totaling close to \$100,000. You are so instrumental to our ministry. The American Baptist Women helped to furnish our preschool and the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is helping to provide a USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) -approved kitchen.

We are still accepting donations as we still have construction costs and end project expenses to cover. Much of our furniture and supplies will be transferred. We will also continue to sell the donor bricks as we are going to create a walkway between our center and Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle). The filler bricks can be replaced with engraved ones. We are selling them for \$75 each or 2 for \$100.

We feed the kids daily lunch and snacks, and have planned lots of fun activities. The bus stop is set for fall at the new center and we are planning a farewell party to downtown in



*The Weirton Christian Center with a mock up of the lettering that will soon adorn the front of the building: Weirton Christian Center, Be United in Christ. The dedication ceremony will be held on August 26, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.*

August 2018. We are working with a group of five churches who are planning to take over our old location for ministry in many areas, including Bible study, addiction recovery programs, food pantry and more. Please be in prayer as the impact outreach ministry develops. This is making our move so much easier on so many levels.

God is involved in all we are doing and it is such a blessing to see Him orchestrate our plans. We truly appreciate your support as we go into the unknown area of expenses for this new location. Our operational costs are still our biggest need. Thanks for keeping us in your prayers!



## *The Marketplace is a Great Place for Christians*

### *Adult Discipleship: Faith in the Workplace Emphasis 2018*

Darren Shearer, in his article of June 5, 2015 for the website *Theology for Business*, shares seven reasons why the marketplace is a great place for Christians. They are well stated and ring very true! Here is an abbreviated version of Shearer's article:

#### *Reason #1: Almost all non-Christians are in the marketplace.*

Today, less than 20% of Americans attend church regularly. In many European countries, the percentages are much lower. At the current rate, regular church attendance is projected to drop to 11.7% by 2050.

The good news is these people who aren't attending church will still be waking up to go to work alongside their Christian co-workers in the marketplace each morning.

#### *Reason #2: Almost all Christians are in the marketplace.*

At least 85% of the Christian workforce spends 60-70% of their waking hours in the marketplace. In addition to serving our families and our local churches, the marketplace is the primary context in which our spiritual gifts should be used. The ministry potential for Christians using their spiritual gifts collaboratively in the marketplace is astounding!

#### *Reason #3: Discipleship actually can happen in the marketplace.*

Church leaders often are criticized for the lack of discipleship and spiritual growth among their congregations. Let's give our pastors a break. How much discipleship actually can happen during a two-hour church service on Sunday? Discipleship - that is, becoming more like Jesus - happens in everyday life. Yes, discipleship can happen anywhere ... even during a two-hour, lecture-style event on Sunday. However, the potential for discipleship and ministry investment in a weekly service is a fraction of what is possible during an entire work-week spent with our co-workers, clients, etc.

#### *Reason #4: The marketplace is a more authentic showroom of Christianity.*

If you were shopping for a car, you'd probably go to a showroom. Before you bought anything, you'd probably want to see if the car actually functions properly on the road. You might

even ask the dealer to allow you to take the car home for a day or two to test it out.

The local church is like the showroom for Christianity. The marketplace is the test drive. The marketplace is where our unbelieving co-workers get to see if they really want what we have. Daily, they see how we react under pressure. They see how we treat people. They see how much God truly matters to us in our daily lives.

#### *Reason #5: The marketplace forces the church to use all of its capabilities.*

Personality-driven and super-pastor Christianity doesn't work in the marketplace. Having a bunch of Christians sitting on the sidelines of ministry may not prevent a local church from increasing numerically, but it won't transform the marketplace for the glory of God.

We need to approach marketplace ministry in a way that leverages the spiritual gifts of all Christians in the marketplace.

#### *Reason #6: Denominational divisions are less destructive in the marketplace.*

We can choose whether to attend a Baptist Church, Pentecostal-Charismatic Church, Presbyterian Church, a Non-Denominational Church, etc. ... but most of us don't

have the luxury of coworking only with Christians with whom we agree theologically. The marketplace has a way of diluting some of these differences. This opens the door to collaborative ministry beyond the walls of our local churches and traditions.

#### *Reason #7: Everything gets funded from the marketplace.*

All money comes from value that has been created in the marketplace, and business professionals ultimately decide what gets funded. These business professionals need to know God and His plan for their lives in order to make righteous decisions concerning money.

Although business is often thought of only as the economic engine of the church, I hope we will begin to see and realize its full potential for transforming society for the glory of God.





**Delegate Registration**

**Registration Fee:**

(Please check the meal reservations you wish to secure and include the cost with your total registration. Registration packet and meal ticket(s) will be available for pickup at the annual meeting registration area.)

Please use a separate form for each person. (Copy as needed.)

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

Name on Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

**DELEGATES MUST HAVE THIS FORM SIGNED BY CHURCH CLERK OR PASTOR.**

Clerk or Pastor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>\$20.00 - ___ Delegate or ___ Visitor Fee Required Fee - Please Check One Above.</b>
	\$6.00 - American Baptist Men
	\$6.00 - ABW Min. West Virginia - Women's Day
	\$10.00 - Members - Pastors4Pastors Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$25.00 - Non-Members - Pastors4Pastors Ministers' Council Event (Includes Lunch)
	\$15.00 - Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet
	\$12.00 - WV Baptist Historical Society
	\$10.00 - Ministers' Wives' Fellowship
	\$12.00 - Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon Please circle your choice: Ham or Turkey
	<b>Total Enclosed</b> Make checks payable to WVBC and mail to: Annual Meeting Registrar, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

**Child Care:**

Please check appropriate box(es). List names and ages of children.

Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4

**Registration Deadline:**

Please have your registration postmarked, with money enclosed by October 15, 2018.

**PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

*Thursday, October 19*



**Women's Day - American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia**

**Theme: Living Loved**  
**Worship Leader: Ginny Prunty**  
**Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church**  
**Registration: 9:00 a.m. - program begins at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Lunch: Will be provided for \$6.00**  
**Nursery provided for preschool children**  
**Contact: Sandra Lutz at sandralutz150@yahoo.com**  
**Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting registration form.**



**Pastors4Pastors: The Ministers' Council**

**Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church - AMP**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Speaker: Rodney Ragwan**  
**Topic: Pastors Leading Young Adults to Hear God's Call to Ministry and Mission**  
**Cost: Members - \$10.00, Non-Members - \$25.00, includes lunch**  
**Contact: Rich McClure - richardmclure21@gmail.com**  
**Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting registration form.**



**American Baptist Men**

**Location: Henderson Hall, 517 Old River Rd, Williamstown 26187**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Depart from the church at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Cost: \$6.00**  
**Contact/R.S.V.P.: Frank Miller at miller@wvbc.org or 304.372.3675**  
**Shuttle Available**  
**Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting registration form.**

The 153rd

# Annual Meeting

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

## Friday, October 19- Saturday, October 20, 2018

South Parkersburg Baptist Church

**"Bearers of Hope ... Doing Christ's Work Together!"**

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (NIV)*

**Keynote Speaker:**  
**Rev. David Bush,**  
pastor, Rainelle First Baptist Church



**Annual Sermon Speaker:**  
**Dr. William Brown,**  
pastor, Vienna Baptist Church



**Executive Minister:**  
**Dr. Michael Sisson,**  
West Virginia Baptist Convention





## SCHEDULE:

### Friday, October 19

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### Pre-Convention Activities

2:45 p.m. Session 1 - Sanctuary

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer -

David Hoge

#### Business Meeting 1 - David Hoge

Executive Minister Address -

Mike Sisson

5:00 p.m. - Dinner Break

#### Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet

6:30 p.m. Session 2 - Sanctuary

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer -

Doris Toothman

#### Ward Hibbs Award - Tim Barry

Keynote Speaker - David Bush

Communion

8:30 p.m.

#### Alderson Broaddus University Reception

### Saturday, October 20

8:30 a.m. Session 3 - Sanctuary

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer -

Lee Boso

#### School of Christian Studies' Graduation - Mark McCloy

Greetings from Eastern University -

Ronald Matthews

James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational

Pastor Award - Jim Anderson

9:45 a.m. - Workshop Session 1

10:30 a.m. - Break

10:45 a.m. - Workshop Session 2

12:00 noon - Lunch Break

#### Luncheon Opportunities

#### West Virginia Baptist Historical Society

#### Ministers' Spouses' Luncheon

#### Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon

1:45 p.m. - Workshop Session 3

2:45 p.m. Session 4 - Sanctuary

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer -

David Hoge

#### Business Meeting 2 - David Hoge

Installation of Officers

Annual Sermon - Bill Brown

Sending out Bearers of Hope -

Mike Sisson

Dear West Virginia Baptist Family,

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) reminds us, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

We all share the same hope that is found in Christ, and because of that, we also get to serve as **bearers of this hope** in the world.

Though we all face challenges, obstacles and sometimes frustrating circumstances, there is no doubt God is doing amazing things in and through our churches. That is the purpose of this annual meeting - to gather together for a time to share these victories, praise God for what He has done and continues to do and encourage one another in our service in ministry. What a tremendous blessing it is as followers of Christ to be able to participate in the reconciling work Jesus is doing in our communities and our world!

It is my privilege to invite you to South Parkersburg Baptist Church for this year's **Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention**. My prayer is this will be a time of worship, spurring one another on and sharing wisdom as we all strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

*Pastor Rich Blain,  
South Parkersburg Baptist Church*



#### Local Arrangements Committee:

Brenda Everett, Purchasing; Gina Hanna, Food/Hospitality; Linda Cowan, Food/Hospitality; Carla McCartney, Local Arrangements Chair; Ginny Prunty, West Virginia Baptist Convention Liaison; Mary Jo Slater, Finance; Mabelle Homan, Host; Pastor Rich Blain, Lead Pastor; Brady Seabaugh, Security; Pastor Eric Seckman, Equipment; Gary Hall, Exhibits; Gary Duckworth, Parking; Phil Bumgarner and Coleen Bumgarner, Registration



## Speakers:

### Annual Sermon:

#### William Brown

Bill's hometown is Rupert, where he was a member of Big Clear Creek Baptist Church (Hopewell). He has a bachelor's degree in education from Glenville State College. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, now Palmer Seminary in 2004 and also has a Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis on congregational leadership from Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois in 2014. Bill Brown has been serving as the Senior Pastor of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) since January 1, 2007. He is currently serving a term on the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board. Before being called to Vienna, he had served two other Convention churches: nearly eight years as an Associate Pastor at South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and prior to that he served three years as pastor of Big Clear Creek Baptist Church. He and his wife, Patricia, have been married for 32 years. They have five children, three daughters and two sons, ranging in age from 16 to 29, three sons-in-law and four grandchildren.

## Lodging Options:

#### Blennerhassett Hotel

320 Market Street,  
Parkersburg 26101

304.422.3131

2.2 miles from the church

#### JownePlace Suites by Marriott

415 7th Street,  
Parkersburg 26101

304.485.4485

2.3 miles from the church

#### Hampton Inn and Suites

920 Emerson Avenue,  
Parkersburg 26104

304.428.0555

3.7 miles from the church

#### Holiday Inn Express

80 Nicolette Road,  
Mineral Wells 26150

304.489.4111

4.1 miles from the church

## Directions:

#### From points North -

- Take I-77 S to Camden Avenue Exit
- At the second stop light turn left onto Rayon Drive
- Turn right (Pike Street) onto Route 14 N
- At the "Y" take the left up the hill (follow Route 14 N) and the church is on the right.

#### 4.0 miles from the church

#### Microtel Inn

94 Nicolette Road,  
Mineral Wells 26150

304.422.3131

4.0 miles from the church

#### Hampton Inn

64 Elizabeth Pike,  
Mineral Wells 26187

304.789.2900

4.1 miles from the church

#### Rodeway Inn

161 Hospitality Lane,  
Mineral Wells 26187

304.489.3111

4.1 miles from the church

#### Comfort Suites

167 Elizabeth Pike,  
Mineral Wells 26187

520.505.2490

4.1 miles from the church

#### From points South -

- Take I-77 N to the Camden Avenue Exit
- After the exit, go under the overpass, and at the second stop light turn left onto Rayon Drive
- Turn right onto Pike St (Route 14 N)
- At the "Y" take the left up the hill (follow Route 14 N) and the church is on the right.

#### From points East -

- Take Route 50 W to the Division St Exit
- Turn left at the bottom of exit

### Guest Speaker:

#### David Bush

David grew up as a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette), where he was dedicated, baptized, married and served as a pastoral intern. He and his wife, Amy, graduated from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois, where he also earned a Master of Arts (M.A.) in pastoral studies. In 2016, he became Senior Pastor of Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell). David and Amy have a heart to see people welcomed into God's family through humble hospitality. David has a passion for preaching the gospel, caring for the health of the bride of Christ and seeing people transformed by the grace of God. David, Amy and their collie, Hemingway would love to have you come by for a cup of coffee and good conversation.

#### Comfort Inn

401 37th Street,  
Parkersburg 26101

304.424.5300

4.7 miles from the church

#### Wingate by Wyndham

1502 Grand Central Avenue,  
Vienna 26105

304.295.5501

5.9 miles from the church

#### Sleep Inn

97 Emerson Commons  
Boulevard,  
Parkersburg 26104

304.916.7380

8.9 miles from the church

#### Holiday Inn Express

10057 Emerson Avenue,  
Parkersburg 26104

304.916.7380

9.6 miles from the church

#### From points West -

- Take Belpre Bridge (from Ohio Route 7 or Ohio Route 618)
- Follow Route 14 S through Parkersburg
- After the Fifth Street Bridge, go through four stop lights and the church is at the top of the hill on the left (across from Dairy Queen)

#### From points West -

- Take Belpre Bridge (from Ohio Route 7 or Ohio Route 618)
- Follow Route 14 S through Parkersburg
- After the Fifth Street Bridge, go through four stop lights and the church is at the top of the hill on the left (across from Dairy Queen)

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Friday, October 19

#### Baptist Campus Ministries' Banquet

Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church -

Hospitality Area

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00

Contact: Jennifer - 304.422.6449 or

jennifer@wvbc.org

Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting

registration form.

#### Alderson Broaddus University Reception

Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church -

Hospitality Area

Time: 8:30 p.m.

(Following the end of the evening session)

Cost: Free

Refreshments will be served.

Special music by The West Virginians

### Saturday, October 20

#### West Virginia Baptist Education Society

Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church -

AMP

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

For members only

Contact: Mary Beth McCloy -

marybethmccloy@gmail.com

#### West Virginia Baptist Historical Society

Location: Parkersburg First Baptist Church,

813 Market Street, Parkersburg 26101

Time: 12:00 noon

Cost: \$12.00

Shuttle provided

For information, contact Dick Hepler at

revdrhepler@aol.com

Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting

registration form.

#### Ministers' Wives' Fellowship Luncheon

Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church -

AMP

Time: 12:00 noon

Cost: \$12.00

Contact: Nikalee Turner -

nikaleefoster@cedarville.edu or 304.237.4430

Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting

registration form. Registrations requested by

October 12, 2018.

#### Palmer Theological Seminary Luncheon

Location: South Parkersburg Baptist Church

Time: 12:00 noon

Cost: \$10.00

Contact Person: Allan Copenhaver -

304.763.8564 or

rcopenha@eastern.edu

Purchase tickets on the Annual Meeting

registration form.



**Jim Anderson**, Southeast Area Minister

Other churches participating were Athens Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), Page Baptist Church (Fayette), Newton Memorial Baptist Church (Hopewell), Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell), Millbrook Baptist Church (Hopewell) Team A and the West Virginia Baptist Convention team.

## Rockcastle Association Holds 16th Annual Choir Festival

On the evening of June 3, 2018, over 270 members of Rockcastle Baptist Association churches gathered together at Guyandotte Baptist Church (Rockcastle) for their 16th Annual Choir Festival. Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, welcomed everyone and opened the evening in song. Many churches were present to share in song, and at the end of the evening, all the singers gathered together for a mass choir led by Rev. Jerry Cook of Oceana First Baptist Church (Rockcastle). It was an evening of wonderful praise and worship in song and a blessing for all who either participated or listened.

## Twelfth Annual Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble

Under a beautiful blue sky, nine teams gathered at Greenbrier Hills Golf Course in Rainelle on Saturday, June 9th, 2018 for the 12th Annual Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble to support House of Hope ministries.

Millbrook Baptist Church (Hopewell) Team B won the tournament, with Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) coming in second and Sewell Valley Baptist Church finished third, with all three teams receiving prizes from



**Pictured above are the winners of the 12th annual Bolivia Missions Golf Scramble: Millbrook Baptist Church Team B.**

Baptist Church (Hopewell) won the prize for the longest putt made. The tournament raised \$1,550 for the House of Hope.

Jack Cole, Pastor, Springdale First

## Northeast Area News

**David Hulme**, Northeast Area Minister

### Vincent Ordained at Plum Run

Patrick Vincent was ordained at Plum Run Baptist Church (Fairmont), where he serves as Pastor, in a special service, July 1, 2018. Rev. David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister,



**Laying on of hands and prayers by pastors and deacons for Patrick Vincent (kneeling)**

preached the ordination sermon and offered charges to the church and candidate.

Participating in the service were Kelly Simmons, Rick Humphreys, Spencer Robinson, Rebecca Humphreys and Tim Sanders. A time of fellowship

followed with refreshments in the fellowship hall.

### Copenhaver Installed as Pastor at Fairmont Baptist Temple

Dr. Allan Copenhaver was installed as Pastor at Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) in a special service on June 24, 2018. Participating in the service were Mr. Rob Clevenger; Mr. Danny Rosenberger; Mrs. Joyce McVicker; Mrs. Allison Copenhaver; Dr. Mike Sisson, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention; and Rev. David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister. A reception followed the service.

### Indian Fork Dedicates New Sanctuary

Indian Fork Baptist Church (Broad Run) dedicated their new sanctuary on June 3, 2018. The design of the new sanctuary closely follows the design of the historic sanctuary it replaces. Dr. Mike Sisson delivered the dedicatory sermon. Dinner on the grounds followed the service. Rev. William Coffindaffer and Mr. Dan Fisher are Co-Pastors.



**Indian Fork Baptist Church**

### Worthington Retires Loan on Roof

With the generous assistance of sister churches in the Fairmont Association and a matching grant, Worthington Baptist Church (Fairmont) was able to retire the loan on their church roof. Rev. Everett Palmer, Pastor, and members of the church were presented with a check, June 6, 2018.



**Pastor Palmer (r) and members of Worthington Baptist Church**

**Mark McCloy**, Northwest Area Minister

## *It Began with a Call to Serve*

*The following article has been written by our new West Virginia Baptist Convention intern, Breellen Fleming. It introduces an exciting ministry at one of our churches. Hope you find inspiration in their story.*

It began with a call to serve, to spread the love of God where it was needed in the community. The people of Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) thought this calling was only leading them into a new bus ministry. However, as they began to pick up children to come to the youth group, a new layer of God's plan began to be revealed. Many of the children were hungry and in clear need of a meal. It was then that those who were helping with this ministry realized God was providing them with an opportunity to serve the community in a different way than they had originally thought.

They felt led to start providing meals for the children at youth group. As they took this next step in their ministry, the program exploded. Children came pouring in from the community, excited to receive spiritual nourishment as well as physical nourishment. While this new growth was incredible, it did present new challenges for the volunteers to overcome. Finding funding for the meals was an issue that arose early on.

One of the first steps the team of youth leaders took was to become an agent of the local food bank, which provided them with meals at a lower cost. Another step was reaching out to the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The Convention was able to

provide them with information about where they could find more funding. Through their help, the team was able to apply for a grant which will expand the number of meals they can provide.

As the monetary needs of this ministry are beginning to be fulfilled, the team is starting to see another layer of God's plan for them. They feel led to continue with their calling to serve the community outside their youth group as well as within it. One of the ways they were able to do this was by providing meals for students during the teacher strikes this year.

It has been encouraging for the youth leaders to watch the children grow in their faith and come to see God as well as the church, cares for them. The leaders feel the kids have a real enthusiasm for learning about God. When their physical needs are met, the children are able to fully take part in the youth group and experience the joy of God's love.

According to the youth leaders, what the group needs now are more adult volunteers who feel a calling into mentorship. Since the ministry has grown so quickly, it would be helpful to have more adult presence as it would allow more small group time between adults and children. Pray for this need and for the children served by this ministry.

## Southwest Area News

### *Lunsford Ordained at Beulah Ann Missionary*

Greg Lunsford, Pastor, Beulah Ann Missionary Baptist Church (Guyandotte) was ordained to the Gospel Ministry on February 25, 2018. Two new deacons were also ordained at this time: Phil Bartram and Ed Braley. Lunsford is married to Jeanne Noble Lunsford, and they have a 12 year-old son, Luke. Greg is working on attaining his Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Liberty University.

### *Coal River Association Holds Annual Sing*

On May 20th, 2018, the Coal River Association gathered for its Annual Sing at Madison Baptist Church (Coal River). The theme for the service was "Come Holy Spirit." There were 125 in attendance with five churches represented: Madison Baptist Church, Olive Baptist Church (Coal River), Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River), Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River) and Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River). Each church shared three songs and a mass choir,



led by Jerry Skeens of Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church, shared two numbers. The offering for the evening was donated to the Camp Cowen Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center.

### *Racine First Celebrates 80 Years of Ministry*

Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River) celebrated 80 years of ministry on April 15, 2018. In honor of this occasion former Pastors David White, Richard Sargent and Joan Tinnel, wife of former Pastor, Roger Tinnel, joined the celebration, representing 27 years of ministry between them. Several presentations occurred and current Pastor, Anthony Pratt and his wife, Margaret, presented the church with a beautiful plate. Former Youth Pastor Geoffrey Saunders, along with Danny and Jenny Light provided special music. Indra Clendenen and Paul Harris were honored as the longest living members of the church and the descendants of the original charter members were recognized.



***Pictured left to right are former pastors of Racine First Baptist Church: Richard Sargent and David White, along with current pastor, Anthony Pratt.***



**Fall** The conference is planned for those who are at least 55 years of age.

# **GOLDEN'EERS Conference**

**September 10-12, 2018**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

**Theme: Senior Olympics Sports Picnic and Tailgate, Senior Olympics, Campfire/Smores, Bible Study with Jeff Davenport**

The conference will begin on Monday with registration at noon in the Santrock Education Center and end on Wednesday at 11 a.m.

For more information, visit [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org). If you have questions, please contact Valna at [adams@wvbc.org](mailto:adams@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449.

American Baptist Women's Ministries

**40th Annual SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**

**September 21-23, 2018**  
Parchment Valley Conference Center

3 John 1:2  
Theme: Good Fer' You

**Speaker: Dr. Sandra Lutz**

This will be such a joyous time of fellowship and music. Come expecting to be blessed! Please join us for this inspirational weekend.

A registration form is available at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) and in the August issue of SEASONS.

# **Retired Ministers & Mates'**

## **FALL MEETING**

### **October 2, 2018**

**Parchment Valley Conference Center**  
**Hill Hall at 12:00 noon**

A complimentary luncheon will be served.

*Sponsored by the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board.*

Please reserve your space by contacting Mrs. Linda Carpenter at 304.863.8890 or [llecgrandma@yahoo.com](mailto:llecgrandma@yahoo.com).

### **Leadership Updates**

**REV. LARRY DALE** to Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as interim pastor in May 2018

**REV. RICK EATON** to West Union Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on June 24, 2018

**REV. JEFF ELKINS** to Black Eagle Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as pastor on May 16, 2018

**MR. ROB W. GRADY** to Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as senior pastor on April 29, 2018

**REV. JOSEPH LAW** to Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as interim associate pastor in May 2018

**REV. RONALD (RON) H. MOORE, JR.** to Page Baptist Church (Fayette) as pastor on June 1, 2018

**MR. TOM SCARLES** to Layland Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on March 19, 2018

**DIXIE LEE (ARTHUR) ANGUS**, of Cowen, died June 11, 2018. She and her husband, Gene, lived at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen for 20 years, where Gene was the maintenance manager and Dixie supervised and cooked in the camp kitchen. **WILLIAM RICHMOND DODD**, 94, of Bridgeport, died June 1, 2018. He was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), having served as an usher, a deacon and in the Chancel Choir. **NEWTON RUSSELL EATON**, 98, of Australia, died May 28, 2018. He was an International Ministries' (IM) alumnus, who was a missionary to South India.

**BLANCHE REVA KNAPP FOWLER**, 101, of Clarksburg, died July 1, 2018. She was a longtime member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), where she served in many capacities: treasurer of the American Baptist Women's Ministries, chairman of the Shoebox Ministry, member of the board of trustees, Young at Heart and Golden'eers.

**CHARLES LEON GRAYS**, 72, died May 9, 2018. He was pastor of Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg). He also pastored churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He founded the Bright and Morning Star Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In Ohio, he was called to Mount Carmel Baptist Church, pastored the Traveler's Rest Missionary Baptist Church and founded the Living Word of Faith Fellowship Baptist Church. He became moderator and president of the Congress of Christian Education of the Mount Zion Baptist Association, a comprisal of churches from Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. He also served as facilitator for the Laymen's Retreat of the American Baptist Men of West Virginia and the vice-president of the Parkersburg Ministerial Alliance.

**JAMES ALEXANDER "BUD" GUY**, 80, of Salem, died June 10, 2018. He was a member of Wilsonburg Baptist Church (Judson), where he served as a deacon.

**ZENITH FAYE WALKER HARLESS**, 89, of Clear Fork, died June 19, 2018. She was a member of Baileysville Baptist Church (Rockcastle), where she was active in the church choir and American Baptist Women's Ministries. She was also dedicated and had close ties to Hanover Missionary Baptist Church, where her husband, Arnold, was pastor for 13 years. She served on the nominating committee for the Rockcastle Baptist Association since 2001, was elected to the West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board as the Rockcastle Baptist Association representative in 2016 and was a member of the Leadership Commission as a part of that board. She served as clerk and treasurer of the Rockcastle Association from 1988 to 1994 and then served as assistant clerk from 1994 to present. Throughout the years, she was very devoted to the Love Gift program and held leadership positions with the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

**DORIS EMOGEAN "JEAN" DANLEY HUFFMAN**, 89, of Alderson, died June 23, 2018. She was a longtime member of Flint Chapel Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she served as clerk.

**JEWELDINE ORPHA JOHNSON**, 90, of Milton, died February 4, 2018. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she was the oldest member and had the most years (75) of membership. She served as Sunday School teacher, clerk and choir leader for many years.

**VIRGINIA C. KANALZ**, 85, of Vienna, died May 31, 2018. She was a longtime member of Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she had been a member of the choir and the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians.

**PHYLLIS E. FRAME WICKLINE MCCORMICK**, 87, of Parkersburg, died June 30, 2018. She was a member of South Parkersburg

Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She was the mother of Valma Adams, office manager at the West Virginia Baptist Convention Parkersburg office.

**EVERLYN RAE O'DELL**, 85, of Summersville, died June 1, 2018. She was a member of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell) and a choir member for more than 50 years.

**ROBERT J. ROMICK**, 91, of Martins Ferry, Ohio, formerly of Wheeling, died October 8, 2017. He was pastor at Wheeling First Baptist Church (Panhandle) for over 14 years. His ministry spanned from 1957 to 2017, with churches in Pittsburgh and three pastorates in New Jersey. He was associate pastor at Agape Baptist Church (Panhandle), started Dallas Pike Baptist Church (Panhandle), was an interim pastor at Martins Ferry First Baptist Church and Wellsburg First Baptist Church (Panhandle).

**BINA ELIZABETH SAWYER**, 95, died May 31, 2018. She was an International Ministries' (IM) alumna, who was a missionary to Thailand.

**GERALDINE WHITE SCOTT**, 98, of Weston, died April 16, 2018. She was an active member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run) for over 60 years. She had served on many boards and committees of the church as well as being secretary and treasurer.

**MARY FRANCES "PEGGY" WIDENER SHIELDS**, 84, of Eagle Springs, North Carolina, died October 22, 2017. She and her husband, Warren, served American Baptist Church congregations in West Virginia, located in Romney, Keyser, Williamson and Pocatalico from 1955 to 1988.

**WARREN O. SHIELDS**, 88, of Eagle Springs, North Carolina, died June 21, 2018. He and his wife, Peggy, served American Baptist Church congregations in West Virginia, located in Romney, Keyser, Williamson and Pocatalico from 1955 to 1988. He also served as a hospital chaplain from 1988 to 1995.

**BARBARA SKIDMORE**, 84, of Weston, died March 16, 2018. She was a member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run) for many years.

**ELEANOR ROSALIE (POWERS) STIMSON**, died March 16, 2018. She was an International Ministries' (IM) alumna, who was a missionary to Burma (Myanmar).

**MARK ALAN STOVER**, 67, of Crab Orchard, died April 18, 2018. He was an active member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), serving as a prayer team member and grief counseling provider. He has served in churches, missions and prison ministries in four states from 1974 through 2005. Most recently, he was serving as a community pastor at Glenwood Park Retirement Village in Princeton.

**LEWIS JEWELL VILLERS**, 88, died July 8, 2018. In their 53 years of marriage, his wife, Louise assisted him in ministry in American Baptist Churches at Greenbrier Baptist Church in Wagersville, Kentucky; Adda Baptist Church, Hurricane; Rush Run Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) for 32 years; Strait Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville) for 27 years; Mount William Baptist Church, Blue Goose; Two Ripple Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for 22 years; and Handley Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for 15 years.

**MARY ELLEN FISHER VILLERS**, 76, of Elkins, formerly of Weston, died May 22, 2018. She was a member of Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run). She had been a member of Murphy's Creek Baptist Church (Broad Run).



## August 2018

**AUGUST 1** - Baillie Myers, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Mexico  
**AUGUST 2** - Little Kanawha Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**AUGUST 3** - American Baptist Men's Camp begins today at Camp Cowen  
**AUGUST 4** - Debbie Mulneix, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to the Philippines  
**AUGUST 5** - Judy Prater, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**AUGUST 6** - Keith Myers, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Mexico  
**AUGUST 7** - Greenbrier-Raleigh and Harrisville Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings  
**AUGUST 8** - The ministry of Forks of Cheat Baptist Church; Charles Bowers, pastor (Goshen)  
**AUGUST 9** - Colleen Folger, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and Convention trustee  
**AUGUST 10** - The ministry of Zoar Missionary Baptist Church; Chris Venoy, pastor (Guyandotte)  
**AUGUST 11** - Camp Global happens this weekend at Camp Cowen  
**AUGUST 12** - The ministry of Spencer First Baptist Church; Mark Wood, pastor (Good Hope)  
**AUGUST 13** - The ministry of Charity Baptist Church; George Rose, pastor (Elk Valley)  
**AUGUST 14** - The ministry of Goose Creek Baptist Church; Connie Johnson, interim pastor (Harrisville)  
**AUGUST 15** - The ministry of Ten Mile Baptist Church; Jeffrey Perine, pastor (Judson)  
**AUGUST 16** - Broad Run Association as they celebrate their annual meeting  
**AUGUST 17** - Susan Dale, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**AUGUST 18** - The ministry of Deep Water Baptist Church; Thomas Skaggs, pastor (Fayette)  
**AUGUST 19** - Good Hope and Goshen Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings  
**AUGUST 20** - The ministry of West Point Baptist Church; Ron Miller, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)  
**AUGUST 21** - Deliris Carrion-Joseph, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Mexico  
**AUGUST 22** - Scott Coats, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Thailand  
**AUGUST 23** - Teays Valley Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**AUGUST 24** - The ministry of Worthington Baptist Church; Everett Palmer, pastor (Fairmont)  
**AUGUST 25** - Elk Valley Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**AUGUST 26** - Eastern Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**AUGUST 27** - Cari Pauley, chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**AUGUST 28** - Vinicius Damasceno, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to the United Kingdom  
**AUGUST 29** - The ministry of Little Laurel Baptist Church; Jerry David Simms, pastor (Hopewell)  
**AUGUST 30** - Jorge Damasceno, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to the United Kingdom  
**AUGUST 31** - The ministry of Buckhannon First Baptist Church; Jay Teodoro, pastor (Broad Run)

## September 2018

**SEPTEMBER 1** - Rhonda Reed, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Bolivia  
**SEPTEMBER 2** - The ministry of Hurricane First Baptist Church; Jeff Davenport, pastor (Teays Valley)  
**SEPTEMBER 3** - The ministry of Lacoma Missionary Baptist Church; Ron Lee, pastor (Rockcastle)  
**SEPTEMBER 4** - Carrie Smalley, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Hungary  
**SEPTEMBER 5** - Erich Reggi, chair, Camp Cowen Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission  
**SEPTEMBER 6** - The ministry of Middleville Baptist Church; Paul Jay Boyles, pastor (Union)  
**SEPTEMBER 7** - Hopewell Association as it celebrates its annual meeting tomorrow  
**SEPTEMBER 8** - Fairmont Association as it celebrates its annual meeting tomorrow  
**SEPTEMBER 9** - Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention  
**SEPTEMBER 10** - Fall Golden'eers Retreat begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**SEPTEMBER 11** - Miriam Noyes, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
**SEPTEMBER 12** - The ministry of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)  
**SEPTEMBER 13** - Jose Marie Pierre, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to the Dominican Republic  
**SEPTEMBER 14** - Fall Youth Rally happens this weekend at Camp Cowen  
**SEPTEMBER 15** - Twelve Pole Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 16** - Panhandle Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 17** - Gerry Prunty, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission  
**SEPTEMBER 18** - Parkersburg Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 19** - Fayette Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 20** - Kanawha Valley Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 21** - Jeff Branham, West Virginia Baptist Convention trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission  
**SEPTEMBER 22** - The American Baptist Women's Ministries' Spiritual Growth Retreat this weekend at Parchment Valley Conference Center  
**SEPTEMBER 23** - Logan-Mingo and Union Associations as they celebrate their annual meetings  
**SEPTEMBER 24** - The ministry of Big Tygart Baptist Church; Matthew Robinson, pastor (Parkersburg)  
**SEPTEMBER 25** - Terry Myers, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Bulgaria  
**SEPTEMBER 26** - Guyandotte Association as it celebrates its annual meeting tomorrow  
**SEPTEMBER 27** - Juancito Aragon, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Mexico  
**SEPTEMBER 28** - Mike Kelly, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission  
**SEPTEMBER 29** - Coal River Association as it celebrates its annual meeting  
**SEPTEMBER 30** - Judson Association as it celebrates its annual meeting

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

# Coming Events

## AUGUST 2018

**August 3-5**

*American Baptist Men and Boys' Camp  
Camp Cowen*

**August 10-12**

*Camp Global  
Camp Cowen*

*Registration begins at 6:00 p.m.*

**August 18**

*School of Christian Studies Evangelism  
(Mod-6) One-Day Class*

*Parchment Valley Conference Center*

*Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.*

*Class is from 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.*

## SEPTEMBER 2018

**September 3**

*Labor Day Holiday*

*West Virginia Baptist Convention*

*Office CLOSED*

## Trading Post

**FREE: SHEET MUSIC AND CANTATA BOOKS, SOME WITH CDS AND CASSETTES.** We have three four drawer file cabinets full. The cabinets are included. For more information call Page Baptist Church (Fayette) at 304.469.2817.

**FREE: 47 ADULT CHOIR ROBES, CREAM WITH BURGUNDY YOKE, FRONT PANELS AND SNAP CUFFS. ALSO, 20 GREEN CHILDREN'S ROBES.**

Please contact Carolyn Saul of Charleston Baptist Temple at 304.552.6246.

## 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.

**Executive Minister:** Dr. Michael B. Sisson

**Editor:** Rev. John E. Simmons

**Assistant Editor:** Mrs. Valma Adams

**Layout:** Mrs. Donna Snyder

# CAMP GLOBAL

SPEAK IT! SHARE IT!  
SHOW IT!  
Acts 2:37-39

## FAMILY MISSION CAMP

August 10-12, 2018 at Camp Cowen

**Cost: \$90 per person, \$350 max per family**  
**Saturday Only: \$40 (Groups of ten or more call for discount)**

*Camp starts the evening of Friday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
and ends on Sunday, August 12 at 1:00 p.m.*

*Registration is available online at [www.wvbc.org](http://www.wvbc.org) or contact  
Joan at [hall@wvbc.org](mailto:hall@wvbc.org) or 304.422.6449.*

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

## Association Meeting Schedule

August 2	<i>Little Kanawha</i>	Sand Fork Baptist Church	5:00 p.m.
August 7	<i>Greenbrier-Raleigh</i>	Athens Baptist Church	9:00 a.m.
August 7	<i>Harrisville</i>	Smithville Baptist Church	9:30 a.m.
August 16	<i>Broad Run</i>	Broad Run Baptist Church	9:00 a.m.
August 19	<i>Good Hope</i>	Two Runs Baptist Church	1:00 p.m.
August 19	<i>Goshen</i>	Chestnut Mountain Ranch	3:00 p.m.
August 23	<i>Teays Valley</i>	Judson Baptist Church	6:00 p.m.
August 25	<i>Elk Valley</i>	Hope Baptist Church	8:30 a.m.
August 26	<i>Eastern</i>	North Mill Creek Baptist Church	3:00 p.m.
September 8	<i>Hopewell</i>	Rainelle First Baptist Church	9:00 a.m.
September 9	<i>Fairmont</i>	Fairmont Baptist Temple	3:00 p.m.
September 15	<i>Twelve Pole</i>	Big Hurricane Baptist Church	9:00 a.m.
September 16	<i>Panhandle</i>	Wellsburg First Baptist Church	3:00 p.m.
September 18	<i>Parkersburg</i>	Parkersburg First Baptist Church	4:00 p.m.
September 19	<i>Fayette</i>	Gentry Missionary Baptist Church	6:00 p.m.
September 20	<i>Kanawha Valley</i>	Clendenin First Baptist Church	5:00 p.m.
September 23	<i>Logan-Mingo</i>	Mallory Baptist Church	4:00 p.m.
September 23	<i>Union</i>	Elkins First Baptist Church	3:00 p.m.
September 27	<i>Guyandotte</i>	Fifth Avenue Baptist Church	6:00 p.m.
September 29	<i>Coal River</i>	Danville First Baptist Church	9:30 a.m.
September 30	<i>Judson</i>	Shinnston First Baptist Church	4:00 p.m.

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