

Little Blessings in Thailand

by Dee Lallemont,
 American Baptist Women's Ministries' of West Virginia
 Coordinator for Mission and Service

As we rode down the dirt road into the Lahu community, I could hear the laughter of the children. They came running to welcome us and to show off where they lived, played and went to church. They climbed on their neighborhood playground equipment and swung high on the swings. A few older kids came out to greet and hug their former preschool teachers and Kim Brown, the International Ministries' (IM) missionary and founder of the House of Blessing in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The parents of these kids moved from their mountain villages into this community in Chiang Mai in order to find jobs. The community was full of homes made out of bamboo, wood and sheet metal. A small stand served as the neighborhood convenience store, selling fresh eggs and drinks.

We first met these kids at the House of Blessing preschool. The kids attend preschool from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The school has over 50 children ages three to six and they are divided into three classes. We spent three mornings teaching them about David and emphasized that God looks at the hearts of people. Before



the preschool was established, these tribal children struggled when starting Thai schools because they spoke their tribal languages and had no early education experiences. At the House of Blessing, the teachers teach in Thai and give the kids the fundamentals they need to thrive in Thai schools.

When the teachers discovered several kids were frequently absent or coming to school exhausted from begging late at night in the Night Bazaar, a plan was designed to help the families. The House

of Blessing offered to provide a month of rice if the parents promised their children would not beg at night.



After starting the program, the teachers noticed their students were more alert and eager to learn. Unfortunately, the school has experienced difficulty funding the rice project. The American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV (ABWM) elected to support this rice ministry for their 2019 Mission Outreach Project (MOP). Our goal is to raise \$6,000 to supplement the rice ministry and provide support for the families of the House of Blessing students. Thirty dollars provides one family with enough rice for a month. Three hundred and sixty dollars provides one family enough rice for a year, and our goal of six thousand dollars would provide sixteen families enough rice for one year! We would love for you to consider joining West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries in supporting this rice ministry. If you would like to host a fundraiser, please contact Dee Lallemont for more information or ideas at dlallemont@yahoo.com. If you would like to make

an individual contribution, you can mail monetary donations to AB Women's Ministries, Attn: Linda Carpenter, 63 Wakefield Place, Washington, WV 26281. Please put "MOP Project" in the memo line.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

**2019 MISSION
 OUTREACH
 PROJECT:
 RICE FOR
 STUDENTS IN
 THAILAND**

**\$30.00 provides
 one family with
 enough rice for one
 month.**

**\$360.00 provides
 one family with
 enough rice for
 one year.**

**OUR GOAL OF
 \$6,000.00 WOULD
 PROVIDE 16
 FAMILIES WITH
 ENOUGH RICE FOR
 ONE YEAR!**



West Virginia Baptist Convention

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Good Problems!?



Dr. Michael Sisson

Good problems - now there is an oxymoron! To even suggest a problem could be good is an enigma in itself. However, an example from Swiss engineer George de Mestral demonstrates that problems (even annoying ones) can actually be opportunities. De Mestral was annoyed with burs always getting attached to his socks and to his dog, so he decided after a hike in the Alps to look at the burs in his socks under the microscope to find out why they stuck so well. What he found was tiny hooks in the burs that were allowing them to get attached to loop weaves of fabric and the dog's fur. This near-constant annoyance led to his invention of a revolutionary product still widely used almost seventy years later, Velcro.

When we as followers of Jesus Christ commit to approaching things from God's viewpoint, problems quickly become opportunities!

- *Problems become opportunities to grow as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *They become opportunities to learn new things and more clearly evaluate old ones.*
- *They become opportunities for turning points and new directions.*
- *They become opportunities for your faith to be tested in order that it may be strengthened. As pastor and bible teacher Warren Wiersbe once said, "A faith that cannot be tested, cannot be trusted."*
- *They become opportunities to experience many blessings including God's peace and presence in your life.*
- *They become opportunities to witness the gracious and powerful hand of God at work.*
- *And they become opportunities to accomplish great things for God.*

Turning problems into opportunities does require walking in faith. Not faith in our own abilities, but faith in God to give us His wisdom and guidance. A familiar passage of scripture from the book of Romans reminds us, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (8:28). Note, Paul does not imply all things are good, rather he reminds us our Lord is able to work in the midst of all things to produce a good result. William Barclay's translation of Romans 8:28 reads, "We know that God intermingles all things for good for those who love Him, for those who are called according to His purpose." It is like baking a cake from scratch. Some of the raw ingredients such as raw eggs, salt, baking soda and flour by themselves are certainly not appealing, however intermingled or mixed together with some sugar and heated in the oven produces a delicious final product.

One of the most important skills we can develop in life is the ability to view problems as opportunities. Let's face it, life throws problems at us pretty much all the time. Perhaps we can work to adapt the perspective of "The Optimist" as found in this poem from a 1940 edition of The Rotarian magazine:

*"Life handed him a lemon,
 As life sometimes will do.
 His friends looked on in pity,
 Assuming he was through.
 They came upon him later,
 Reclining in the shade
 In calm contentment, drinking
 A glass of lemonade."*

**Rich Blessings,
 Mike**

College News:

To ring in 2019, 20 college students and six adults travelled to Washington, D.C. to experience the life-changing *Passion Conference*. *Passion* is a three-day event for college



The college group posed for a picture at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C.

students and young adults where they can be encouraged in their faith through teaching and worship to help progress a spiritual awakening in the younger

generations of the modern church. This conference coincides with the *Baptist Campus Ministries'* purpose of "*Changing Lives that Change the World*" by giving young adults the excitement needed to influence the world around them in their home communities.

Student Ministries Opportunities for Leadership:

In addition to events where students can build on their relationships with Christ and fellowship with one another, the Student Ministries' area also offers the opportunity for students to grow as leaders. There are currently two opportunities for students to build their skills through hard work and training with peers. *The West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen is now accepting applications for the summer staff and the Youth Ministry Planning Team is currently accepting nominations for the upcoming school year.*

Staff opportunities at Camp Cowen provide college students with a chance to develop their skills and their

M.E.E.T: Mission, Education, Encounter, Training - Equipping Young Adults to Pursue Foreign Missions

"The evangelization of the world in this generation!" That was the rallying cry of the students that were part of the greatest missions mobilization movement in world history.

In July of 1886, coming as a response to a Bible conference held by D.L. Moody and Robert Wilder, exactly 100 students committed their lives to foreign missions. The following summer, another conference was held, in which 2,106 more students committed their lives to foreign missions. In 1888, the Student Volunteer Movement was formed, which commissioned out more than 6,000 students over the next five years. By 1945, more than 20,000 other students had joined them.

A brief study of the history of missions reveals God has so often chosen to use college students and young adults to reach the nations. Adoniram Judson was 23 when he set sail for India (later going to Burma). His wife, Ann, was 22. Hudson Taylor was 21 when he went to China. Jim Elliot was 24 when he arrived in Ecuador. The list could go on, but you get the point. Young adults are vital to reaching the nations.

With this in mind, the West Virginia Baptist Convention has created a new program aimed at helping mobilize young adults to reach the world. **Mission, Encounter, Education, Training (M.E.E.T)** has the purpose of equipping young adults to pursue foreign missions, while helping them discern God's call on their lives. Young adults who are accepted to participate in

by **Rob Ely**, Director

relationship with Christ through the summer-long work at camp. During the summer, staff live at camp and participate in weekly Bible study and fellowship time. For more information on available positions, staff expectations, qualifications and how to apply for the summer of 2019, check out www.campcowen.org/join-the-team.html.

The Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) is an opportunity for students going into their junior and senior year of high school to develop leadership skills that will impact the rest of their lives. If accepted onto the team, students will work together to plan the main events within Student Ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. For more information on YMPT or to nominate a student from your church, go to www.wvbc.org/ministries/youth/.

Junior High News:

The Student Ministries' theme for the 2018-2019 school year is "Jesus, Inc." By focusing on Colossians 3:17, students are looking at how to incorporate Christ into every aspect of their lives. This theme was reinforced during *Junior High Convention 2018* as the emphasis was placed on knowing the authentic Jesus. By knowing Him better, we can more easily incorporate Him in all we do. Brian Burgess was the speaker who taught four sessions throughout the weekend and worship was led by Profound Revival, a husband and wife duo from Clarksburg. Students had time to build bonds with friends from their home church as well as ones they met through camp or *Jr. High Convention* through free time, fun, games and group building activities. An offering of \$475.41 was also collected to support a local ministry of the hosting church, Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette).

M.E.E.T. will be paired with various International Ministries' (IM) missionaries around the globe who will coach them on a day-to-day basis and allow them to experience missionary life. While short-term mission trips can definitely prepare a candidate for long-term missionary service, **M.E.E.T.** is designed to play the role of mid-term missions, with each person serving anywhere from three weeks to an entire summer, depending on their circumstance.

In addition to the cross-cultural experience each candidate will receive, they will also receive training in missions theology, support raising and cross-cultural preparation adapted for their context. Any young adult who is interested in participating is encouraged to apply.

We have already received several applications, and interviews and placements are already taking place. However, the application deadline has been extended until February 15, 2019 to allow more individuals to apply.

The evangelization of the world in this generation! That is our goal. I believe **M.E.E.T.** serves as a crucial step in helping us make that a reality.

Todd McClure,
Minister of Missions and Finance

Parchment Valley Conference Center

by *Frank Miller*, Director

Bringing Forth Fruit

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:5 (KJV)

Many years ago on a tract of land cultivated by God's servants, the Parchment Valley Conference Center was dedicated. The farm, previously known as the Hyre Dairy Farm, was one of the best apple producing orchards in Jackson County. Now Parchment Valley Conference Center produces a different kind of fruit, a Christian conference center with dedicated, hardworking people who love the Lord and are committed to serving Him. The scripture reminds us as believers we are to remain faithful in Christ and together we will produce much fruit.

In 2018, the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries chose Parchment Valley Conference Center as their special project. Their goal was to raise \$12,000. The monies raised would help to install new metal roofs on the Bonar, Sowards, Deem and Bailey lodges, named in memory of those dedicated missionaries.

The wonderful news is the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries exceeded their fundraising goal for the project! A roofing company was awarded the bid and installed four new lodge roofs. Then, we discovered the

manufacturer had sent extra metal and roofing supplies.

I met with the roofing company, and asked since our dorm roofs were in urgent need of replacement would there be enough roofing and supplies to do those as well? Thankfully, the leftover material was enough to install new metal roofs on the dorms. When the company finished with the dorm roofs they only charged for labor. In the crazy and greedy world we live in, God certainly blesses those who abide in Him.

One of our West Virginia Baptist Convention auxiliary groups, the American Baptist Women's Ministries of West Virginia is a blessed body of servants working together to bless Parchment Valley through their 2018 project. Through this, several building projects have been completed, which resulted in a large cost savings. The money saved enabled us to pay for the labor with the new metal dorm roof installation. Through the dedicated service of our auxiliary groups, Parchment Valley Conference Center is a special place where "*lives are changed*" for the kingdom.

Thank you all for equipping the saints to do even greater work for the Master as we remain in the vine and endeavor to bear much fruit.

**BROTHERS'
KEEPER
2019
June 23-28**



Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

*Please help us to continue to provide this opportunity to be
Bearers of Hope ... Doing Christ's Work Together*

brotherskeeperwv.org, 304.372.3675, tmiller@wvbc.org

Which End of the Rope Are You Holding?

Soon after the Baptist Missionary Society was formed in 1792, William Carey looked at the small band of brothers that stood around him and said, "Well, I will go down if you will hold the rope." Andrew Fuller took on that challenge and spent the rest of his life holding the rope so Carey could take the gospel to India.

When we think of missions, we frequently think only of people like Carey and others who go to the nations. But missionary work requires much more than a single commitment. It requires the equally important commitment of others who are willing to hold the rope. In that sense, missions is doing together what we cannot do alone.

In Romans 10, Paul explained missions in this way: *"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?"* He then concludes: *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

If you examine Paul's listing in reverse order, it makes it easier to see the natural progression of missions:

1. *The missionary is sent*
2. *The missionary preaches*
3. *The people hear*
4. *The people believe*
5. *The people call upon the name of the Lord*

It is important to note the latter steps cannot be completed unless the prior steps are done first. That is why sending (or rope holding) is an absolute necessity. Unless one sends, a lost people will never hear the gospel. That is what Carey realized. That is why he needed Fuller to hold the rope.

Our theme this year is *"Bearers of Hope ... Doing Christ's Work Together."* The hope that we bear is found only in Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, nearly half of the world has not yet heard of Jesus. To quote Paul again, *"How are they to believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"* The answer is they will only hear if we are willing to go. And the only way we can go is if others will hold the rope. Missions requires both going and sending. Missions is doing Christ's work together.

Because God is a missionary God, he expects all of His people to be a missionary people. The question for you is this: Are you a goer or are you a sender? Which end of the rope are you holding?

Opening the Floodgates for Missions

"Test me in this ... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out more blessing than you have room for."
(Malachi 3:10)



I have been writing to you about missions for more than 16 years. By my count, this is my 100th *Thinking Missions* column, and my last as I move into a new phase of ministry in retirement. I can assure you my passion, support and involvement in missions will

not wane, but it will be different. I am very excited for my future and for the ministries of the Convention.

In my first year promoting mission giving, I was visiting a pastor to encourage him to set a mission goal of 10% of budget for missions. A simple request - a tithe for the work God desires for us to do beyond the local church. This pastor told me he did not believe in the tithe as it is an Old Testament doctrine and no longer applied. As shocked as I was with his attitude, I am sure he was even more shocked with my response. I simply told him I agreed with him and we should do what Jesus said and give it all!

I have found in my personal experience and in my observations of churches, that when we give to God's work we are blessed. A tithe is the beginning of giving as it serves as a testimony that we recognize everything we have has been given to us and entrusted to us by God. I know when I put God first in everything I have my priorities in the right order.

I know giving to missions can be challenging for our budgets. I am reminded of the words of Paul in II Corinthians when he encourages the church to sow generously so you may reap generously. He goes on to say in verse 11, *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion."* **We always have enough to be generous!**

As the prophet Malachi challenged the people to return to God, he reminded them they had been robbing God by not bringing God's tithe into the storehouse. **If we are to live as God's people, we must give as God's people!**

I was in a meeting of pastors some years ago when one of them was sharing how his church had to cut missions out of the budget because the church could no longer afford it. I will never forget the moment when Rev. Herman Robinson raised up and said, "When a church stops giving to missions it is dead!"

I believe mission giving is an indication of a healthy church. I also believe we have the tendency to be short sighted in our budgeting and fail to trust God to open the floodgates of heaven. **The ministry we do together matters.** It is dependent on each of us - each of our churches to give so the mission God has given to us can be supported properly.

God said, *"Test me on this."* Let us open the floodgates for missions by giving and living for God!

It has been a great privilege to serve the Lord with you as we did God's work together. Thank you!

*Committed to Missions,
John*

Blessings Abound at Weirton Christian Center

by Kim Weaver,
Director, Weirton Christian Center

Our Baptist family has been wonderful to us and we are thankful for all of you who donate to our mission and pray for us. We are also thankful for those American Baptist Women who have provided us with White Cross items, gift cards and financial support. Our *quarters for grades'* donations still keep up with our needs to reward our children for attendance, homework and report cards. We could not make a difference in the lives of children as we do without your assistance. We are thankful to the Lord for providing our new facility through so many amazing people, including our contractor. We have no construction debt at all! What an unbelievable miracle! Thanks to all who have been part of this journey. All donations will now go straight to our programs for children. We are feeding about 80 children daily and transporting them home in four vans each night. We really appreciate being in so many mission budgets. We just received a new student and the family could not believe we provide all we do at no charge - thank you for making that possible.

The previous year ended with a wonderful **CHRIST**mas celebration in our new facility. There was much help from the community and the state to make it a wonderful time for our children. Our preschoolers put on a wonderful Christmas program for their families and were provided with handmade blankets and stuffed animals, along with other gifts. The Weirton Rotary Club provided 92 blessing bags for all our children, and plan to do it again for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Once again, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) provided shoeboxes for everyone and Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) also helped us fill the gap for the newer kids who were not on our original list and for other requests that came in. Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) provided us with lots of toys and Beulah Baptist Church (Union)

sent tie-dyed t-shirts and M&M lesson favors. New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg) provided many coats, while hats and gloves came from New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) American Baptist Women and

received pajamas provided by the Weirton Medical Center Department of Rehabilitation office and a very generous individual. Ninety-two tie blankets were made by a group of wonderful ladies and all those from kindergarten through third grade also received a stuffed animal. Many generous churches and individuals provided gift cards that enabled us to make sure each child had a nice gift under the tree to choose from.

As we go into 2019, we are starting a Godly character program and a discipleship class for our new Christians and those wanting to study the life of Jesus and be better followers. We also hope to develop our Weirton Christian Center Parent

Connection into regular meetings with the help of our new social work intern. Please keep our mission, staff and board in your prayers as we strive to make a difference in the lives of children.



Weirton Christian Center kids and staff enjoying the Christmas season at the new center.

the Kanawha Valley Association and socks arrived from Mount Vernon Baptist Church's (Teays Valley) women's circle. Wrapping paper and gifts for the parents were delivered from Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg). All of the children

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2019

CULTIVATING LEADERS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
HEALING COMMUNITIES
Galatians 6:9-10

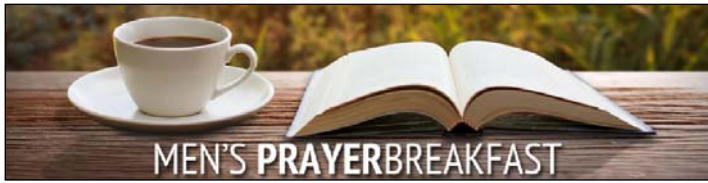
STATE GOAL: \$120,000

The America for Christ Offering is distributed in three parts:

- 59% supports the ministries of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS),
- 29% supports the regional ministries (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches, USA regions) and
- 12% supports the offering's promotional and deputation costs.

Your gifts to the America for Christ Offering impact thousands-through ministries with marginalized children, mission trips that transform lives torn asunder by hurricanes, resources that cultivate Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to hospitals and nursing homes and much more.

Let us not become weary in doing good!
www.abhms.org



American Baptist Men of West Virginia

Annual National Prayer Breakfast

February 23, 2019

American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Yes, my church will be hosting a prayer breakfast on this date.

Church Name: _____
City: _____
Association: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

Return this form to Tracie Emerick, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.
 Questions: Contact Tracie at temerick@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.

 Cut on this line and return top portion.
 Return bottom portion with your offering.

American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast Attendance Report/Offering Slip

Church Name: _____
City: _____
Association: _____
Contact Person: _____
Telephone: _____
Number of Men in Attendance: _____
Amount of Offering: _____

Offerings received have been designated to support Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM).

Return this form to Tracie Emerick, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

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

If your church is already planning to host a prayer breakfast on February 23 or if your church would be interested in hosting a prayer breakfast on that date, please complete and mail the registration at left.

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

If you desire, you can be contacted with information and provided assistance with speakers and materials. Please visit www.wvbc.org/partners/auxiliaries for location information and to download the prayer guide. For more information, contact Frank Miller at 800.489.8564 or miller@wvbc.org.

Offerings received have been designated to support Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). Baptist Campus Ministries is grateful to the American Baptist Men of West Virginia for their partnership in ministry through giving. Baptist Campus Ministries is looking forward to the opportunity to send students to each of the prayer breakfast locations. The students will be able to share their story of BCM and communicate the vision of "Changing Lives that Change the World."

Shining a Light in the Darkness

During our recent mission trip to Bolivia through the House of Hope, the mission team of West Virginia Baptist Convention Southeast Area Minister, Rev. Jim Anderson and members of Page Baptist Church (Fayette) and Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) had the opportunity to begin building a new church in the Le Abra section of Cochabamba, which is made up of many native Quetchua families that have moved to the city from the remote Andean mountain villages to find a better life.

Using a new brick method developed by one of Mario Morales' students, we had a wonderful experience and paved the way for groups coming in after us, including South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), to continue working on the church.

Taking a one day break, we drove up into the mountains to place solar lighting on the cross overlooking the village of Totorapampa that we erected last year. It was on that trip the young boy named Ormando asked me if he "could help carry the cross of Jesus" which has inspired and challenged me every day

since then to be willing to "help carry the cross of Jesus" for anyone and everyone! This is my way of subscribing to and implementing our Executive Minister, Mike Sisson's favorite phrase, "There are no problems, only opportunities."

The village leader, who just five years ago, told me his village did not need to replace the cross that had been destroyed by a storm, came out of the church we built in that village ten years ago and led us up the mountain and helped secure the lighting. He is now not only the village leader, but a believer in Christ!

It is with great joy that those who live in the village and those traveling not only see the hope of the cross during the day, but now at night.

That lighted cross in Totorapampa, Bolivia, and every cross all over the world, continues to remind us that the darkness of evil is always vanquished by the light of Jesus through the manger, cross and empty tomb if we accept and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

*Jim Anderson,
Southeast Area Minister*

Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Celebrations

These last couple of months have been filled with many celebrations of Thanksgiving and the Christmas/Advent season. We have also gathered to celebrate and look forward to the second Advent when Christ comes to call His church home!

We had many churches that assembled food baskets to lift up their neighbors during the holidays. Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River) put together and served 75 families with their generosity at Thanksgiving. Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River) reported they served 125 families for Thanksgiving. I know there were many more churches that participated in similar ministries.



Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River)



New Baptist Church (Guyandotte)



Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte)

There is not enough space to mention all of the events that happened at Christmas. Many of our churches participated in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox ministry. When I visited Fort Gay Baptist Church (Twelve Pole), they had a couple hundred boxes as other churches in the area added their boxes to Fort Gay Baptist Church for them to deliver.

From the many cantatas, children's Christmas plays, Christmas dinners, special Christmas concerts, special candlelight communion services, etc., December was filled with many blessings reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 (ESV)

Southeast Area News

James Anderson, Jr., Southeast Area Minister

God is Good ... Amen

The story below was shared with me by youth pastor, Trenton Tunnell, of North Hills Community Church, North Hills, Pennsylvania, after the recent Junior High Convention held at Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette). It should bring tears of joy and praise to our Lord, and thanks to all who made this event possible.

God is good ... amen! I love that phrase. Many of you are probably familiar with it, but I got it from the *God's Not Dead* movies. It is an exchange that repeatedly occurs between a pastor and his best friend throughout the movies, especially when they see God perform wonders and miracles beyond their comprehension.

This past weekend was one of those moments for our youth ministry. This past weekend our youth attended Junior High Convention at Calvary Baptist Church. This is an amazing weekend for students to get away from the busyness of their lives and just focus on God. For some it's a chance for God to change their lives completely!

The weekend included students from West Virginia Baptist Convention churches enjoying worship, games, free time, devotions and a great speaker. This year our speaker, Brian Burgess, spoke about the power of God. How many of us claim to be living with God's power, but we only see the Bible on Sundays? How many of us are trying to substitute other power

sources in place of God's? These were all examples of the challenges he put forth not just to the students, but to us as adults as well. Are we really living on God's power? All this stuff alone would have made it a great weekend, but the pivotal moment came on Saturday night.

(Close your eyes.) The lights were turned down, *Reckless Love* was played, followed by *Set a Fire*. As the worship team was transitioning to the next song, our speaker, led by the spirit, ran forward, stopped worship and gave an invitation to everyone in the room to give their lives to Christ! He had us bow our heads and invited us to say a prayer with him. When he finished, he asked for all those who prayed to raise both arms up on the count of three and join him down front.

Now as a youth pastor, in these moments I'm always praying, Lord, if just one would go. As I am praying this, Brian counts, I look up and all six of the students from our group raised their hands! All six of our students gave their lives to Christ this past weekend. God is good ... amen!

Greg Swisher, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette) shared that when all three of the boys, housed by Kyle and Cindy Wilson from Calvary Baptist Church, came in that night they went straight downstairs to get on their phones and call home to tell their parents and grandparents of their decision to allow Jesus into their lives and to follow Him as disciples.

Northwest Area News

Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister



Lubeck Community Baptist Church pastor Mark Houser (l), with new licensees Thomas Leasure and Cecily Thompson

Leasure and Thompson Licensed at Lubeck Community

Congratulations to Thomas Leasure and Cecily Thompson on their licensing to the Gospel Ministry at Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg). Both are current students in the School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative.

Fish Fry Held at LifeSpring Community to Celebrate Success of Aquaponics Ministry

Much interest has been generated by the aquaponics ministry of LifeSpring Community Church (Good Hope) and Comunidad Nueva Esperanza Baptist Church (Good Hope). This unusual ministry utilizes the natural waste by-product of edible fish, in this case blue tilapia, to fertilize and aid in the growth of various vegetables in water-based grow beds. All along, the harvested vegetables have been given to people in the community, especially to those in need. This past December, the first batch of fish reached maturity and the church hosted a com-

munity Christmas fish-fry celebration. Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) assisted in the event by providing workers and side dishes for the attendees. Once again, those in need were targeted for this ministry and it was a big success. The fish was delicious, and it was a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and outreach. Christmas gift bags were given out to those who came. A special thanks to all those who have helped in this ministry, either by work, prayer or giving. God is certainly blessing it and the second and third generation of fish are growing!



Attendees at the LifeSpring Community Fish Fry enjoy the first batch of fish from the aquaponics project.

Many Christmas Items Collected for Weirton Christian Center

Pictured at left is my loaded van preparing to leave the West Virginia Baptist Convention office in December carrying various Christmas items collected for Weirton Christian Center. A special thanks to all those supporting this wonderful ministry. In the van is everything from shoeboxes filled with presents, to hats, gloves and socks.



Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Baptisms Increase in Northeast Area

I follow a lot of churches on Facebook. Every week I see pictures and read posts of the amazing things God is doing in and through the churches in the Northeast Area.



Pastors Rick Bergdoll (l) and Shannon Earle (r) of Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern)

I read posts about churches reaching into their communities to help those dealing with addiction, feeding those who are hungry, supporting veterans and first-responders, ministering to those in jails and prisons and a host of other things. I also read posts from church members supporting those needing prayer and from those whose prayers have been answered.

As an area minister, all of these things bring me joy.

However, nothing excites me more than to see pictures and read stories of what is taking place in rivers, ponds and bap-



Pastor Phil Wayman (l) of Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."

1 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV)

tistries throughout the area. That would be ... baptisms, which are increasing in both frequency and numbers. Not only are our churches being *bearers of hope*, but people are also responding to the message of hope.



Pastors Doug Cyphers (l) and a member (r) of Dent's Run Baptist Church (Judson)

Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center: How Have You Been Moved to Support the Vision?

To date we have raised over \$330,000 for the Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center. In 2018 alone over \$100,000 was given to the project. While we might not know your story of how camp has impacted you and why you chose to give, we are thankful for your generous support of the Sunny Day Building Campaign at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen. In 2019, we are excited to see how God will continue to move people and churches to support this opportunity to expand our ministries at camp.

I want to introduce you to Claire. A few months ago, Claire's mom, Stephanie, contacted camp to ask for more information on the Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center, and the reason why is a story you need to hear. Claire is 11 years



Meet Claire, an 11 year-old who loves Camp Cowen and wanted to give back to the camp that has been a blessing to her!

old and has been a camper at Cowen for the last three years. She was saved at Cowen in 2017. So, as you can imagine, camp holds a very special place in the hearts of that family! In 2018 at camp, Claire learned to make paracord bracelets. In fact, you should know, paracord bracelets were VERY popular that week. There were not enough hours for interest groups nor enough materials to keep up with how many campers wanted to make them and how fast they worked! But Claire's love of those bracelets did not stop when she left camp. Her mom tells us Claire has

been making them ever since she left camp. She is so good at making them she can watch television and make a bracelet at the same time.

But this is not just a story about a girl and her crafts. This is about the heart of a camper, touched by God at Camp Cowen. Claire's mom wrote to us asking about the Sunny Day project because Claire has come up with the idea to sell the bracelets she was making at a local craft fair and donate the proceeds to the Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center project. She wanted to give back to the camp that had given so much to her by supporting the vision for the future! Claire is 11 years old and she raised \$700.

Isn't that a beautiful testimony to the power of camping ministry and the community of the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen? Claire met God at camp and she used a skill she learned at camp to raise money to pour into the future of camp.

Thank you Claire for touching our hearts and challenging us with your passion, dedication and initiative!

This is exactly what the Sunny Day Leadership and

Activity Center building campaign is all about: expanding the capacity of camp to reach more campers and future leaders, just like Claire. For the past 76 years, that has been the mission and God has faithfully raised up generations of leaders. As we look to the future, the gym and classroom space will make it possible for even more children, teens, youth leaders, parents and families to be served by this powerful ministry.

Claire has given us a BIG challenge: she took what some might see as a small skill and used it in a mighty way to raise \$700 for this project. What can you give? How can you multiply your efforts? How can you raise funds to move this project forward?

Hope to see you there!

*Jill Narraway,
Associate Director of Camping and Youth*



**Dash for the
'Stache**
**5k Fun
Run/Walk**
for the Sunny Day Leadership and
Activity Center

April 13, 2019

McDonough Park, Vienna

**Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.
The race begins at 2:30 p.m.**

Tickets will be given to all race participants and each \$100 donation will enter you in a drawing to save or shave the famous Rob Ely mustache.

Race details and registration information will be available at campcowen.org on February 1, 2019.

Fourth Annual Bible Conference to Feature Dr. Trent Eastman

The fourth annual West Virginia Baptist Convention Bible Conference will be held on March 2, 2019 at Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall.



Dr. Trent Eastman, pastor, New Baptist Church, Huntington and Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and instruction will start at 9:00 a.m. The registration cost is only \$15.00, and includes lunch and snacks. The event is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Bible, and the first 30 pastors who sign up can go for free.

This year, we are fortunate to have Dr. Trent Eastman, pastor, New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and adjunct professor, Palmer Theological Seminary. Dr. Eastman will present "A Shadow of the New Creation" The Book of Exodus, -Israel's Deliverance, -The Establishment of the Covenant and The Tabernacle.

Bible Conference March 2, 2019 • Registration Form

COUPLES MAY USE THE SAME FORM.
Please complete the following:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____
Church/Org.: _____

Please check the appropriate box(es) below.

\$00.00 - Conference Registration Per Person
If I am one of the first 30 pastors to register, I would like to attend for free.

\$15.00 - Conference Registration Per Person (REQUIRED)

\$15.00 - Conference Registration Second Person

*\$25.00 - School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Credit

Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 Three-Year Congregational Transform.

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

Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 Three-Year Congregational Transform.

Apply credit to: Two-Year General Studies or
 Three-Year Congregational Transform.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

*SCS ADVANCED STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: THE \$25.00/\$35.00 FOR CREDIT FEE IS STILL REQUIRED, EVEN IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE FIRST 30 TO REGISTER.

To provide adequate arrangements, registration must be postmarked and payment included by February 25, 2019.

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

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.

Adult Discipleship: Journey Alongside

This year's discipleship theme is: Journey Alongside. To develop this theme, I have been reading and studying many resources on disciple making. One of those resources I found is Discipleship.org. They recently shared a blog that made me stop, ponder and shake my head a little, so I thought would share the blog.

This article is an excerpt from a blog on Discipleship.org, written by Bobby Harrington, point-leader for Discipleship.org.

Discipleship.org is like the "chamber of commerce" for disciple making - they aggregate and promote the leaders, organizations, speakers and writers who they consider partners. Recently, over 1,400 pastors and leaders from around the country joined over 20 networks/organizations at their third annual National Disciple Making Forum.

Following is their annual summary of the encouraging trends observed for 2019. The first five are wide-spread observations.

1. More and more people are calling for a disciple making focus.

This chorus has been rising for several years. It continues to come from diverse groups: the Gospel Coalition, missional leaders, pastors on the left, the right and down the middle. Most thoughtful Christians intuitively know our culture is discipling more and more Christians to reflect the values and practices of the world and Christians need a counter-action plan.

It is hard to argue with the assertion that the solution is disciple making. It is what Jesus modeled and taught.

So it makes sense, for example, that a new book on Millennials entitled, [The Passion Generation: The Seemingly Reckless, Definitely Disruptive, But Far from Hopeless Millennials](#) would epitomize this trend. The first half of the book points out the church is experiencing a challenge with millennials simply because that church has neglected discipleship. He shines a clear light on the root issue.

It is not hard to see many of the problems in the church can be addressed by a switch back to disciple making.

2. There are now many disciple making advocates, but few effective practitioners.

Lots of people are talking about disciple making. It is a regular theme at Catalyst and Exponential and people like David Platt and Francis Chan are speaking and writing about it. And lots of pastors and preachers and ministry leaders have developed their disciple making systems.

But there is a problem.

There are many speakers, advocates and strategists, but few effective practitioners.

It is easier to see the need for disciple making and hypothesize on how it should be done than it is to actually be effective at doing it.

Every time I hear an advocate, I find myself secretly thinking: what is your track record? How effective are you at this craft that Jesus called us to practice? Long-term, effective disciple making is hard work because helping people grow and change is hard work. People are messy. So a focus on disciple making is a focus on something that requires great love, patience, wisdom, intentionality and skill.

The difference between those who talk about it and those who do it will be found in the depth of understanding, lifestyle and track record. I am praying for and cheering for everyone who gets in the disciple maker game and stays in there. There is nothing in life more important and challenging.

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3. More and more lead pastors are looking for help.

It is really tough to be a lead pastor today. I know firsthand because I am one. There are so many challenges. But there may be no greater challenge than the one we face as we seek to switch our ministry focus from Sunday morning programming to Jesus-style disciple making.

A shift to a Jesus-style disciple making model can be frightening, even overwhelming, especially for those who are successful with the weekend model. But there is help. There are models and there are guides.

4. People want specific methods and tools.

A few years ago, I found myself regularly making the case for disciple making. As the points above demonstrate, I do not have to do that very much anymore. It is now simply intuitive to most leaders that we must turn back to disciple making. But there is a new challenge I am facing.

It is usually put to me in a two-part sentence. The first part states their conviction and the second part describes their question. "I do not need any persuasion about disciple making," they say, "but I want someone to tell me how to do it."

This is both good and not so good.

It is good because it shows people have moved beyond the basic question of orientation. They get it. And it is good because they have typically developed convictions and passion around disciple making. But it is not so good because it is hard to tell people exactly how they should do it in their particular context. There are cultural issues to work through. There are church structure and systems issues. And there are theological nuances for all the various denominational tribes.

But the quest itself is ultimately good because of the focus on the right question. Knowing how to practically make disciples in my context is where the rubber meets the road. Our effectiveness at this level will determine our success.

5. Networks/organizations are building infrastructures and tools to help.

This is one of the most encouraging developments in the last three years. There are 23 disciple making networks/organizations who have partnered with Discipleship.org. These organizations have been building out ministries, and many have developed significant numbers of staff and tools and systems to help churches with disciple making. From the beginning, we have sought to fan into flame the ministries of these entities. For a list of these networks/organizations, please see page 13.

I am grateful for the growth of these organizations because they are all helping to provide churches with the kind of specific guidance, coaching, systems, tools, etc. that are necessary for systemic change.

The first five trends are very encouraging and inspiring. We are grateful to God for each one of them.

In the next West Virginia Baptist Newsletter, we will follow Discipleship.org and Bobby Harrington as he transitions from describing current trends - as he has in the first five - to prescribing trends in the next five.

Disciple Making Networks/Organizations

- The Bonhoeffer Project (thebonhoefferproject.com)
- Dandelion Resourcing (dandelionresourcing.com)
- discipleFIRST (disciplefirst.com)
- Downline Ministries (downlineministries.com)
- Exponential (exponential.org)
- Faith International University (faithseminary.edu)
- Final Command (finalcommand.com)
- Global Discipleship Initiative (theglobaldiscipleshipinitiative.org)
- Grace and Truth Living (graceandtruthliving.com)
- Impact Ministries (impactdisciples.com)
- Life-on-Life Missional Discipleship (lifeonlife.org)
- LifeWay (lifeway.com)
- Lionshare (lionshare.org)
- National Coalition of Ministries to Men (ncmm.org)
- Navigator Church Ministries (navigatorchurchministries.org)
- Radical Mentoring (radicalmentoring.com)
- Relational Discipleship Network (relationaldiscipleshipnetwork.com)
- Renew Network (renew.org)
- Replicate (replicate.org)
- Small Circle (discipleexchange.com)
- Sonlife (sonlife.com)
- TCM International (tcmi.org)
- Untangle Addictions (untangleaddictions.com, healthymindmd.com)

Join us for Women's Camp 2019!

We are thrilled to be having the fourth annual Women's Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen from April 5-7, 2019. We would love to welcome any woman 18 years and older to join us for Women's Camp 2019. The weekend is focused on uniting generations of women with ages ranging from 18 to 95.

From college-aged girls washing the feet of wiser women at spa night, to small groups praying together and sharing each other's burdens, it has been a joy to see such an incredible group of ladies attend each year and grow in the Lord and with one another.

This year, we are excited to spend time together in the word, but also in fellowship as women of God. Being a woman of God can take on many different roles, so we will be expanding our key theme "Better Together" and are hoping to get more insight from you on what "Women in Ministry" can look like for us all.

During the weekend, we will have morning worship, evening vespers, campfire, interest groups, free time and group activities as well as important time to reflect on God's word alone and in small groups.

We are so excited to welcome you and can't wait to see what God has in store!

Senior High Convention 2019

**February 22-24, 2019
Williamstown First Baptist Church**

Jesus, Inc.

**"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17**

Speaker: Jeffrey Dean

Band: Noah Cleveland

**Cost: \$35.00 - Early Bird Registration,
postmarked by February 4, 2019
with money enclosed**

**\$45.00 - Late Registration,
postmarked after February 4, 2019**

Housing Deadline: February 4, 2019

Spring Children's Rally 2019

March 9, 2019

**Parchment Valley Conference Center
Greenlee Activities
Center**

**"Jesus said, 'I am the light of
the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness,
but have the light of life.'"
John 8:12b**

**GLOW
in the
DARK**

TRUSTING GOD WHEN WE'RE SCARED

**Cost: \$12.00 - Early Bird
Registration,
postmarked by February 25, 2019
with money enclosed**

**\$25.00 - Late Registration,
postmarked after February 25, 2019**

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.

**For more information,
please contact Valma at
adams@wvbc.org or
304.422.6449.**

JOHN HENRY "PAPA JOHN" AUSTIN JR., of Charleston, died December 29, 2018. He was a member of Charleston First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he served as a deacon and drove the church bus for many years.

NELL C. BAILEY, formerly of Huntington, died December 22, 2018. She was an active member of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she sang in the choir, served on the mission and witness commission and was active in Dynamic Adults. She was also president of the Campus Christian Center Board.

ROBERT E. BALL, died January 1, 2019. He was a member of Parchment Valley Baptist Church (Good Hope), where he served as a trustee and was honored to be a member of the kitchen committee.

DALE J. BRIGHT, 79, of Webster Springs, died October 25, 2018. He was a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) since October 1974, where he was a former trustee and sang in the choir.

RETA "JUNE" BRIGHT, 86, of Webster Springs died July 9, 2018. She became a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) in October 1947 at the age of 15. She taught the Crusader Sunday School Class, was a member of the ladies circle, served as church historian and sang in the choir.

LESSIE P. KEFFER WOOTEN DONNELLY BROWN, died November 23, 2018. She was a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church (Fayette). She was also a member of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society, American Baptist Women's Ministries and the Shirley Donnelly Sunday School Class.

WILSON W. CURREY, 88, died January 3, 2019. He was a faithful member of Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson), including service as trustee, choir member and Sunday School teacher.

HAZEL E. CUTLIP, 99, of Charleston, formerly of Webster Springs, died September 2, 2018. She was a member of Webster Springs First Baptist Church (Hopewell) since May 1975. She was a member of the Crusader Class and ladies circle.

J. "JO" ALTHEA EDDY, 102, of Marietta, Ohio, formerly of Parkersburg, died December 10, 2018. She was a member of Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where she served as assistant treasurer, was a member of the diaconate and helped with Vacation Bible School.

JOYCE ELAINE FAULKNER, 58, of Weirton, died January 2, 2019. She is the wife of Holley Faulkner Jr., pastor of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church (Panhandle).

VIOLET J. FITZPATRICK, 84, of Diamond, died October 16, 2018. She was a 59-year member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she was co-secretary for Sunday School and the church. She also was in charge of the bereavement dinners.

GERTRUDE HANNIGAN, 95, of Nutter Fort, died November 26, 2018. She was a 60-year member of Nutter Fort First Baptist Church (Judson), where she had been the Bible school director and head of the children's department. She taught Sunday School for over 50 years and was a member of the American Baptist Women's Ministries.

VERNON "WESLEY" JENKINS died December 7, 2018. He was an American Baptist pastor who pastored Racine, Ohio First Baptist Church; Radnor, Ohio First Baptist Church; Firestone Park Baptist in Akron, Ohio; and Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). He was also interim pastor for churches in Colorado, Nebraska and West Virginia as well as chaplain at the

Veterans Administration Hospital in Beckley.

RHUIE PLEMONS, 91, died November 28, 2018. She and her husband, Charlie, had served as caretakers at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

DORIS GERTRUDE REED, 92, of Dunbar, died December 27, 2018. She was a longtime member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she participated in the choir and taught youth Sunday School classes.

CLYDE B. ROBERTSON, 92, died December 9, 2018. From 1996 until the present, he served as pastor of Man First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo). He also pastored churches in Logan-Mingo, Rockcastle and Raleigh Associations.

NAOMI RUTH RIDDLE SELLERS, 92, of Parkersburg, died November 1, 2018. She was a charter member of New Hope Baptist Church (Parkersburg). She was the mother of Susan Stinespring, who along with her husband, Jim, served churches in Point Pleasant, Weirton and Morgantown.

WILLIE F. STINSON, 82, died November 10, 2018. He was founder of Agape Baptist Church (Panhandle) and pastored there for the past 26 years. He has served as assistant pastor at New Hope Baptist Church in Washington, Pennsylvania and New Zion Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has also served as pastor at Marianna, Pennsylvania First Baptist Church.

R. MARIE WILLS, 91, of Belle, died December 18, 2018. She was a member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) for 33 years.

Leadership Updates

REV. DONALD G. DAGUE to Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) as pastor on January 13, 2019

MS. LISA GRAYS to Zion Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on January 1, 2019

MR. RYAN HADDOX to Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as director of Student Ministries and Worship Leader on January 1, 2019

MR. SAM HARVEY to Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern) as Youth and Children's Ministry Director on November 1, 2018

MR. MICHAEL HOWERTON to New England Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on January 1, 2019

REV. ROGER JOHNSON to Goose Creek Baptist Church (Harrisville) as co-pastor on June 1, 2018

MR. BENJAMIN A. MCCLOY to Pond Creek Baptist Church (Parkersburg) as pastor on October 7, 2018

MR. JOSHUA RADCLIFF to Freeman's Creek Baptist Church (Broad Run) as pastor on November 4, 2018

REV. CHARLES "ED" ROGERS to Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run) as interim pastor on February 1, 2019

REV. TOM STEVENS to New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle) as interim pastor on November 18, 2018

MR. JONATHAN STOKES to Dallas Pike Baptist Church (Panhandle) as pastor on August 18, 2018

REV. JOHN TINNEL to Little Laurel Baptist Church (Hopewell) as interim pastor on January 1, 2019

MR. STEVEN E. ZYWICKI to North Mill Creek Baptist Church (Eastern) as pastor on September 30, 2018

February 2019

FEBRUARY 1 - Robert Bennett, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
FEBRUARY 2 - The Annual Training Event (formerly known as Church Officers' Training) happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
FEBRUARY 3 - The ministry of Minden Baptist Church; Ronald Richards, pastor (Fayette)
FEBRUARY 4 - The ministry of Harrisville Baptist Church; Robert Perine, pastor (Harrisville)
FEBRUARY 5 - The ministry of New Bethel Baptist Church; David Vickers, pastor (Coal River)
FEBRUARY 6 - The ministry of North Mill Creek Baptist Church; Steven Zywicki, pastor (Eastern)
FEBRUARY 7 - Bill Brown, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
FEBRUARY 8 - The ministry of Two Runs Baptist Church; Jason Stutler, pastor (Good Hope)
FEBRUARY 9 - Isabelle Damasceno, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to the United Kingdom
FEBRUARY 10 - Pamala Williams, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
FEBRUARY 11 - The ministry of Center Branch Baptist Church; Emory Delaney, pastor (Broad Run)
FEBRUARY 12 - The ministry of Charleston Baptist Temple; Jimmy Hewitt, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
FEBRUARY 13 - The ministry of Belleville Baptist Church; Randy Dornon, pastor (Parkersburg)
FEBRUARY 14 - The ministry of West Warren Baptist Church; Bob Scharnhorst, pastor (Fairmont)
FEBRUARY 15 - The ministry of Sabraton Baptist Church; Scott Whetzel, pastor (Goshen)
FEBRUARY 16 - Tan Coats, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Myanmar/Thailand
FEBRUARY 17 - Nancy James, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Haiti
FEBRUARY 18 - The ministry of New Hope Baptist Church; Larry Coffman, pastor (Elk Valley)
FEBRUARY 19 - Jay Teodoro, vice-chair, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and pastor, Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run)
FEBRUARY 20 - The ministry of Flint Chapel Baptist Church; Jim Anderson, interim pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
FEBRUARY 21 - Ricardo Mayol-Bracero, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Mexico
FEBRUARY 22 - Senior High Convention happens this weekend at Williamstown First Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
FEBRUARY 23 - The American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfasts around the state
FEBRUARY 24 - Michael Sisson, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
FEBRUARY 25 - Boyden Myers, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Mexico
FEBRUARY 26 - The ministry of Cowen First Baptist Church; Michael Brown, pastor (Hopewell)
FEBRUARY 27 - Becky Mann, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Thailand
FEBRUARY 28 - The ministry of Portersville Missionary Baptist Church; Harry Moore, pastor (Guyandotte)

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

March 2019

MARCH 1 - Emerson Wu, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Hong Kong
MARCH 2 - The Bible Conference happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MARCH 3 - David Parajon, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Nicaragua
MARCH 4 - Taku Longkumer, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to India
MARCH 5 - Matthew Hwang, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Japan
MARCH 6 - Shane Boggs, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission and pastor Sutton First Baptist Church (Elk Valley)
MARCH 7 - The ministry of Wheeling First Baptist Church; Darrin Wright, pastor (Panhandle)
MARCH 8 - The ministry of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church; Timothy Underwood, pastor (Little Kanawha)
MARCH 9 - The Spring Children's Rally happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MARCH 10 - Nathan Reed, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Bolivia
MARCH 11 - Joan Hall, assistant for Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 12 - Jarrod Belcher, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission and pastor, Williamson First Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo)
MARCH 13 - The ministry of Matewan Missionary Baptist Church; Carl Butler, pastor (Logan-Mingo)
MARCH 14 - Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 15 - The ministry of Main Street Baptist Church; Rob Grady, pastor (Teays Valley)
MARCH 16 - The ministry of Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
MARCH 17 - Miki Hwang, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Japan
MARCH 18 - Tim Long, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Mexico
MARCH 19 - Richard Gutierrez, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to South Africa
MARCH 20 - Mayra Giovanetti, International Ministries' (IM) missionary to Colombia
MARCH 21 - Steve McCartney, Site Maintenance manager at Camp Cowen
MARCH 22 - The ministry of Toned Baptist Church (Rockcastle)
MARCH 23 - Rick Bergdoll, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission and pastor, Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern)
MARCH 24 - Donna Snyder, assistant for Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 25 - The ministry of Sarepta Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
MARCH 26 - Ruth Stanton, International Ministries' (IM) missionary (youth) to Hungary
MARCH 27 - The ministry of Kenova First Baptist Church; Steve Willis, pastor (Twelve Pole)
MARCH 28 - Debbie Higginbotham, American Baptist Women's Ministries' president and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
MARCH 29 - The ministry of Springdale First Baptist Church; Jack Cole, pastor (Hopewell)
MARCH 30 - The ministry of Glen Falls Baptist Church; Bryant Bailey, pastor (Judson)
MARCH 31 - The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church (Union)

Coming Events

FEBRUARY 2019

February 2
Annual Training Event
 (Formerly known 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
 Registration at 7:00 p.m.

February 23
American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfast
 Various Locations
 (see www.wvbc.org for locations)

February 26
School of Christian Studies New Testament II (B-04) six-week classes begin
 Various Locations

MARCH 2019

March 2
Bible Conference with Dr. Trent Eastman on the Book of Exodus
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
 Registration in Hill Hall from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Event ends at 3:00 p.m.

March 9
Spring Children's Rally
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

APRIL 2019

April 5-7
Women's Camp
 Camp Cowen

April 13
Omega
 Vienna Baptist Church
 Registration at 9:00 a.m.

April 13
Dash for the 'Stache Sunny Day Leadership and Activity Center Fundraiser
 McDonough Park, Vienna
 Registration at 1:30 p.m.

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

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

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

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

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2019 ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT

February 2
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

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

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

Schedule

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

The registration deadline has passed.

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

The following workshops are being offered: Children's Ministry; Church Security; Clerks; Deacons; Dealing with Addiction; Discipleship; Drug Awareness; Exploring A Call; Financial Secretaries, Treasurers and Finance Committees; Mentor Training; Missions; Reducing the Risk: Harassment Prevention; School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Church Transformation - Part I and II; Senior Adult Ministry; Technology; Trustees; Young Adult Ministry; Youth Ministry; and Worship and Music

For more information and a registration form, please visit www.wvbc.org or call Donna at 304.422.6449.

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