

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

December 2018 - January 2019

Baptist Campus Ministries: Changing Lives That Change the World

The West Virginia Baptist Convention has the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) on nine college campuses in West Virginia: Alderson Broaddus University, Concord University, Davis and Elkins College, Fairmont University, Glenville State University, Marshall University, West Virginia University, West Virginia Technical University in Beckley and the University of Charleston. The ministry of BCM is vital to the continual growth of students who have grown up in the West Virginia Baptist Convention and from new students BCM meets from across the United States and around the world.

A typical week in the life of Baptist Campus Ministries on any of the campuses include a night of worship, bible study and fellowship. Many campuses have I-teams, a small group bible study with 6-10 students. The investment in students by their peers is a God honoring act of service that produces great fruit for the kingdom!

Jon Villers, pastor of Philippi Baptist Church (Union) is one of the Baptist Campus Ministries' associates at Alderson Broaddus University and explains BCM this way: *"Baptist Campus Ministries finds itself in the position to be light to literally all corners of the world as every tribe, language, tongue and nation come to the campuses of West Virginia schools. We are grace dispensers to a generation shown everything but grace. We are hope bearers to students who have lost their hope. We are love casters to a cohort desperately seeking what true love is! Baptist Campus Ministries is discipleship modeled by walking alongside the emerging generation."*

Lance Linden, pastor of The Anchor Church in Glenville and BCM associate, believes this: *"Baptist Campus Ministries is one of the greatest 'kingdom investments' we have in the West Virginia Baptist Convention. All at the same time, young adults*

are being won to Christ, shown love in Christ, trained in Christ and sent for Christ."

Kayla, a senior at Marshall University says, *"Baptist Campus Ministries means community. It means fellow followers of Christ, having the same goal to advance the gospel. I am thankful for this ministry. It means a lot to me and is a big part of my life!"*

Natalie, a senior nursing student at Marshall University says, *"Baptist Campus Ministries means a community of fellow believers that hold each other accountable to God's word and provide encouragement to one another."*

Ethan, from Summersville writes, *"Baptist Campus Ministries is a home away from home, a place where I feel safe to worship God with hundreds of other college students."*

Baptist Campus Ministries is a continuing part of the discipleship process of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Partnering with local churches and other ministry opportunities, BCM strives to **Change Lives That Change the World!** This partnership requires finances where 75% of the budget

comes from churches and individuals who make sacrificial gifts for the ministry to continue. Please pray for this ministry. Is Baptist Campus Ministries a priority in the budget of the church you attend? Will you pray about a personal donation to invest in this generation of disciples?

Vicki Morris, Baptist Campus Ministries' associate writes, *"My mission field is Concord University. I take this ministry very seriously and prayerfully and am training young adults to be Jesus to a hurting and disillusioned world!"*

How will you invest in this generation of students?

Rob Ely
Director of Student Ministries



John 3:16 for Halloween! Jon Butcher, full-time student, serves at Nitro First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as youth pastor.



Baptist Campus Ministries' students working at ReBuild Ministries in Huntington.

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.



West Virginia Baptist Convention

There's an App for That!



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

Vol. LXXXVI, Issue 01 December 2018-January 2019

Table of Contents

Commentary: Too Busy for God **2**
 Todd McClure Called as Minister of Missions and Finance/Lisa Gillian Simmons Retiring **3**
 The Ways of the Alongsider by Bill Mowry - Adult Discipleship: Journey Alongside Emphasis for 2019/2019 Mountain State Mission Offering **4**
 Thinking Missions: Passing the Torch/ John E. Simmons Retiring **5**
 Leadership Development Initiative/Parchment Valley Conference Center: Preparing for a Blessed Winter Season **6**
 2019 Annual Training Event, formerly known as Church Officers' Training **7**
 West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Highlights **8-9**
 School of Christian Studies Graduates Ten/Houser Received James Anderson, Sr. Award/Biram Named as Ward Hibbs Ministerial Award Winner **10**
 Northeast and Southeast Area News **11**
 Northwest and Southwest Area News **12**
 Coming Events/Wanted: 2019 Summer Staff for the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen/2019 Camp Cowen Schedule **13**
 Obituaries: September-November 2018/Leadership Updates **14**
 Prayer Calendars: December 2018 and January 2019 **15**
 Christmas Greetings **16**



Too Busy for God



Dr. Michael Sisson

A headline in the *Christian Post* caught my attention. It read, "Survey: Christians Worldwide Too Busy for God." The article indicated "6 in 10 Christians say it's 'often' or 'always' true 'the busyness of life gets in the way of developing my relationship with God.'" Wow, perhaps the comic strip character Pogo was correct when he announced, "I have seen the enemy and he is us!" You see it just may be hurry or busyness, as we prefer to call it, is the great enemy of our spiritual life today. Hurry damages our soul by making sure we are neglecting it. Someone once said, "Hurry is not of the devil; hurry is the devil."

John Ortberg, pastor and popular Christian author, once faced a period in which he felt his spiritual life was not what where it should be. He called his mentor, Dallas Willard, for spiritual advice. Ortberg asked him what he needed to do to be spiritually healthy. After a long pause his mentor said, "You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life." After a pause Ortberg said, "Okay, I've written that one down ... Now what else is there?" After another long pause Willard said, "There is nothing else. You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."

In his book, *The Great Omission*, Dallas Willard insists, "God never gives anyone too much to do. We do that to ourselves or allow others to do it to us." He points out, "A response to giving attention to personal soul care often is, 'I don't have time for extensive solitude and silence. I have too much to do.' The truth is you don't have time not to practice solitude and silence. No time is more profitably spent than that used to heighten the quality of an intimate walk with God." Willard adds, "Time [with the Lord] is made, not found."

To illustrate the point a young Christian who had been guided into the effective practice of solitude and silence had this to say:

The more I practice this discipline, the more I appreciate the strength of silence. The less I become skeptical and judgmental, the more I learn to accept the things I didn't like about others, and the more I accept them as uniquely created in the image of God. The less I talk, the fuller are words spoken at an appropriate time. The more I value others, the more I serve them in small ways, and the more I enjoy and celebrate my life. The more I celebrate, the more I realize that God has been giving me wonderful things in my life, and the less I worry about my future. I will accept and enjoy what God is continuously giving to me. I think I am beginning to really enjoy God (Spirit of Discipline, 167).

This is the challenge for us all. We need to attack hurry and busyness head on. We need to make time with God a first priority and then allow everything else to find its rhythm in our daily lives as the Lord guides us. Then we too can begin to really enjoy God.

Rich Blessings,
Mike

Todd McClure Called as Minister of Missions and Finance

PARKERSBURG - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, along with Executive Minister, Dr. Michael Sisson, is pleased to announce the calling of Mr. Todd McClure to be the Minister of Missions and Finance for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. McClure will begin his service on January 1, 2019. As the Minister of Missions and Finance, McClure will oversee financial operations (CFO), mission support and the promotion of missions in the Convention. He will also supervise the communication functions of the Convention and be the editor for *The West Virginia Baptist* newsletter.



Mr. Todd McClure

McClure is scheduled to complete his Masters of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2019. He has a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from Marshall University in computer science. He has worked as an application developer for TransCanada Corporation since graduation, where he supervises teams of software programmers.

Todd and his wife, Erin, are active members of the Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). They have two children, Jehiah and Abi. For the past six years they have led the Baptist Campus Ministries' program at the University of

Charleston. They were both members of Project Hope, a joint ministry between the West Virginia and Puerto Rico Baptist Conventions.

Todd served multiple summers in Beirut, Lebanon, initially with CRU and more recently with Dan and Sarah Chetti. He also serves on the board for Enduring Love, a church planting initiative of International Ministries for the Arab world. In addition to his work in Lebanon, he has traveled and/or organized trips to Cuba, South Africa, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Todd is licensed by Oakwood Baptist Church. He has extensive preaching experience as he has done considerable pulpit supply over the past three years. His relationships with International Ministries over the past decade will serve him well as he works with churches, missionaries and partners to do God's work in missions.

"I want to make and mobilize disciples to reach the nations for the glory of God," says McClure as he prepares to join the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. Todd can be contacted at: todd@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449/304.615.4073.

Lisa Gillian Simmons Retiring

RIPLEY - The Executive Committee of the West Virginia Baptist Convention in its October meeting accepted the retirement terms for Lisa Gillian Simmons with her date of retirement being set for December 31, 2018. Lisa began her service with the Convention in 1990 as the interim director of Christian Education under Dr. Doug Hill. She was made the permanent part-time director by Dr. Lloyd D. Hamblin as his first staff appointment as Executive Minister. In 1997 Lisa left the Convention to serve as a missionary with International Ministries in Thailand. Dr. Hamblin brought her back on Convention staff in 2002.



Mrs. Lisa Gillian Simmons

In her time with the Convention, Lisa has served many roles. She is retiring as the Associate Director of Mission Support and Director of Discipleship Ministries. She serves as the Convention liaison to the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia and as an advisor to the Ministers' Wives' auxiliary.

Lisa was the staff leader for Project Hope and Mission Quest, joint young adult projects with the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico. She created the Mission Encounter, Education, and Training (M.E.E.T.) program to help young adults explore a call to missionary service. Together, with the mission support team, she created and led Camp Global, the annual mission camp at Cowen.

Lisa was instrumental in the formation of La Casa de la Amistad, a ministry with Hispanic people in Ravenswood that led to the creation of Comunidad Nueva Esperanza Baptist Church (Good Hope).

Lisa continues to work in close relationship with International Ministries, having recently returned from Myanmar as part of a delegation that taught Baptist leaders there. "I wanted to retire while I was still healthy enough to do missions," she says.

She and her husband, John, will make their home in Supply, North Carolina.

The Ways of the Alongsider by Bill Mowry

Adult Discipleship: Journey Alongside Emphasis for 2019

Disciplemaking can be intimidating. You might think someone who makes disciples must be a teacher, a missionary or someone who is seminary trained. Would it surprise you to know true disciplemaking is a lifestyle in which you offer people love, comfort and encouragement as you come alongside where they live, work and play?

Despite our weaknesses and fears, Jesus invites us to participate in the Great Commission by helping people live for Christ in the here and now. We are being called to live intentionally, love God and journey alongside others. An alongsider reads the Bible with others, asks questions, tells stories, encourages application and lives on mission.

In 2019, the Discipleship Commission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is sponsoring a state-wide event focusing on being bearers of hope. The purpose of our gathering will be to instruct us on how to journey alongside others. The event and the resources presented will challenge and expand the picture you have of discipleship and disciple making. As we progress through the year, you will be asked to form a circle of relationships. Begin to pray now for God to lead you to those eager men and women to whom you can be an alongsider. The commission is praying a movement of alongsiders will be raised up that are living the Great Commission right where they live, work, play and worship. These alongsiders are committed to the relational strategies of making disciples in conversation one relationship at a time. Welcome to the adventure of the alongsider.

As I start my new adventure as the Director of Discipleship for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, I reflect on those that have been an alongsider in my life. It began in my family with my parents, Rev. David and Helen Mellquist, along with my sisters, Bronlynn Morlan and Danyl Freeman. It continued with campus ministers like Robin Crouch and Roger Adams. It then progressed to pastors like Dennis Johnson, Jim Mike Ward and Paul Fulks. Coworkers like Rob Ely, Lisa Simmons and Lynda Page have come beside me, along with American Baptist Women such as Dorothy Santrock, Rose Marie Durig, Rose Pearson and Faith Bell. Friends like Sharon Pearson, Beth Rossana and Cheryl Wolfe have been at my side too. And last but not least, my husband, Jon Villers has been by my side for over thirty years now. If it wasn't for these alongsiders, I would not be where I am today.

Jesus modeled this type of lifestyle as He came alongside the two travelers going to Emmaus, as recorded in Luke 24:13-32. Cleopas and his traveling companion were forever changed as Jesus walked alongside them, asked them questions, listened to their

fears and anxieties, spoke words of transformation, sat with them and shared a meal together. Luke gives us a summary of this account from the disciples' perspective by saying, "Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:32 ESV) May Jesus become known to others as we journey alongside them in the coming year as we model being bearers of hope.

2019 Discipleship Conference *Bearers of Hope - Journeying Together*

August 24, 2019

Parchment Valley Conference Center

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Dane Allphin,
Great Lakes Regional Leader,
Navigators Church Ministries

*Cost: \$20.00 per person
(includes lunch and program fee)*

*Sponsored by Discipleship Ministries,
West Virginia Baptist Convention*



Your gifts to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** help support all the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

- **Area Ministry**
- **Communications**
- **Discipleship/Leadership Development**
- **Mission Support**
- **Student Ministries**
- **Convention Auxiliaries**

Total Gifts Received as of November 6, 2018: \$225,000.

Your support of the work we do together is essential in every aspect of our mission. As you participate in convention ministries, remember, we are called to be **Bearers of Hope and your giving to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** helps bring hope to those we meet.**

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

Passing the Torch



I took my first mission trip 30 years ago. Even as a young pastor I was passionate about missions. We never missed an opportunity to have a missionary visit our churches. I have always loved to hear stories of what God is doing around the world. Rev. Paul J. Fulks was the Minister of Mission Support for the West Virginia Baptist Convention at the time and he was leading a mission trip to Alaska. The team would travel to Circle City, Alaska to conduct a Vacation Bible School for the children of the village.

Little did I know at the time God would use the experiences from that trip to shape my ministry. While in Circle City we lived among and taught Athabascan Indian people. We learned their sense of time (they did not have one), we learned their way of life, we practiced the first rule of missions: “flexibility” and we made lifelong friends.

Nearly a decade after that first mission trip, God called me and my family to Thailand to work with the Lahu Baptist Convention. Once again, I had to learn another way of life and sense of time. To say I had to practice the first rule would be an understatement as I had to allow God to make me new as I learned a new way of life and ministry.

When God called me to ministry with the West Virginia Baptist Convention as its Minister of Mission Support, I was humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of those

who had served in that role. I was also blessed that Paul, in his retirement was willing to volunteer to help with mission promotion and continue telling people about missions. I had the great privilege of taking Paul to Thailand, a place he had always wanted to visit, but had never been.

Paul and Judy Fulks were passionate about missions, and I helped them set up the mission trip scholarship fund that carries their name. They knew the impact going on mission trips made and wanted everyone possible to experience missions. Scores of people have been helped because of their generous, sacrificial gift to help others go into the world with the gospel.

It is truly exciting for Lisa and me to know next summer one of the Fulks’ granddaughters will join Drs. Rick and Anita Gutiérrez in South Africa as a part of our M.E.E.T. (Mission, Encounter, Education, Training) program for young adults exploring a call to missions. We have watched Sienna Johnson grow up and know God has a special calling on her life.

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I pass the torch that was given to me over 16 years ago. A torch that has ignited a passion for missions in many. A torch now placed in capable hands that will inspire a new generation of disciples for missions.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to serve God on the staff of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. I have and will continue to be thankful for your passion and support of missions. I pray you will embrace and enjoy the journey God has for you.

Committed to Missions,
John

John E. Simmons Retiring



Rev. John E. Simmons

Rev. John E. Simmons, Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Administration for the West Virginia Baptist Convention has announced his retirement effective February 28, 2019. In agreement with Dr. Mike Sisson, Executive Minister, and the Executive Committee, John will overlap employment with Todd McClure for training, orientation and audit preparation.

John has served on the Convention staff since 2002 as the minister of Mission Support and as an Associate Executive Minister since 2006. John has served as the Chief Financial Officer since 2004, managing the budgets and assets of the Convention.

Under John’s leadership, the Mission Support department revised the monthly remittance form to give churches more clarity and flexibility in giving. The mission giving pie charts and explanations were created. And eight International Ministries’ missionaries were commissioned from West Virginia

during his tenure in mission support.

As the editor of the *West Virginia Baptist* newsletter for 16 years, John always sought to improve the look of *The Baptist*. He added color to the previous black and white publication and then went to a four-color format when that became cost effective. His *Thinking Missions’* column in each *Baptist* sought to encourage readers to engage in mission and often challenged traditional thinking about giving and stewardship.

John’s passion for missions was the driving force behind his ministry with the Convention. His desire to help people encounter missions took teams from West Virginia around the globe and brought missionaries and partners to West Virginia.

John was fond of quoting words from Adoniram Judson, “The future is as bright as the promises of God.” He leaves believing the future of the Convention is filled with hope and promise as a new generation of leadership steps in to do Christ’s work together.

John and Lisa will make their home in Supply, North Carolina.

Preparing for a Blessed Winter Season

Greetings from Parchment Valley Conference Center. "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:3

Yes, winter is upon us. This beautiful time of year is a great reminder of God's providence in meeting our every need. Your generous work in volunteering and donating to support this ministry enables us to share the gospel message that Jesus saves. We have so much to be thankful for, especially the 63 souls saved this past season. Our hearts and minds are prepared to celebrate our greatest gift: the savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The staff of Parchment Valley Conference Center, along with our committed volunteers and donors are quick to respond to our guests, who are always amazed that a place *where lives are changed*, an old dairy farm, has left such a lasting impression on their family's lives.

One of our event groups this winter season is Jackson County Hunting Heroes - where women and men who served in the armed forces gather for a week of fellowship and outdoor activities. This is the sixth year for this event and every year we witness miracles. We had a gentleman from the Vietnam era,



who served in the army attend the event. George lost an eye and a leg in battle. His body weakened over the years and left him in despair. He was diagnosed with severe depression. He received an invitation to come to Parchment Valley Conference Center and fellowship with others in the program. When he returned home, "his life was changed" and he had a sense of purpose and renewal.

That in itself is amazing, but wait there's more. While hosting a Palmer Seminary class at Parchment Valley Conference Center, Michael Poke, Sr., Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) professor, stopped me in the barn and told me that same George shared with him the life changing experience he had while at Parchment Valley Conference Center. You see, George attends Saint Paul Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), the same church Poke pastors, and the two had no

idea they would share a story of how God touched their lives while here at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

Thank you for another blessed season. Your prayers, events, faithful work and mission support keep the light shining brightly for all to see.

Leadership Development Initiative

Churches and Associations ...

The West Virginia Baptist Convention is interested in helping churches create opportunities for young leaders by partnering with them to develop internships in various ministries. Initially, our focus was on summer internships, but this may expand to include other parts of the year as well.

If you are a church, interested in an intern, then you should ...

- Contact your area minister to get your church on the list of potential locations
- Prepare a detailed job description (help is available on this, just ask your area minister)
- Have someone willing to serve as a mentor (a training for mentors will be part of the Annual Training Event on February 2, 2019 at Parchment Valley Conference Center)

Include the internship in your budget. We are suggesting that interns be paid \$2,500 for the summer (based upon what someone would make working at our West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen). If your church needs help, a limited number of matching grants are available, however, the church should expect to pay a minimum of \$1,000 for the summer.

Young Adults ...

Want to serve God and get paid for it? Want to make a difference? Thinking about exploring a call to ministry? We have developed our internship program for all young adults between the ages of 18-30. The purpose is to give you an opportunity to learn about leadership in the church, but also to allow you to earn money for school at the same time.

If you are a young adult interested in an internship, then you should ...

- Fill out the contact card at our online location
- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WVBC-internship2019>



- Set aside the weekend (Friday/Saturday) of January 18/19, 2019, when we will offer an orientation retreat for those interested in being interns. You will be invited to this retreat after filling out the online contact card.

Annual Training Event

(Formerly known as Church Officers' Training)

February 2, 2019
Parchment Valley Conference Center

The cost will be \$15 per person for the day, including lunch.
 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

Registration Deadline: Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, January 18, 2019 and include money for all attendees registered. After January 18, the fee is \$25.00 per person and lunch is not included.

Location	A.M. Workshop 10:15 A.M.	P.M. Workshop 1:00 P.M.
• Hill Hall	Worship and Music	Church Security
• Greenlee Building/ Keeney Room	School of Christian Studies: Church Transformation Part One	School of Christian Studies: Church Transformation Part Two
• Greenlee Building/ Crouch Room	Reducing the Risk: Harassment Prevention	Reducing the Risk: Harassment Prevention (Repeat)
• Greenlee Building/ Loft Room	Youth	Young Adults
• The Barn/Room #1 (2nd Floor)	Exploring a Call	Senior Adults
• The Barn/Room #3 (2nd Floor)	Mentor Training	Mentor Training (Repeat)
• The Barn/Room #4	Deacons	Clerks
• Santrock Education Center/Hamer Room	Drug Awareness	Dealing with Addiction
• Santrock Education Center/Matherly Room	Technology	Children
• Santrock Education Center/Bennett Room	Discipleship	Missions
• Santrock Education Center/Loudermilk Room	Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and Finance Committees	Trustees
NOTE: ALL WORKSHOPS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.		

School of Christian Studies (SCS) ADVANCED Information:
 The ADVANCED class, Church Transformation, held during this event is part of the **SCS ADVANCED Congregational Transformation** three-year program of study. This event will give you the opportunity to complete one of the classes in this program. A mailing will be sent to all students regarding this opportunity. This event may also be attended by ADVANCED students to fulfill one class requirement for the original two-year program.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

Individual/Couple/Church: _____, Church Code: _____
 _____ @ \$15.00 = _____, Check Amount: _____, Balance Due: _____
 Check: Individual/Church/Other _____, Check #: _____
 Date Received: _____, Lunch Ticket: _____

FEBRUARY 2019 CHURCH OFFICERS' TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

Attention: Church Group Contact Person.
A contact person must be chosen for all church groups.
 Please send all church group registrations in one envelope.
 One check may be written for all registrations. If you plan to use the pay for eight and bring two free rule, please make sure the free participant(s) check the box on the left side of this form. After the first 10, the "pay for eight bring two free" begins again. If you have any questions, please contact Donna at snyder@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.

• **Please complete the following information:**

I am registering as (Please check all that apply.)
 an individual/couple,
 part of a church group (send form(s) in with church)
 I am the contact person for the church group.
 My church has met the requirements. I am a free participant.

Name: _____
 (One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Preferred way to contact: telephone or e-mail

Phone or e-mail address: _____

• **Please check the appropriate fee box(es).**

\$15.00 Leadership Conference Fee (REQUIRED)
 ***\$25.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Fee**
 *Please note: \$15.00 conference fee must also be paid.
 ****\$35.00 School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Fee**
 (One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)
 **Please note: \$15.00 per person conference fee must also be paid.

_____ **Total Enclosed** (Please write in blank at left.)

• **Please list the title of the workshop(s) in the spaces below.**
Workshops must be chosen at this time.

1.) List choice for a.m. workshop: _____
 2.) List choice for p.m. workshop: _____

• **SCS ADVANCED Students only:**

Please select one program you want this credit applied to.

_____ **New Congregational Transformation Three-Year Program**
 You must choose Part A and Part B of the SCS ADVANCED Personal Transformation workshop.

_____ **Original Two-Year General Studies Program - one credit**
 You may choose any combination of workshops.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019 AND INCLUDE MONEY FOR
ALL ATTENDEES REGISTERED.

After January 18, the fee is \$25.00 per person and lunch is not included. It will be on your own.

Please make checks payable to and mail to: West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Training Event, Attn: Donna, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

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:
David Bush,
co-pastor, Crab
Orchard Baptist
Church



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



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



Photos by Zola Miller.



Worship Leader:
Eric Secman,
South Parkersburg Baptist
Church



Host Pastor:
Rich Blain,
South Parkersburg Baptist
Church



2018-2019 Officers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention:
(1 to r): Ryan Stoner, second vice-president; Doris Jothman, president; Lois Merritt, secretary; John Simmons, treasurer; and Lee Boso, first-vice president



Past Executive Ministers of the West Virginia Baptist Convention:
(1 to r) David Carrico, Michael Stephens, James Lutz and Lloyd Hamblin



New Pastor Recognition:
Bill Stewart, pastor
Reedy Baptist Church (Good
Hope)



Student Ministries' Crew:
(1 to r) Jennifer Huber, Rob Ely, Kevin Sions and Gill Narraway



International Ministries' Representative:
Joyce Bagaraneza



Palmer Seminary: Jo Anne Robertson (l) with daughter and son-in-law Dee and Carl Bartoe is presented with a posthumous Master of Divinity degree for her husband, Tom.

School of Christian Studies Graduates Ten



The School of Christian Studies held its annual graduation ceremony at the Saturday, October 20th, 2018 morning session of the 153rd Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

Those present to participate in the ceremony are pictured above and are as follows Allan Copenhaver, Dean of the Northeast Area; Janet L. Randolph - diploma in Pastoral Ministry; John M. Golden - diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Connie L. Harbaugh - diploma in Pastoral Ministry; Mary Beth McCloy, Dean of the Northwest Area; and Mark McCloy, Director.

Those who were not able to attend were: Leonard H. Cain - diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Joseph M. DeMeester - certificate in Lay Ministry, Kimberly Sue DeMeester - certificate in Lay Ministry, Jay Shannon Earle - diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Shelby E. Ford - certificate in Teaching Ministry, John W. Jones, Jr. - certificate in Teaching Ministry and Heather Deane Whetsell - certificate in Teaching Ministry.

Houser Receives James Anderson, Sr. Award



Mark Houser (c) receives the James Anderson, Sr. award from Mary Jo Slater (l) and Jim Anderson, Jr. (r).

During the morning session of the West Virginia Baptist Convention 153rd Annual Meeting held at South Parkersburg Baptist Church on Saturday, October 20, 2018, Rev. Mark Houser of Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) was honored as the recipient of the sixth annual Rev. James Anderson Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award.

After sharing some stories about his father and a biography of Pastor Houser, Rev. Jim Anderson Jr., Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention introduced his sister, Mary Jo Slater, who presented the award.

Pastor Houser shared some history of how Lubeck Community Baptist Church started, and gave thanks to the Anderson family for establishing the award and the West Virginia Baptist Convention area ministers for selecting him.

Biram Receives Ward Hibbs Ministerial Award



PHILIPPI - Alderson Broaddus University is proud to honor Rev. Don Biram, former Pastor of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) with the 2018 Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award. Alderson Broaddus University President, Tim Barry presented the award at the 153rd Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Baptist Convention held at South Parkersburg Baptist Church on October 19, 2018. This award is given annually by Alderson Broaddus University in memory of the ministry of Ward W.

Hibbs. This award is presented to an American Baptist minister who has made outstanding contributions to the ministry of town and country churches. "Honoring the memory of Ward W. Hibbs, Alderson Broaddus University desires to strengthen the work of our town and country churches by recognizing the effective, hard-working pastors who serve small town and open country churches," said Barry.

The ministry of the Reverend Ward W. Hibbs spanned more than a half century during which he served churches in West Virginia in various ways. As the first Director of Town and Country work for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, he inau-

gurated an inservice collegiate training program for ministers at Alderson Broaddus in collaboration with the West Virginia Baptist Convention. This work is an important part of his legacy.

Pastor Biram was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Studies from Alderson Broaddus College in 1987 and a Master of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1994. Don was ordained into the ministry on October 29, 1995 by Bryn Zion Baptist Church. He has served as Pastor of four churches; Bryn Zion Baptist Church, Mount Gilead, Ohio; Oak Grove Baptist Church, Independence, West Virginia; Quiet Dell Baptist Church (Fairmont); and for the past 21 years, he served as Pastor of New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle).

In addition to his ministry, Don volunteers with Tri-County Young Life and is chaplain at the Wetzel County Hospital. He provides ministry to Genesis Healthcare Center and the towers' residents at the senior citizen high rise. Don serves on the board for Esther Crumbley Christmas assistance program and is a board member and coach for the New Martinsville Upward sports programs.

Don and his wife, Cindy, are the parents of four children: Hope, Zerihun, Nardos and Hana.

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Ben Moses Ordained at Simpson Creek

Ben Moses, Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults at Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union), was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in a special service, October 7, 2018. C. Michael Hopkins delivered the ordination sermon. The charge to the church was delivered by Pastor Brad Harris. The charge to the candidate was delivered by Pastor Kevin Moses. Also participating in the service were David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention; Trevor Pullen; and the worship choir, directed by Rayme Pullen. A reception followed in the fellowship hall.



Rev. David Hulme (l) and Rev. Ben Moses

Sam Myers Ordained at Long Run

Sam Myers, Pastor of Long Run Fellowship (Union), was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in a special service on October 28, 2018. Pastor George Murphy delivered the ordination sermon. Also participating in the service were Pastor Jim Baker, Pastor Lois Sandy, Pastor Larry Fleming, Pastor Mark Osbourne, Sonya Moore-Coats and David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention. Special music was provided by various musicians throughout the service. A dinner followed in the fellowship hall.



Rev. David Hulme (l) and Rev. Sam Myers

Steve Zywicki Installed at North Mill Creek

Steve Zywicki (at left) was installed as Pastor of North Mill Creek Baptist Church (Eastern) in a special service on October 21, 2018. Pastor Rick Bergdoll, Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern), delivered the installation sermon.



Southwest Area News

Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Coal River Association Celebrates World Communion Sunday

October 7, 2018 was World Communion Sunday and the Coal River Association came together to celebrate this special event. Several churches from the association met at Forks of Coal Missionary Baptist Church (Coal River) to worship through music, preaching, celebration of communion, and of course, food to follow. Many of the folks from different choirs met early to practice several songs to lead the congregation in worship.

Following the singing, Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention was the guest speaker to prepare hearts to partake of communion. Arkell led the communion while the pastors present served. Many thanks to the congregation at Forks of Coal for the delicious refreshments as well!

Robbins Installed as Pastor at Highlawn

Rev. Jason Robbins was installed as Pastor of Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) on October 7, 2018. Wonderful music was provided by the church praise band to lead worship. Rev. John Simmons, Associate Executive Minister of Missions and

Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention delivered the message, pointing out the responsibilities of the new pastor and the members of the church to move the church forward. Rev. Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention, led the installation service. A wonderful meal was prepared by the church following this special service.

Logan-Mingo Association American Baptist Men Reformed

After a long period of not meeting, a reforming of the Logan-Mingo Association American Baptist Men was held at Logan First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo) the morning of October 27, 2018. There were nearly 20 men gathered from around the association to reorganize this group. While there was a wonderful breakfast prepared by Mr. William Carrere, it was made clear this group is not to be a breakfast gathering. Following breakfast, Rev. Michael Hatfield, Pastor, Logan First Baptist Church brought a devotion to the group. The meeting closed with Mr. Carrere opening a business session to elect officials to this newly reformed group.

Season of Celebration

Recent months have seen many events and happenings worthy of celebration. I had the pleasure of participating in ceremonies of licensing for ministry (including two of my own children), celebrated the ordination of deacons, installation of pastors and dedication of buildings. These are truly some of the most enjoyable parts of my calling. It has been a pleasure to see babies dedicated, see people come to the altar in prayer and heard of the many baptisms happening amongst our churches. Chances are you have participated in or been present for some of the things I am talking about.



Pastors (l) Lloyd and Connie Stewart(r) at the dedication of their new building at New Found Freedom Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

Our God is moving amongst His people and things are happening. When God blesses it is important we remember to celebrate. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Our God is moving amongst His people and things are happening. When God blesses it is important we remember to celebrate. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

West Virginia Churches Find Mission Opportunity in Nashville

by Rich McClure, Pastor, Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg)

The Way Community Center in Pegram, Tennessee hosted four West Virginia Baptist churches seeking opportunity to serve in a mission setting. Those four churches were Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley), Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Bryan Cantrell, Youth Pastor, Hurricane First Baptist Church brought 46 youth who engaged in residential work projects and served among the homeless population of Nashville. The 14 young people with Lea Bowes, Youth Director, Highlawn Baptist Church, performed similar service. Scott McClure, Student Pastor, Williamstown First Baptist Church, led 32 Williamstown youth on work projects as well. Six adults from Parkersburg and Elizabeth with Rich McClure, Pastor, Parkersburg First Baptist Church, leading were trained in a recovery program, visited residential treatment centers and the county jail in addition to serving among the homeless.

The Way Community Center is committed to investing in the lives of young people and their families, encouraging them to reach their fullest potential through educational, social and spiritual growth. The center is led by Brian and Sara McClure. The couple will be relocating to Parkersburg in 2019 and will expand their ministry footprint by organizing a second site in that city. The seven year old ministry has served thousands and has served as a missions' conduit for hundreds more.



Youth from Williamstown First Baptist Church pitch in by trimming trees.

Southeast Area News

James Anderson, Jr., Southeast Area Minister

Bennett Ordained at Springdale First

On Sunday, October 28, 2018, churches of the Hopewell Association gathered together at Springdale First Baptist Church (Hopewell) for the deacon ordination service of Mr. James Bennett.

Rev. Jack Cole, Pastor of Springdale First Baptist Church, delivered a wonderful charge to both James and the church. Rev. Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West

Virginia Baptist Convention shared some thoughts and sang *One Blessed Man*.

The deacons and Pastor Cole presented James with his ordination certificate and a Bible to commemorate this special day in the life of James and the church.

James shared his thanks, closed in prayer and also gave thanks for the time of fellowship and refreshments held afterward.

Coming Events

DECEMBER 2018

December 24-25
Christmas Holiday
 West Virginia Baptist Convention
 Office CLOSED

JANUARY 2019

January 1
New Year's Day Holiday
 West Virginia Baptist Convention
 Office CLOSED

January 4
West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Committee
 Parchment Valley Conference Center in the Santrock Education Center at 6:30 p.m.

January 5
West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board and Commission Meetings
 Parchment Valley Conference Center in the Santrock Education Center at 9:00 a.m.

January 8
School of Christian Studies New Testament I (B-03) six-week class begins
 Various Locations

January 12
School of Christian Studies ADVANCED The Book of Romans one-day class
 Parchment Valley Conference Center in the Santrock Education Building
 Registration is at 8:30 a.m.
 Class begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2019

February 2
Annual Training Event (Formerly know as Church Officers' Training)
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
 Registration in Hill Hall from 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Event ends at 2:30 p.m.

February 18
Presidents' Day Holiday
 West Virginia Baptist Convention
 Office CLOSED

February 22-24
Senior High Convention
 Williamstown First Baptist Church

February 23
American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
 Various Locations

2019 Camp Cowen Schedule



WOMEN'S CAMP

April 5-7

MEN'S WORK PARTY

April 26-27

YOUTH WORK PARTY

May 10-11

YOUNGER MIDLER

June 7-9

JUNIOR 1

June 9-15

JUNIOR HIGH 1

June 16-22

JUNIOR 2

June 23-29

HIGH SCHOOL 1

June 30-July 6

JUNIOR HIGH 2

July 7-13

SENIOR DAY

July 13

HIGH SCHOOL 2

July 14-20

FAMILY CAMP

July 26-29

OLDER MIDLER

July 30-August 2

AMERICAN BAPTIST MEN AND BOYS' CAMP

August 2-4

CAMP GLOBAL

August 9-11

Registration and health forms are available online at www.campcowen.org or by calling Jennifer at 304.422.6449.

WANTED: 2019 Summer Staff for the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen



Positions Available:

- Lifeguards (Must be Red Cross certified or in process)
- Registrar
- Maintenance Assistants
- Photographer
- Videographer
- Kitchen Assistants
- Dishwasher Operator
- Pots and Pans Washer

Qualifications (Preferred):

- One year post high school graduates
- Applicants from ABC/USA-WVBC churches are preferred, however, other denominations will also be considered
- Have the ability and desire to work hard and relate well with others

Summer schedules from May 25 - August 12 (negotiable)

\$265 per week stipend, plus room and board

(A \$100 bonus will be given when contract days are completed.)

Interview dates will be announced.

To request an application, contact Jennifer at 304.422.6449 or jennifer@wvbc.org. Applications are also available at www.campcowen.org. Please note: when printing forms off of the internet, you will need four copies of the reference form.

**Application deadline is
 March 15, 2019.**

GEORGE B. BUNCH, 90, of Houston, Texas, died October 28, 2018. He was a 50-year member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River). He loved to sing and added his fine tenor voice to the church choir and taught the Vine Bible Class for many years.

CHARLES "CHARLIE" RICHARD BURNSIDE, JR., 64, of Jane Lew, died September 2, 2018. He was a member of Jackson's Mill Baptist Church (Broad Run), where he spent many years being a Sunday School teacher for young adults.

SHIRLEY JEAN BYRD, 77, of Weirton, died September 23, 2018. She was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle), where she was an active member of the Sunday school class Pairs and Spares.

BONNIE M. DRAKE, 96, of Glenville, died September 6, 2018. She was a member of Rock Grove Baptist Church (Broad Run).

DAVID E. FETTY, SR., 74, of Butler, Pennsylvania, died October 2, 2018. He was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle), where he served as a deacon, participated in church mission projects and performed countless hours of ministry work.

VIOLET J. FITZPATRICK, 84, of Diamond, died October 16, 2018. She was a longtime member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she held several positions the past 59 years.

BETTY JO HUTCHISON FRENCH, 90, of Daniels, died October 12, 2018. She was a very active member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she served as deaconess, former chairman of the board of deaconesses, former member of the Chancel Choir, the Koinonia Sunday School Class, the Lydia Light Circle and taught in the "First Place" children's program.

BERYL BEVERLY HANNA, 74, of Liberty, died November 5, 2018. She was an active member of Riverside Baptist Church (Teays Valley) for 31 years.

FORREST STEPHEN JONES, 72, of Summersville, died September 16, 2018. He was a member of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell), where he served on the deacon board for 32 years, was a Sunday School teacher and worked on various boards. He was a 34-year active member of the Nicholas/Webster Camp of Gideons International, where he had been camp president and treasurer for many years.

WILLIAM F. MOORE, 80, of Weirton, died October 3, 2018. He was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle).

DOROTHY ANN NEAL, 87, of Summersville, died October 26, 2018. She was a member of Summersville Baptist Church (Hopewell), where she sang in the choir for 50 years, was a past Sunday School Superintendent, teacher, deaconess and member of the Ruth Blake Circle.

PHILLIP R. NEWHART, 95, of North Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Parkersburg, died October 12, 2018. He served churches in New Jersey, Ohio and West Virginia, but felt most proud of his service to the Parkersburg area. He was given the honor of being

area minister to over 107 churches in Ohio. He was past President of the Wood County Ministerial Alliance and participated in the chaplains' program at Camden Clark Medical Center, along with many other affiliations too numerous to mention

CYNTHIA P. PRESTON, 67, of Clarksburg, died October 27, 2018. She was a very active member of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union).

DONALD EUGENE RANDOLPH, 62, died November 6, 2018. He was a member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a trustee and deacon.

RUTH ELIZABETH LAWRENCE SIMMONS, of Charleston, died September 5, 2018. She was a member of Abounding Grace Church of God, Chesapeake, where she enjoyed leading, singing and teaching. She was the mother of John Simmons, Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention.

RONALD G. "RONNIE" WALKER, 76, of Danville, died September 22, 2018. He was a member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River), where he served as greeter, usher, trustee, deacon and food pantry worker.

DORIS JEAN WAYBRIGHT, 81, of Washington, died October 27, 2018. She was a member of Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

MILLARD RAY WIAINT, 82, of Spencer, died October 3, 2018. He was a faithful member of Spencer First Baptist Church (Good Hope).

LOIS KATHRYN ROBINSON WILSON, 92, of Belington, died October 6, 2018. She was a longtime member of Belington First Baptist Church (Union), where she served as treasurer.

RICHARD "DICK" DEWITT WORLEY, JR., 87, of Aledo, Texas, died October 13, 2018. He was an International Ministries' alumnus who served in Thailand.

Leadership Updates

DR. JEFF BIDDLE, JR. to New Hope Community Church (Kanawha Valley) as pastor in March 2018

REV. COREY BROOKS to Breckenridge Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as senior pastor on September 23, 2018

REV. ALLEN L. BURNSWORTH to Broad Run Baptist Church (Broad Run) as interim pastor on November 3, 2018

MR. DEREK HALL to Old Greenbrier Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as interim pastor on October 7, 2018

DR. MAX HILL to Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River) as interim pastor on September 23, 2018

REV. GARRY LAYFIELD to Sardis Baptist Church (Judson) as pastor on September 16, 2018

REV. JASON ROBBINS to Highlawn Baptist Church (Teays Valley) as senior pastor in August 2018

December 2018

DECEMBER 1 - The ministry of Holly River Baptist Church (Elk Valley)
DECEMBER 2 - Ann Clemmer, International Ministries' (IM) missionary
DECEMBER 3 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Joe Lamm, pastor (Goshen)
DECEMBER 4 - Carol Moats, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
DECEMBER 5 - Katy Hegarty, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Costa Rica
DECEMBER 6 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Andrew Robinson, pastor (Good Hope)
DECEMBER 7 - The ministry of North Hills Baptist Church; Michael Harper, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
DECEMBER 8 - David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 9 - The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Kurt Busiek, pastor (Parkersburg)
DECEMBER 10 - Ivy Wu, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Hong Kong
DECEMBER 11 - John Simmons, Associate Executive Minister of Missions and Administration, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 12 - The ministry of Athens Baptist Church; Charles Drake, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
DECEMBER 13 - The ministry of Central Big Creek Baptist Church (Guyandotte)
DECEMBER 14 - The ministry of Sunday Road Baptist Church (Hopewell)
DECEMBER 15 - Bill Clemmer, International Ministries' (IM) missionary
DECEMBER 16 - Emma Witmer, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Thailand
DECEMBER 17 - Andrew Good, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Hungary
DECEMBER 18 - Lisa Simmons, director of Discipleship Ministries and associate in Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 19 - Denise Aragon, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Mexico
DECEMBER 20 - Mike Lowery, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 21 - Kevin Sions, Northern Director, Baptist Campus Ministries, West Virginia University
DECEMBER 22 - J.D. Reed, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Bolivia
DECEMBER 23 - The ministry of Gentry Missionary Baptist Church; Lewis Sanson, pastor (Fayette)
DECEMBER 24 - Our families as we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Savior
DECEMBER 25 - Prayer of thanksgiving for a Savior that was born to save the world
DECEMBER 26 - The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church; Carl Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run)
DECEMBER 27 - Koreen Villers, director, Children's and Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 28 - The ministry of Sardis Baptist Church; Garry Layfield, pastor (Judson)
DECEMBER 29 - Maggie Stanton, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Hungary
DECEMBER 30 - Lori Mann, International Ministries' (IM) missionary
DECEMBER 31 - Kay Hensley, chair, Baptist Campus Ministries Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission

January 2019

JANUARY 1 - Pray for a blessed New Year
JANUARY 2 - The ministry of Fayetteville Baptist Church; Ron George, Jr., pastor (Fayette)
JANUARY 3 - The ministry of Sunset Hills Missionary Baptist Church; Michael Rose, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JANUARY 4 - The ministry of Morrisvale Baptist Church; David Cook, pastor (Coal River)
JANUARY 5 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meets today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JANUARY 6 - The ministry of Little Laurel Missionary Baptist Church; David McLaughlin, pastor (Elk Valley)
JANUARY 7 - The ministry of Welcome Baptist Church; Chad Raines, pastor (Judson)
JANUARY 8 - Melanie Baggao, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Lebanon
JANUARY 9 - The ministry of Grantsville First Baptist Church; Ron Chesser, pastor (Little Kanawha)
JANUARY 10 - Kyle Witmer, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Thailand
JANUARY 11 - Ann Borquist, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Southeast Asia and Japan
JANUARY 12 - The ministry of New Baptist Church; Trent Eastman, pastor (Guyandotte)
JANUARY 13 - The ministry of Wellsburg First Baptist Church; Michael Martin, pastor (Panhandle)
JANUARY 14 - The ministry of South Fork Baptist Church; Tom Burrill, pastor (Harrisville)
JANUARY 15 - The ministry of Summit Missionary Baptist Church; Larry Addair, pastor (Rockcastle)
JANUARY 16 - The ministry of McRoss Baptist Church (Hopewell)
JANUARY 17 - The ministry of Macedonia Baptist Church; Terry Thompson, pastor (Twelve Pole)
JANUARY 18 - The ministry of Flemington Baptist Church; Garry Whitescarver, pastor (Union)
JANUARY 19 - Ian Williams, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
JANUARY 20 - Andrea Fling, Bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 21 - The ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; John Ellison, pastor (Good Hope)
JANUARY 22 - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Ron McClung, pastor (Teays Valley)
JANUARY 23 - The ministry of Union Baptist Church; Jeff Musgrave, pastor (Fairmont)
JANUARY 24 - The ministry of Goshen Baptist Church; Dan Meadows, pastor (Goshen)
JANUARY 25 - The ministry of Pine Grove Baptist Church; Bryan Knight, pastor (Parkersburg)
JANUARY 26 - Carmella Jones, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Hungary
JANUARY 27 - Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 28 - The ministry of Cedar Grove Baptist Church; Harold White, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
JANUARY 29 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Gary Crislip, pastor (Eastern)
JANUARY 30 - The ministry of Mount Olive Baptist Church; Steve Gum, pastor (Broad Run)
JANUARY 31 - The ministry of Man First Baptist Church (Logan Mingo)

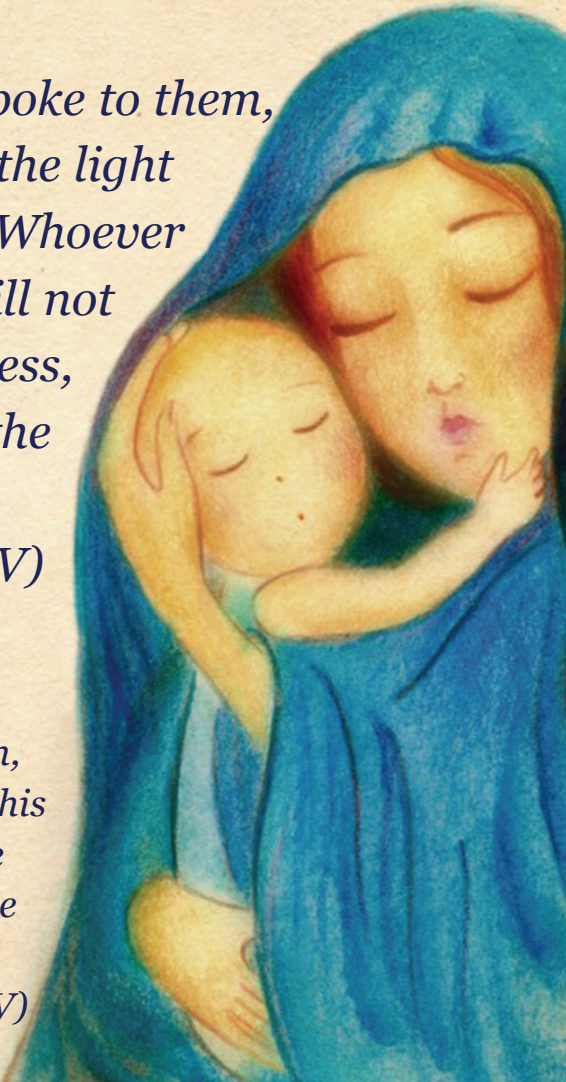
West Virginia Baptist Convention staff and missionaries listed are on the occasion of their birthday.

Merry Christmas from the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

I am the light of the world.

*Again Jesus spoke to them,
saying, "I am the light
of the world. Whoever
follows me will not
walk in darkness,
but will have the
light of life."
John 8:12 (ESV)*

*She will bear a son,
and you shall call his
name Jesus, for he
will save his people
from their sins."
Matthew 1:21 (ESV)*



**May we all bring the light of
Jesus to a lost and dying world
this Christmas season and all
throughout the year.**

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg WV 26102;
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

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

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