

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter



December 2019 - January 2020

With great expectation and anticipation, we launch [Vision 2020](#) as our convention family emphasis for next year! What is [Vision 2020](#)? [Vision 2020](#) is a play on the phrase “20/20 vision,” which is often used to describe the clarity or sharpness of one’s vision. [Vision 2020](#) is an opportunity to look

back in celebration at the remarkable legacies of people whose impact has made the West Virginia Baptist Convention family what it is today. It is also time for the convention family to look forward and embrace the remarkable opportunities our Lord has placed before us to advance His kingdom work as together, we serve and glorify Him!

The inspiration for [Vision 2020](#) comes from the book of Hebrews where the author writes, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2). The author begins by pointing back to a “great cloud of witnesses,” the men and women of faith described in the previous chapter. People like Abel, Enoch, Sarah, Abraham, Noah, Moses, Rahab and many more. People who left a powerful legacy of what it means to live by faith. People the Hebrew author believed to be powerful examples whose legacy God could use to inspire us to live faithfully.

Someone once said, “Hindsight is 20/20.” Hindsight is defined as recollection, remembering or looking back. As we look back, we see so many faithful people whose love and dedication for the West Virginia Baptist Convention produced legacies that can be seen in the investments they made in the ministries of Camp Cowen, Parchment Valley Conference Center, Baptist Campus Ministries, the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies, missions and missionaries and the list goes on. As you read that list your mind immediately recalls the names of individuals who played major roles in enabling these ministries to succeed.

As I write this article on Reformation Day, a Protestant holiday that commemorates the Reformation movement started by Martin Luther in the 16th century, I recall researching the history of his life while in seminary. The amazing thing was that he could never have envisioned the great significance his life would have on the reformation of the Church. Luther was simply obedient to the Lord’s plan for his life and God used it to accomplish



His purposes. Likewise, we may never know the potential our legacy will have in the future when we are obedient to the Lord’s guidance in our lives.

[Vision 2020](#) is also about looking forward. The Hebrew writer continues, “let us run with perseverance the race marked

out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” The author explains that the legacies of those faithful in the past should inspire us to push forward with the same determination by focusing on Jesus and His plan for our lives. As a convention family of churches, there are some remarkable opportunities for us to [Do Christ’s Work Together!](#) The opportunity to minister to all generations - children to senior adults. The opportunity to increase our support of congregations with resources such as training to assist churches with [Reducing the Risk](#) in their children’s ministries. The opportunity to participate in God’s calling and developing of young leaders through education, internships and mentors. The opportunity to plant and replant churches to reach the unreached and to breathe new life in existing congregations.

However, with opportunities come challenges. Challenges that can only be overcome by legacy makers like those who shaped our convention in the past. We need prayer partners that will join us as we bow before the Lord seeking His wisdom, direction, provision and as necessary, His correction. We need partners to come alongside us as we seek to strengthen relationships and better communicate with one another. We need dedicated men and women willing to use their gifts and talents. Currently, our most urgent challenge is for financial support. The good news is that giving to the convention has increased this last year, however it is not increasing at a pace that will overcome our current budget deficit. The previous decline in convention support has resulted in the decline of reserves, which are now depleted. Simply put, you cannot live out of your savings every year and not have them eventually run out. We are doing many wonderful life changing ministries together and as the old cliché says, “Where God guides, He provides.” However, the caveat is God provides through our faithful stewardship. The truth is, challenges are opportunities to partner with God and watch Him work! [Vision 2020](#) is an opportunity to become legacy people! This generations “great cloud of witnesses!”

*Blessings,
Mike Sisson, Executive Minister*

The West Virginia Baptist Convention is a family of churches committed to reaching all generations for Jesus Christ both here and abroad by equipping one another to be healthy, growing and unified in Christ and for Christ.

Doing Christ’s Work Together



West Virginia Baptist Convention

There's an App for That!

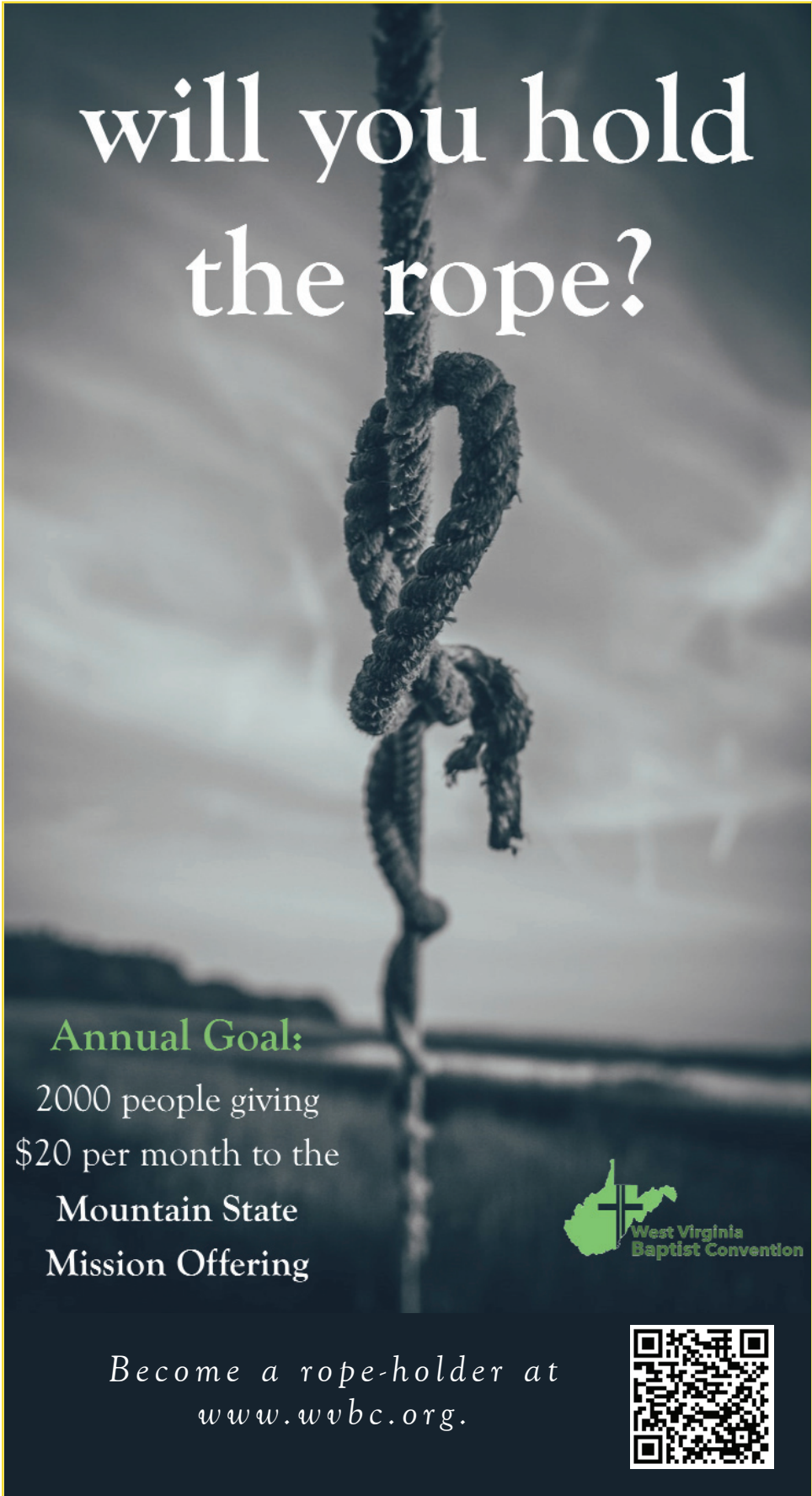


The West Virginia Baptist Convention app is available for Android and Apple products. Download yours today!

Vol. LXXXVII, Issue 01 December 2019-January 2020

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will you hold the rope?

Annual Goal:
2000 people giving
\$20 per month to the
**Mountain State
Mission Offering**



*Become a rope-holder at
www.wvbc.org.*



Letting Her Light Shine for Generations to Come

"Jessie Irene Brand was a loving, giving person dedicated to her God, to people and to her church," said Monty Foster,



The legacy of Irene Brand will live on through her generous donation to Camp Cowen.

former pastor of Harmony Baptist Church (Teays Valley) of Irene Brand. That dedication is still being experienced through the significant legacy gift she left for the [West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen](#).

David Radcliff, current pastor of Harmony Baptist Church, shared these thoughts of Irene: "Irene was a member of Harmony Baptist Church for 77 years, she was saved when she was 11 years old, she directed the choir for more than 60 years and she played the piano for the church for close to 70 years. She also taught Sunday School for approximately 65 years."

In a letter she wrote in 1987, addressed to the future 2012 pianist (which humorously ended up being her), she wrote, "My greatest desire has been to let my light shine before others

so that the presence of God would be revealed in my life. The words of Erma Bombeck sum up my feelings about what I hope my Christian witness has shown: 'When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'Lord, I used everything you gave me.'"

When Irene Brand met her Savior face-to-face on April 8, 2018, I am sure she heard those words. The legacy gift that Irene left will strengthen a ministry that was very fond to her heart. For more than 75 years, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen has been a place "*Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith.*" In this way, Irene is letting her line shine for generations to come.

If you or someone in your church is interested in learning about ways you can leave a lasting legacy, please contact our office at 304.422.6449. It is people like Irene who enable us to continue *Doing Christ's Work Together*.

Bringing Honor and Glory to God by Developing Church Leaders

The [School of Christian Studies](#) has been equipping saints for the ministry since 1993. Started as a dream of Bobby Wood, the school had as its aim the training and equipping of pastors who would not otherwise have had access to training. The original catalog showed the great need at the time, with nearly 70% of our pastors serving bivocationally and only 3% of them having been trained. Today, because of the School of Christian Studies, more than 700 people have been trained for ministry and, in many associations, nearly all of our pastors have received training.

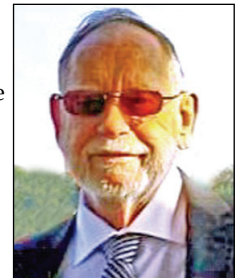


The logo was updated to reflect the addition of Bobby Wood's name.

To honor and remember the legacy of our school's founder, who passed away earlier this year, it was voted on by the executive board and announced at our Annual Meeting that his vision and legacy would forever live on by attaching his name to the school he helped establish. So, from this day forth, the official name of the school will be, "The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies." The mission statement that he helped write (which is still the same mission statement that we have today) was: "*... to bring honor and glory to God by developing quality church leaders, through training that will help them*

grow in spiritual maturity, Biblical knowledge and ministry skills." Bobby Wood certainly did that!

So, who was Bobby Wood? Bobby was a pastor, and later, an area minister. He pastored several churches in Chesapeake; Huntington; Montgomery; Sistersville; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Lynchburg, Virginia. He served as an area minister for the West Virginia Baptist Convention from 1988 to 1997, and while in this position, he founded the School of Christian Studies. Bobby was also known for mentoring many pastors.



Bobby Wood, the late founder of the West Virginia Baptist Convention School of Christian Studies.

Today, people have more opportunity than ever to find access to training that meets not only their learning needs, but also their schedule. It is possible to take a School of Christian Studies class in one of five different ways: face-to-face, live stream, digitally, in a hybrid format led by a facilitator or as an independent study. Although originally intended for the instruction of pastoral leaders, the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies is open to anyone. If you are interested in learning more you can do so by visiting our website, www.wvbc.org. It is through legacies like Bobby Wood that we are able to continue *Doing Christ's Work Together*.

Reaching All Generations for Jesus Christ

CHILDREN

More than 200 Gather for Children's Fall Rally

More than 200 children gathered at [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#) on Saturday, November 2, 2019 for a fun and exciting day at the Fall Children's Rally. The theme for the event was "Books of the Bible" with an emphasis on the Old Testament. The spring rally will continue the theme with an emphasis on the New Testament.

When Haley Grogg asked the children of Hebzibah Baptist Church (Union) if they had fun at the rally, the children responded, "100% yes!" Haley went on to say the following: "Koreen Villers, director of Discipleship Ministries, and her group put together an awesome day! The kids spent the day learning the books of the Old Testament from the Law to Minor Prophets, and they were given effective tools to help them remember the books through songs and games. The children that attended from our church took the hand motions they learned for each book and taught them to the rest of our church during Children's Church the next day. In a



Zach Stevens of Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte) teaches a group about major prophets.

world where we are constantly fighting for the attention of our children, this type of event is needed more than ever. Our children need to be armed with the word of God so they don't fall prey to the ways of the world. This event not only helped equip the children, but it also helped equip the leaders. My husband and I came away with more ideas of how to help engage the members of our children's program."

The vision of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to reach all generations for Jesus Christ - especially children. If you or your church missed this event, then we invite you to mark your calendars for our Spring Children's Rally which will take place at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, March 7, 2020 with an emphasis on the books of the New Testament. If there is any other way we can come alongside you in helping reach the children in your community, please contact Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org.

YOUTH

Investing in the Next Generation of Youth

by Kasey Stevens

The mission of Youth Leader Core (YLC) is "To empower youth called and commissioned by their local church to learn about themselves, grow in their faith and discover ways to live out their beliefs and ministries."

Youth Leader Core has impacted the lives of thousands of youth across the country. It has operated in West Virginia through the West Virginia Baptist Convention since the 1980's and I'm glad to report it is still going strong today!

My life was impacted by YLC during the 2010-2011 school year. I was not firm in my faith nor was I entirely sure what YLC even stood for. I knew there would be five weekends of teaching, but I wasn't sure what those weekends would bring. I don't remember the topics that were taught, nor do I remember what churches hosted us. But what I do remember were the adults who were committed to showing up weekend after weekend to teach us something called "servant leadership." I remember being taught



Youth Leader Core students gather for discussion at Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) on October 5, 2019.

to think for myself, being challenged spiritually and emotionally and being a tad bit antsy during some of our longer sessions. (An hour and a half is a long time for a high schooler to sit still!)

God used YLC to transform my faith. It helped me realize who I was in Christ, and it taught me that glorifying and making much of Him is what matters most in life. Now as a YLC leader, it has been a joy to help serve a new generation of students through YLC. As a leader, I get to watch them grow, I get to share and live life with them and I get to encourage and empower them to become who Jesus has called them to be.

Over the course of five weekends throughout the school year, we focus on teaching the students to know God, to know themselves and to lead as servants. These areas of focus help frame our lessons - whether it is teaching about listening, taking a personality test or learning about the covenants of God. Over a 36-hour period, YLC students are learning a lot!

I will always be thankful for the impact YLC had on my life and I hope to encourage our students in the same way I was encouraged almost ten years ago. I ask that you pray for us as a group as we continue to grow, share and connect with one another. Pray also that God may receive the glory and that these students may grow in their faith and live it out every day.

YOUNG ADULTS

Another "Changed Life" Through Baptist Campus Ministries

I love it when two members of the family come together to advance the kingdom. The Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) Fall Retreat was held at the [West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen](#) on October 25-27, 2019. "Changing lives that change the world" continues to be the mission of BCM and our fall retreat speakers encouraged the students in that task.

Trent Eastman, pastor, New Baptist Church (Guyandotte), walked students through a Bible study on how obedience and boundaries are important components for the life of a disciple. Ed Rogers, interim pastor, Weston First Baptist Church (Broad Run), then led a discussion called *The Comprehensiveness of the Call*, which encouraged our students to consider how they could use their vocation to serve God. Lastly, Karla Carr, our BCM Associate at Fairmont State University, shared a Bible study titled, *Moving from Shame to Jesus ... A Love Story*. All the speakers did an excellent job of encouraging our students to live lives that are changed by the gospel in a world that desperately needs to hear of Jesus.

The 125 students, representing eight different campuses in West Virginia were blessed. Camp Cowen is a place "Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith," and on Saturday night, we watched that happen. A



Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) students gather for their group picture during the BCM Fall Retreat.

young lady from Marshall University approached me and said, "Rob, I have been doing this church thing for a while, but I am not sure I have ever been saved. I want to do that right now!" That was a great ending to an incredible campfire! Through BCM, God has used several people to minister to this young lady over the past three years and we are excited to continue teaching and discipling her. God is so good and we are so thankful to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, which supports ministries like the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen and Baptist Campus Ministries, allowing us to invest into the lives of young adults. It is through ministries like this that we can continue *Doing Christ's Work Together!*

Rob Ely
Director of Student Ministries

SENIORS

The Golden Years

We truly are seeing the aging of a nation. Churches of all sizes in our state are facing the needs of maturing adults as the definition of mature adults is changing. The age that determines who is a senior is getting younger and so are the senior's lifestyles.

Our churches in the West Virginia Baptist Convention must realize senior adults are more than simply another group whose needs we must learn to meet. Many of these new senior adults with their experiences and expertise offer our churches incredible resources. Our churches need the experience and wisdom of the senior adults in our various communities.

That is where the Golden'ers come in. The Golden'er ministry gives those in our churches who are 55 years young and above the chance to come together for our Golden'ers conferences. The conferences happen twice a year, in the spring and in the fall at [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#). Our next conference will be May 4-6, 2020.

We have a great time together with Bible study. We love special music and crafts. We have a fun time with wonderful fellowship and lots to eat. We love to complete service projects for Parchment Valley and others to make for a great Golden'ers conference.

For our past conference in September 2019, we studied the book of I John with our Bible study leader, Rob Ely. Rob shared how I John was a great book to study, learn and to apply

to our daily lives. We had a great time doing just that as we worked on a service project making blessing bags to give to the incoming college students at Marshall University Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM).

The graying of the church can actually be a wonderful opportunity for the growing of the church in the 21st century. I think, as our seniors mature, they become even more unique and individualistic. I also believe this is because our senior adults today are more active, alert and energetic. So, instead of thinking of retirement as a slow-down time, we need to realize retirement is an opportunity for more people to devote time to learning, serving, planning and living more active and exciting lives than they have ever lived before.

I want to thank the seniors, who have supported the Golden'ers over the years. Many of you have helped in so many ways with your attendance and your prayers.

Just a reminder: be nice to your kid(s), they will choose your nursing home one day. We childproofed our home years ago, but somehow they keep getting in! Remember, you don't stop laughing because you are old, you grow old because you stop laughing!

Please join us at Parchment Valley Conference Center on May 4-6, 2020.

If there is any other way we can come alongside you in helping serve the seniors in your church, please contact Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org.

Jerry Losh
Senior Adult Ministries



West Virginia Baptist Convention
 "Cross-Training for the Kingdom!"
 2020 Training Event



Saturday, February 1, 2020
Parchment Valley Conference Center

Join us for a day of worship, workshops and fellowship as we better learn to serve Christ and our church!



WORKSHOP LIST

You will have the opportunity to select one a.m. workshop and one p.m. workshop.

| A.M. WORKSHOP 10:15 a.m. | P.M. WORKSHOP 1:00 p.m. |
|---|---|
| (Worship and Music) <i>Worship the King</i> | Church Security |
| School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Part One: <i>Missional Churches: Partnering, Planting and Sharing - Partnering and Planting</i> | School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Part Two: <i>Missional Churches: Partnering, Planting and Sharing - Sharing</i> |
| (A.M. and p.m. session will count as one requirement toward the General Studies two-year program or as one elective/module requirement toward the three-year Congregational Transformation program.) <i>Please note: Workshop is open to all, not only SCS students.</i> | (A.M. and p.m. session will count as one requirement toward the General Studies two-year program or as one elective/module requirement toward the three-year Congregational Transformation program.) <i>Please note: Workshop is open to all, not only SCS students.</i> |
| <i>Relational Wisdom 360</i> | <i>Healing Church Hurt</i> |
| <i>Youth Ministry</i> | <i>Young Adult Ministry</i> |
| | <i>Exploring a Call to Ministry</i> |
| <i>Working with Senior Adults</i> | <i>Clerks</i> |
| (Discipleship) <i>Our Relational God: The Power of Connecting in Groups</i> | <i>Mentor Training</i> |
| <i>Deacons</i> | <i>Tithing in a Digital Age (Electronic Giving)</i> |
| <i>Missions History: The Life of Adoniram Judson</i> | <i>Dealing with Addiction</i> |
| <i>Technology I: Using Media in Worship</i> | <i>Technology II: Using Social Media to Grow the Church</i> |
| <i>Reducing the Risk - Keeping our Children Safe</i> | <i>How to Start or Revitalize Children's Ministry</i> |
| <i>Church Treasurers and Finance Committees</i> | <i>Trustees</i> |

Schedule:

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



The cost will be \$20 per person for the day, including lunch.

If you bring eight people from the same church, the next two registrations are at no cost.

Registration form is on page seven and online registration will be available at www.wvbc.org.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

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

FEBRUARY 2020 ANNUAL TRAINING EVENT
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 your 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).

\$20.00 Annual Training Event (REQUIRED)
_____ \$27.00* School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Single Fee
*Please note: \$20.00 conference fee above must also be paid.

_____ \$37.00** School of Christian Studies ADVANCED Couple Fee
(One form per person, but you may write one check and return in one envelope.)
**Please note: \$20.00 per person conference fee above must also be paid.

_____ Total Enclosed Before Sales Tax
X.06 6% Sales Tax (REQUIRED) State law now requires us to
add 6% sales tax to our event fees.
_____ Sales Tax Total
_____ 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 One and Part Two of the SCS ADVANCED
Missional Churches: Partnering, Planting and Sharing workshop.
Class will count as credit for one elective/module credit, not a
course credit.
_____ Original Two-Year General Studies Program - one credit
You may choose any combination of workshops.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020 AND INCLUDE MONEY FOR
ALL ATTENDEES REGISTERED.

After January 17, the fee is \$30.00 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.

2020 Camp Cowen Schedule



WV Baptist
Camp at Cowen

- WOMEN'S CAMP: March 27-29
- MEN'S WORK PARTY: April 24-25
- SUMMER KICK OFF EVENT: TBA
- YOUNGER MIDLER: June 5-7
- JUNIOR 1: June 7-13
- JUNIOR HIGH 1: June 14-20
- JUNIOR 2: June 21-27
- HIGH SCHOOL 1: June 28-July 4
- JUNIOR HIGH 2: July 5-11
- SENIOR DAY: July 11
- HIGH SCHOOL 2: July 12-18
- FAMILY CAMP: July 24-27
- OLDER MIDLER: July 28-31
- CAMP GLOBAL: July 31-August 2
- AB MEN AND BOYS CAMP: August 7-9

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

Apply to be a Missionary Intern

Customized 3-6 week internships alongside
one of our full-time missionary partners



Summer Ministry Internships

An opportunity to help young adults discern their
calling to ministry by giving them opportunities to
serve within our family of churches and placing
them under the guidance of mentors.



Special Recognition



Richard Bergdoll, pastor of Petersburg First Baptist Church, was presented with the 2019 Alderson Broaddus University Ward W. Hibbs Ministerial Award.

The 154th

Annual Meeting

of the West Virginia Baptist Convention

Friday, October 18 - Saturday, October 19, 2019

"to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Ephesians 4:12-13

Global Servants



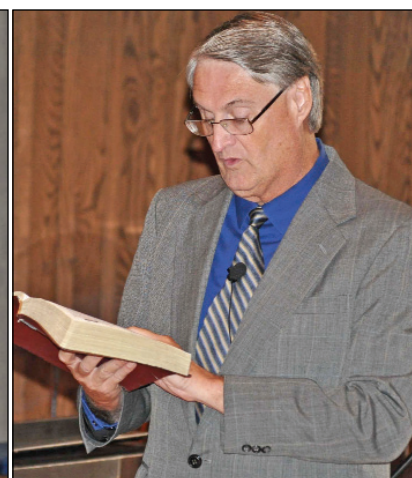
Debbie Myers (l), International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico and Rhonda Reed (r), International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Bolivia spend time with Zola Miller in the display area during the Annual Meeting.



Bobby Wood's adult children were present for the naming of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies. (l-r:) Chuck Wood, Lori Meadows, Lisa Williamson and Mark Wood. Chuck and Mark also received honorary diplomas from the school.



Annual Sermon Speaker:
Rev. Rich Blain, pastor
South Parkersburg Baptist
Church



Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Kenneth Miller,
retired pastor



Guest Speaker:
Rev. Mark Wood, pastor
Spencer First Baptist
Church



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

Officer Selection

Lee Boso was selected as the 2019-2020 president of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. The remaining officers are as follows: Ryan Stoner, first vice-president; Cari Pauley, second vice-president; Lois Merritt, secretary; and Todd McClure, treasurer.



The Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies graduating class of 2019 with director, Mark McCloy (c)



Clarksburg Baptist Church Praise Team



Monty Foster, music director and youth pastor, Mount Vernon Baptist Church



Officers are installed at Women's Day.



DOING CHRIST'S
WORK
together.

West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries' Spiritual Growth Retreat

Ellen Briggs and Jan Waine,
Hampton Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)

The [West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries'](#) Spiritual Growth Retreat is always a time of the year we look forward to, and this year was no different! The retreat was titled, *In the Quiet*, and we enjoyed a weekend of reflection away from the busyness of life. We always take the opportunity to stay at [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#) in one of the lodges. We often stay up (way past our bedtime) and chat, like girls at a slumber party. We love it! This is how we got to know a delightful lady named Anna this year.

The women who attend the Spiritual Growth Retreat each year are sisters in Christ. They greet you with a smile and they welcome you with open, loving arms. We don't always remember names, but we sure remember those smiles and hugs, and that is what you carry away with you.

This year, David Bush, co-pastor, Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) did an exercise during his message where he read a passage of scripture three separate times, and we studied the scripture in three different aspects, all while being quiet. This was a time to absorb what we were reading and to reflect on God's message from different points of view. It was so

cool to see God speak to us in this way!

One of our favorite parts of the retreat this year was communion, where we joined hands in celebration of what God's Son did for us. During communion, we noticed our friend, Anna, who, with the aid of her loving daughter, slowly walked up front to receive communion. As we watched this mother and daughter worship the Lord together through communion, our eyes filled with tears of joy. As David served the communion bread to Anna, he bent down to her, serving her with reverence. It reminded us of the way Christ serves us and of how we should serve one another.

This year's Spiritual Growth Retreat, as it is every year, was wonderful! We were reminded to slow down, to breathe, to listen, and to just ...

Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10



Amanda Emrick (r) and Mandy Philpott (l) lead a time of worship at the 2019 American Baptist Women's Ministries' Spiritual Growth Retreat.

Parchment Valley Conference Center

by Frank Miller, Director of Operations

Our Cup Overflows

As the [Parchment Valley Conference Center](#) continues to grow and celebrate the great blessings the Lord has poured upon us, we also face times of challenge. These challenges - internet interruptions, broken water lines and vehicle issues - also provide us with an opportunity to be still. Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

About a month ago, a wonderful donor family provided Parchment Valley with a vehicle to better serve our guests. At the Annual Meeting, the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries voted to choose us as their 2020 project, raising funds to assist with the construction of the new family handicap restroom located in the administration building (the Barn). Also, we appreciate the Parkersburg High School shop class, who built 12 more sets of dorm bunk-beds. These are just some of the ways our convention family is *Doing Christ's Work Together!*

The mission and legacy of Parchment Valley is experienced in so many ways. From the 134 lives who were changed this year through [Brothers' Keeper](#) to the more than 200 children who attended the Children's Fall Rally, people of all walks of life are being reached with the gospel! We celebrate our opportunity to serve as an extension for Palmer Seminary and to host classes

for the [Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies](#), where we know disciples are being made! As we reflect on the legacy of the past, it was Vision 2000 that helped open several of these doors. Without our wonderful supporters there would be no Greenlee Activity Center or Santrock Education Center for these events to take place. And as we look forward to 2020, we are excited to see what else God does. Exciting things are happening, and we are certain that next year will be another year of great blessings at Parchment Valley to bring honor and glory to His name.



Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies student's gather in the Santrock Education Center to attend the Spiritual Formation (Mod-01) one-day class.

Church Planting Emphasis - God Desires a People for Himself

In his book, Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World, Bob McNabb says, "From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible is a book about God's desire and plan to spread the glory of his own image by multiplying a people for himself."¹

God's plan started in Genesis when he told Adam to "be fruitful and multiply," continued throughout the Old and New Testaments, and will be accomplished in Revelation with "a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne." Even though we've tried to throw a few wrenches in that plan throughout history, the plan remains the multiplication of a people for himself. God never developed a plan b.

So, what is our role as West Virginia Baptists in this unchanging plan? Well, Jesus told us what to do in Matthew 28 and, on their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas modeled it. "When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith ..." Acts 14:21-22a (ESV)

Not only did Paul and Barnabas multiply by planting churches, they returned to churches they had planted to strengthen and encourage them. That is the two-pronged model I believe God is calling us to follow:

1. Multiply by making the planting of new churches a priority.
2. Return to revitalize and possibly restart struggling churches so they can get back in the multiplication business.

Neither prong is easy ...

- Planting calls for disciples to step out on a "missionary journey" to parts of our state and to segments of our society that need to hear the gospel and be challenged to make a decision for Christ ... followed by lovingly nurturing new believers as they grow in their faith.

- Revitalization calls for those in struggling churches not to just realize their condition, but to be willing to follow the prescription to get them back to health.

Be prayerful concerning how God might use you and your church in the multiplication process in 2020.

To get involved, contact David Hulme at hulme@wvbc.org.

David Hulme
Northeast Area Minister



Genesis Fellowship (Kanawha Valley) recently celebrated their 15th anniversary. They are one of 18 churches the West Virginia Baptist Convention has planted since 2000.

Annual Bible Conference

"The Divided Kingdom" - The Book of Kings

Featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Parchment Valley Conference Center

Register online at wvbc.org



Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Much to Celebrate

Merry Christmas everyone! I can't believe it is that time of year again. Despite the hustle and bustle of our secularized culture's practices celebrating Christmas by trying to purchase those perfect gifts, we have the opportunity to celebrate by worshipping Christ in front of our friends, family and neighbors that don't know Him. Sure, we do our shopping and gatherings too, but we have the opportunity this time of year to show the light of Christ that is in us, and not just on our trees.

These past couple of months have been filled with celebration in many of our churches in the Southwest Area. I have had the pleasure to celebrate homecomings with several churches throughout the fall season and as I think about celebrating the years that have gone by, I cannot help but think about the lives that have been impacted, the souls that now celebrate in heaven, the people coming to Christ right now because the faithful folks who came before us were serious about the harvest. Some of our churches celebrating their years of harvest include: Genesis Fellowship (Kanawha Valley): 15 years; Judson Baptist Church (Teays Valley): 100 years, Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley): 150 years, Tabors Creek Missionary Baptist Church (Twelve Pole): 150 years and the list goes on.

We are also celebrating people accepting the call that God has laid on their heart. In the last couple of months, I have

had conversations with several folks expressing their calls into ministry and some have since become licensed in the Gospel Ministry. I have been blessed to attend and participate in two deacon ordination services, one at Yawkey Baptist Church (Coal River) and the other at Poca Baptist Church (Teays Valley). We are celebrating at least two gentlemen that are going through the ordination process in the Kanawha Valley Association and by the time you read this we should be very close to their ordinations. We also celebrate a few others who have expressed interest in ordination in the Southwest Area!

We have a lot to celebrate, and while celebrating the past is a great exercise of remembrance, let's look to the future with great anticipation of what God is about to do. Will you be one of the laborers for our Lord?



Jim Hewitt, pastor of Charleston Baptist Temple, led the celebration of 150 years of ministry.

Northwest Area News

Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

God's Not Done - Vienna Baptist Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) has much to offer the would-be church goer. Sunday morning is bustling with activity, with many a greeter ready to welcome you with a smile, warm coffee and a snack as you make your way into the building. The large entryways are designed for fellowship, with plenty of room for conversations. As you enter the sanctuary, it is modern, well-kept and brightly lit. The acoustics are good, the atmosphere friendly and cheerful. And you have choices. Two services on Sunday morning offer worship in two different flavors - one with a choir and traditional hymns, the other with a praise band and contemporary worship. There are also two times for Sunday School, and classes for all ages.

Their theme is appealing and biblical: "Learning to Love and Live Like Jesus." And it's not just a theme, but something they try to give practical expression. For instance, their current Wednesday evening children's series is intended to "cover some of the challenges kids face at school and how we can *learn to live*



Vienna Baptist Church

like Jesus in the face of those challenges."

The church is very community-minded, opening their facilities to groups like Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and opening their hearts to go out and meet needs. The church has restarted its bus ministry, and this is already bearing fruit. The church is one of the top supporters of the Weirton Christian Center, and yearly they fill shoeboxes at Christmas-time for all of the students there (regularly over 100 students). Every year an entire vanload of joy is sent as a practical expression of their love for Christ and others by helping these underprivileged students. Last Christmas, the church had a special "Celebration of Giving," in which they featured eight different community ministries from outside themselves, such as the feeding ministry on Latrobe street, the Children's Home Society and the Women's Care facility. Ministries were given opportunity to explain what they do in the community and how to be a volunteer in each. A special offering was taken and over \$19,000 was raised to help the different outreaches.

Vienna Baptist Church celebrated their 95th anniversary in October 2019 with the theme, "Ninety-Five and God's Not Done." Much has changed since Vienna Baptist Church had its beginning on October 10, 1924, with just 13 charter members. God has blessed them with a variety of opportunities and ministries, and with wonderful, updated facilities. Clearly, God's not done.

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award Presented to David Knotts at Annual Meeting

During the 154th West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting held at Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, Southeast Area Minister, Jim Anderson, and his sister, Mary Jo Slater, had the honor of presenting their father's James Anderson Sr. Bivocational Pastor Award. This year the award was given to David Knotts, pastor of Willow Tree Baptist Church (Fairmont). This award, being in its 7th year and selected by the area ministers, recognizes the contributions that current or former bivocational pastors have made in their church, community, association and our convention.

Below in his own words is David's biographical sketch and appreciation for being so honored.

It all started innocently enough in September, 1993 - filling in as a lay speaker for the first time away from my home church. When I walked away from Willow Tree Baptist Church that Sunday I said to myself, "I'll never have to come back here again." Well, as the Lord would have it, 26 plus years later, I am still preaching at that same church.

While serving at Willow Tree, after seeing people come to salvation, my greatest joy has been to see members step out of their comfort zone to serve the Lord. The congregation at Willow Tree takes care of me much more than I take care of them.

My wife, Sandy, and I live on the family farm a few miles outside of Fairmont. The farm has been in my family for four generations. We raise beef cattle and grow much of our own food in Sandy's garden.

We have two adult sons and daughters-in-law and five grandchildren - four very mischievous boys and one princess. Both sons and their families are actively involved in their churches. We view this as our greatest accomplishment in life.



David Knotts is presented with the 2019 James Anderson, Sr. Bivocational Pastor award (left to right): Sandy Knotts, David Knotts, Jim Anderson, Mary Jo Slater.

The farm serves as my bivocation now. Previously, I also served as a math teacher and administrator at Grafton High School for 33 years. I am a proud graduate of Fairmont State University and West Virginia University.

I grew up in a Baptist church and served as a deacon and treasurer there. If I had been doing the job I should have been doing as a deacon, God never would have called me to be a pastor. The moral of the story is this - do the best job you possibly can in serving where you are or God will really show you who is in control of your life!

As with most other things in life and especially in the ministry, there comes a time for change. I plan to retire from the ministry at the end of this year. I hope to spend more time traveling and with my family.

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Union Association Adds Two Churches

At the Annual Meeting of the Union Association on September 30, 2019, the delegates voted unanimously to accept two churches into membership: Faith Baptist Church (Mark Davis, pastor), located in Buckhannon, and Harmony Grove Baptist Church (Jim Baker, pastor), located near Grafton. Both churches were also recognized and welcomed into our West Virginia Baptist Convention family at the Annual Meeting on October 19, 2019.



Faith Baptist Church (left) and Harmony Grove Baptist Church (right)

Worthington Celebrates 175th Anniversary

Worthington Baptist Church (Fairmont) celebrated 175 years of ministry with a special service on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Everett Palmer, pastor, hosted the event, which featured a time of worship, a recounting of the church history by Mollie Palmer, a presentation of a certificate of recognition from the West Virginia Baptist Convention, a message by former pastor and International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant Keith Myers, special music and a dinner.

Little Capon Celebrates 125th Anniversary

Little Capon Baptist Church (Eastern) celebrated 125 years of ministry with a special service, Sunday, October 20, 2019. Tony Baker, pastor, led the morning worship service which included a visual presentation of the church's history, certificates of recognition from the West Virginia Baptist Convention and the American Baptist Historical Society, along with special music by the group *Appalachia* and others. A covered-dish dinner followed.

August - October 2019

JO ANN ALBRIGHT, 79, died October 6, 2019. She was a member of Long Run Baptist Church (Elk Valley).

JERRY LEE BALDERSON, 78, of Rockport, died October 27, 2019. He was a member of Pond Creek Baptist Church (Parkersburg), where he was a deacon.

DAN R. COLE, 76, of Illinois, died August 20, 2019. He was an International Ministries' (IM) alumnus who served in South Africa.

BETTY LEE CROUCH, "Miss Betty," 92, of Huntington, died October 15, 2019. She was a member of Pea Ridge Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and was active with American Baptist Women's Ministries. She served eight years on the governing body of the American Baptist Churches USA and as vice-president of American Baptist Churches International Ministries for two years. She and her husband, Bob, were very active with the youth at Highlawn Baptist Church and together served as the directors of the Senior High Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen

MORRIS JENNINGS EDMUNDS II, 76, died October 10, 2019. He was a member of Milton Baptist Church (Guyandotte) for over 25 years, where he served as treasurer and on various committees throughout his time there.

PHYLLIS ANN FERRELL, 90, of North Carolina, died October 20, 2019. She was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley). She and her husband, Billy Joe, spent several years managing Parchment Valley Conference Center.

THELMA JEAN BALL HUTCHINSON, 71, of Milton, died September 11, 2019. She was a lifelong member of Good Hope Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where she was a Sunday School teacher.

RONALD LEE LYONS, 86, of Saint Albans, died, September 13, 2019. He was a longtime member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he taught Sunday School and served as a deacon.

ESTHEL AMERICA MEADOWS PENNINGTON, 93, of Huntington, died October 6, 2019. She was an active member of Fifth Avenue



MAXWELL LAWRENCE HILL, JR., 70, of Saint Albans, died October 18, 2019. His work for the Lord began in 1981 at Pine Ridge Baptist Church in Zebulon, North Carolina, where he first served as pastor. Then he went to Jonesville North Carolina First Baptist Church, where he also served as volunteer chaplain for the athletic teams at Starmount High School in Boonville, North Carolina. He returned to West Virginia in 2001, where he became pastor at Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union). Later, he served as area minister and associate executive director for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. He was also previously interim pastor of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier- Raleigh) and currently served as interim pastor of Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River). He was a member of Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). His call to serve led him to take on mission work in Cuba. He began traveling to the island country in 1991 and returned every year after. Max was pastor emeritus of El Jordan Baptist Church in Havana, Cuba.

Baptist Church (Guyandotte) for over 80 years, and was director of the church nursery for over 50 years.

KATHY F. SIGMON, 66, died September 25, 2019. She was a 57-year member of Madison Baptist Church (Coal River). She was a member of the Chancel Choir, children's choir and was a Big News Club volunteer. She was church secretary for 35 years.

DORIS PARKINS THUMM, 94, of Florida, formerly of Dunbar, died on September 1, 2019. She was a member of Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she played piano for 77 years until September 2016.

ELLA MAE WHITE, 87, of Cross Lanes, died October 14, 2019. She was a member of Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley), where she served as a member of the choir and was active in women's missions. She was a past president of the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries.

Leadership Updates

MRS. JUDITH BARTLETT-TOMES to Weirton First Baptist Church (Panhandle) as pastor on July 28, 2019

REV. DON BIRAM to Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as senior pastor on August 1, 2019

REV. RAYMOND BUTCHER to Gauley Bridge Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) as pastor on August 1, 2019

Trading Post

TO GIVE AWAY: 75 HYMNALS IN GOOD CONDITION.

If interested, please call Long Run Baptist Church (Elk Valley) at 304.765.3229.

Six Percent Sales Tax Now Required on All Convention Events

Due to House Bill 2813, which was passed by the West Virginia Legislature earlier this year, the West Virginia Baptist Convention is required to start collecting 6% sales tax on all events regardless of whether you register by mail or online. Please make note of this on all future registration forms.

December 2019

DECEMBER 1 - The ministry of Pleasant Dale Baptist Church; Wayne Litton, pastor (Elk Valley)
DECEMBER 2 - Elisabeth McCurdy, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Costa Rica
DECEMBER 3 - The ministry of Morgantown First Baptist Church (Goshen)
DECEMBER 4 - Shane Boggs, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
DECEMBER 5 - Brennan Witmer, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Thailand
DECEMBER 6 - The ministry of Hill Grove Baptist Church; William Stutler, pastor (Good Hope)
DECEMBER 7 - The ministry of Hampton Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
DECEMBER 8 - David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 9 - The ministry of Good Hope Baptist Church; John Barker, pastor (Parkersburg)
DECEMBER 10 - Ivy Wu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Hong Kong
DECEMBER 11 - Paul Gutierrez, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to South Africa
DECEMBER 12 - The ministry of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church; Derek Hall, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
DECEMBER 13 - Lee Boso, president, West Virginia Baptist Convention and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
DECEMBER 14 - The ministry of Fairview Baptist Church; Warren Eades, pastor (Hopewell)
DECEMBER 15 - Bill Clemmer, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 16 - Emma Witmer, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Thailand
DECEMBER 17 - Sarah Chetti, International Ministries Global Servant to Lebanon
DECEMBER 18 - Richard Hepler, president, West Virginia Baptist Convention Historical Society and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
DECEMBER 19 - Denise Aragon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico
DECEMBER 20 - Mike Lowery, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
DECEMBER 21 - Kevin Sions, Northern Director of Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM), West Virginia University
DECEMBER 22 - J.D. Reed, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Bolivia
DECEMBER 23 - The ministry of Oak Hill Baptist Church; Sam Blaylock, 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 born to save the world
DECEMBER 26 - The ministry of Freeman's Creek Baptist Church; Joshua Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run)
DECEMBER 27 - Koren Villers, director, Discipleship Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
DECEMBER 28 - The ministry of North Shinnston Baptist Church; Mathew Keith, pastor (Judson)
DECEMBER 29 - Maggie Stanton, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Hungary
DECEMBER 30 - Lori Mann, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant
DECEMBER 31 - Kathy Hudson, president, West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission

January 2020

JANUARY 1 - Pray for a blessed New Year
JANUARY 2 - The ministry of Strait Creek Baptist Church; Dobby Thrash, pastor (Harrisville)
JANUARY 3 - The ministry of Send the Light Baptist Fellowship; Jim Anderson, president (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
JANUARY 4 - The West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meets today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
JANUARY 5 - Ingrid Roldan-Roman, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Panama
JANUARY 6 - The ministry of Maysel Baptist Church; James Hamrick, pastor (Elk Valley)
JANUARY 7 - The ministry of Bridgeport Baptist Church; Rodney Kittle, pastor (Judson)
JANUARY 8 - Samuel McCurdy, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Costa Rica
JANUARY 9 - The ministry of Burnsville First Baptist Church; Tony Conrad, pastor (Little Kanawha)
JANUARY 10 - Kyle Witmer, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand
JANUARY 11 - Ann Borquist, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Southeast Asia and Japan
JANUARY 12 - The ministry of Barboursville Baptist Church (Guyandotte)
JANUARY 13 - The ministry of Weirton First Baptist Church; Judi Bartlett-Tomes, pastor (Panhandle)
JANUARY 14 - Jeff Madden, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
JANUARY 15 - The ministry of Oceana First Baptist Church; Jerry Cook, pastor (Rockcastle)
JANUARY 16 - Patricia Vannoy, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
JANUARY 17 - The ministry of Tabor's Creek Missionary Baptist Church; Denny Brown, pastor (Twelve Pole)
JANUARY 18 - The ministry of Belington First Baptist Church; Julia Miller, pastor (Union)
JANUARY 19 - Ian Williams, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
JANUARY 20 - Andrea Fling, bookkeeper, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 21 - The ministry of Mill Creek Baptist Church; Robert Keen, pastor (Good Hope)
JANUARY 22 - Don Miles, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
JANUARY 23 - The ministry of Boothsville Baptist Church (Fairmont)
JANUARY 24 - The ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; Michael Harriman, pastor (Goshen)
JANUARY 25 - The ministry of Pond Creek Baptist Church; Ben McCloy, pastor (Parkersburg)
JANUARY 26 - Carmella Jones, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Hungary
JANUARY 27 - Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
JANUARY 28 - The ministry of New Hope Community Baptist Church; Jeff Biddle, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
JANUARY 29 - Jason Marshall, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
JANUARY 30 - The ministry of Victory Baptist Church; Dennis Napier, pastor (Broad Run)
JANUARY 31 - The ministry of Poca Baptist Church; Thomas Moore, pastor (Teays Valley)

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

Coming Events

DECEMBER

December 23-25
Christmas Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

2020

JANUARY

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

January 3
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee
Parchment Valley Conference
Center/Santroek Building
Begins at 6:30 p.m.

January 4
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board and Commission
Meetings
Parchment Valley Conference
Center/Santroek Building
Begins at 9:00 a.m.

January 7
The Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Theology I (T-01) Six-Week
Class Begins
Various Locations, Start Dates and
Times

January 15
The Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Digital Learning Initiative
(DLI) Theology I (T-01) Six-Week
Class
Begins
Online Class

January 15
The Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Digital Learning Initiative
(DLI) Evangelism (Mod-06) One-Day
Class Begins
Online Class

January 20
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

FEBRUARY

February 1
Annual Training Event
Parchment Valley Conference Center -
Hill Hall
Registration Begins at 9:00 a.m.
Event Begins at 9:30 a.m.

February 17
President's Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office CLOSED

February 21-23
Senior High Convention
Gassaway Baptist Church

February 25
The Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Theology II (T-02) Six-Week
Class Begins
Various Locations, Start Dates and
Times

February 29
American Baptist Men's Prayer
Breakfast
Various Locations

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.

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