

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

February - March 2020

Will You Hold the Rope?

In his inaugural address before the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792, William Carey famously preached, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!" As we embark on a new year, we hope to reemphasize Carey's challenge as we expect and attempt great things for God over our next decade of *Doing Christ's Work Together*.

By this point, I hope you have heard about **Vision 2020**. Vision 2020 is designed to help us look back, celebrating all that Christ has done over the course of our rich 155 years of ministry together, but it is also designed to help us look forward as we anticipate all that Christ may want to do in and through us over the next decade. As we expect and attempt as a West Virginia Baptist Convention family, we have already seen some exciting new initiatives kick off this year.

Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence: This program was started as a result of several younger pastors indicating a desire to be mentored by someone more seasoned in ministry. Statistics show the average tenure of a pastor is only six years before they face burnout.

Leadership Development: Another statistic reveals the average age of a pastor in the United States has risen from 44 to 54, with only one in seven being under the age of 40. Yet, we are seeing incredible young leaders emerge in our churches, having been disciplined and trained through Baptist Campus Ministries and/or our West Virginia Palmer Seminary program. To facilitate further opportunities for development, both the Church Ministry Intern Program and the Missionary Intern Program were established to help young adults discern their long-term calling to ministry as well as to give churches the opportunity to benefit from their leadership.

New Church Development: Together, we have planted 18 churches over the last 20 years, yet there are still thousands of people within our communities who are virtually unreached with the gospel. It has been exciting to watch the impact of some of our recent church plants, especially those that are considered non-traditional or those that have been planted among other ethnicities. With an increasing diversity in our state, the opportunities for new church plants are only going to grow. In response to this, we are once again reemphasizing new church development and have established a fund that can help new churches get started. We are also working with churches interested

in re-planting, aimed at infusing life back into a declining congregation.

Carey knew no matter what he attempted, he could not do it alone. Prior to the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society, encircled by a group of fellow association pastors, Carey shared his vision of taking the gospel to India, likening it to a rescue mission into a deep, dark well. His invitation to his fellow pastors was, "I will go down if you will hold the rope." The pastors agreed to become rope holders, forming the Baptist Missionary Society to send and support the missionary enterprise, and William Carey led a small team that traveled to India, where they spent the rest of their lives planting churches, translating the Bible and reaching thousands with the gospel.

As we consider the exciting opportunities that lie before us, we are also in need of churches and individuals to hold the rope. We have mentors, young leaders and prospective church

planters ready to attempt great things for God. We also have exciting opportunities through Camp Cowen, the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and the other ministries we do together. However, as Mike Sisson shared at our Annual Meeting, over the last decade we have effectively exhausted our reserves - essentially relying upon the rope holders of previous generations. Thus, we are now in need of new rope holders who are willing to support these ministries going forward. So as each of you read this article, I want to ask: "Will you hold the rope?"

A few weeks ago, the Executive Board passed a budget that has the potential to be our first budget in a decade that no longer requires us to draw from reserves. If just 200 individuals agree to become rope holders, we anticipate our budget will be fully supported. Over the last month we have

already seen nearly 50 individuals sign up.

Additionally, if we reach our goal of 2,000 rope holders, we will not only reach our budget, but we will also be able to start rebuilding our reserves to a healthy enough level to carry us through the next decade of ministry together.

I want to invite you to become a rope holder by supporting the ministry we do together with a gift of at least \$20 a month. You can sign up to be a rope holder through our website, the card enclosed with this newsletter or by contacting your area minister. We are expecting great things from God this year! As we attempt great things for Him, will you help us by holding the rope?



Your fellow rope holder,
Todd McClure

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!

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The Year in Review



Mike Sisson

The Year in Review! During this time of year, we find that phrase attached to magazines, documentaries and television specials all with the sole purpose of recounting the historical events that transpired during the past year in sports, politics, society, world affairs, etc. This past year certainly had more than its fair share of newsworthy events! Some of them simply provided entertainment, like when our favorite team wins a championship or an underdog team defeats a heavily favored opponent. However, other events were turning points that changed the trajectory of people's lives.

As we enter a new year, what an excellent opportunity to do a "Year in Review" of our own individual lives. We can look back on the significant events and circumstances which God used to change the trajectory of our lives. There were those special occasions that have grown our faith and sharpened our focus as we seek to faithfully follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

This was the attitude toward life's circumstances that James was referring to in scripture when he wrote his letter to the discouraged Jews who had been persecuted and scattered because they had chosen to follow Jesus Christ. James reminded them, "Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way" (James 1:2-4, MSG).

It was the refining process described by the apostle Peter when he wrote, "So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold - though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world" (1 Peter 1:6-7, NLT).

As Christians we are encouraged to always seek to recognize the work God is doing in our lives. Take a moment. Look back over the past year. What were the turning points in your relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Do you recall the times when you bumped into the next step of faith? At those times did you step back or step up? Did you reach up to God and allow Him to take your hand and help you master the climb? Did you realize it when He did?

Growing in our faith requires an awareness of God's work in and through us. When we face the challenges, positive or negative, that life throws our way we must look for the opportunity to grow in our faith. Do not shrink back, step up! Step up with the expectation God is there waiting to help you make the climb! During the coming year let us practice being attentive to the work of God in our personal lives and by doing so we may grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Mike

More than a Campsite

Dr. William Farnar, former executive minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) from 1957-1977, had a dream in 1960 that one day the WVBC would have a conference center that would be more than a campsite. It would be a year-round center where people could retreat from their everyday routines and responsibilities and find a beautiful setting in which heart, mind and soul could be inspired to new heights of worship, discipleship and service. Shortly afterward, his vision for a year-round conference center became a reality, with the support of many volunteers, prayers and donors.

Now, as we spring into 2020, God's presence at Parchment Valley Conference Center continues to bring great blessings. Recently, we completed our 7th Annual Jackson County Hunting Heroes event at Parchment Valley. Hundreds of volunteers were present, along with 25 veterans and their local guides. One of our new leaders, Cole Moore, a recent graduate of Marshall University, participant in Baptist Campus Ministries and Brothers' Keeper alumni, led worship in the dorms and truly blessed the camp.

A first-time hunter, guest Thomas Jenkins, president of West Virginia Paralyzed American Veterans and a combat veteran who lost both legs in the Vietnam war said, "Parchment

Valley was a great place to be." He often encourages others going through a traumatic event in their life to "Go do something!"

In 2020, more than 10,000 people will enter the gates of Parchment Valley Conference Center. The vision is cast and the Lord tells us in James 1:22-25, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (NIV).



Dr. William Farmer (2nd from left) breaks ground on Parchment Valley Conference Center. Also pictured (l to r) are Dr. John Keck, Dr. Warren Moyer, Mr. H.L. Deevers, Jr. and Rev. Vairl Winter.

As we remodel our administration building (The Barn) bathrooms with the support of our donors and dedicated volunteers, our crews discovered a beautiful reminder of volunteering. Below the tile was a handwritten note from those doing the last remodel in 1987. The names of the volunteers, Perry Cooper, C.B. Hall, Buren Sparks, Jim Sparks and Charlie Plemons, are certainly a piece of West Virginia Baptist Historical Society archive history. One name in particular,

102 year-old Herb Walker, is still faithfully serving! He is with the American Baptist Men at Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). He is still holding the rope!

May this be a safe season and let us pray the Lord's will be done. We thank you for the continued support and helping us hole the rope.

BROTHERS' KEEPER

2020: A HIGHER VISION



JUNE 21-26, 2020

PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER

WE ARE DOERS OF THE WORD TOGETHER! JAMES 1:22

brotherskeeperwv.org

A ministry of Parchment Valley Conference Center
304.372.3675

Brothers' Keeper is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2020!



Come and celebrate with us by *Doing Christ's Work Together*. The mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ by being a help to Jackson County homeowners by lending a hand with their home improvement and property projects.

This incredible life-changing ministry of 20 years helps to bless hundreds of homeowners and their families through empowering and equipping young people to serve, and in return the homeowners souls are touched as well as the youth!

Please go to brotherskeeperwv.org for compelling videos and great stories of how God is moving in West Virginia. Let's be doers of the word together.

We invite your junior and senior high youth, skilled crew chief leaders, chaperones and youth leaders to come share this opportunity to serve families in Jackson County.

For more information, please contact Frank Miller at 304.372.3675 or miller@wvbc.org. He would be glad to come speak to your church or tell how you can contribute financially.

The Vision of Dorothy Santrock

Even among those who never personally met her, Dorothy Santrock continues to be revered by many throughout our West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) family. Anyone who has visited Parchment Valley Conference Center has likely



Dorothy Santrock

attended a meeting, class or conference inside the building that now bears her name. The Santrock Education Center was dedicated as part of Vision 2000, a WVBC campaign that raised over \$2.1 million. Dorothy played a significant role in that.

Referring to the original vision of Parchment Valley - a place "where lives are changed" through higher education and leadership development - Dorothy expressed her excitement at the building's

dedication service by referring to it as "a dream come true." She went on to say:

"There were those who many years ago had the vision of a Conference Center for the West Virginia Baptists. They were people who worked tirelessly to secure this site and began the development, one building at a time ... because of the efforts of many, it has been our joy for many years to share the "Parchment Valley experience."

That "Parchment Valley experience" is still being enjoyed as the Santrock Education Center now serves as the home to our West Virginia Palmer Seminary program, the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and various retreats and conferences for our WVBC family. It also serves as the home for a Ripley church plant, is a frequently requested location for weddings and also opens its doors for numerous community events.

Former executive minister, Lloyd Hamblin, described Dorothy as "a no-frills person whose spiritual waters and grace ran really deep." He also added two words to his description that might be viewed as opposites: generous and frugal. He explained:

"An example of her generous side was seen during the Vision 2000 campaign. The result of that campaign was we raised \$2.1 million toward a goal of \$1.5 million. There were hundreds of small and larger gifts. There were at least seven gifts between \$25,000 and \$75,000. There were two gifts that totaled over \$500,000. One of those was from Dorothy and she inspired the second one. I am convinced the second gift would not have been made without her influence and example."

But he also described her as being frugal. Her modest living and meticulous accounting of finances made a big impression on people. It even led to the decision to construct the Santrock Education Center using volunteer labor, saving the convention around \$200,000 in expenses. Lloyd added, "She saved wherever she could so it could be given away."

However, Dorothy's legacy goes far beyond Parchment Valley. Her generosity and frugality made her an excellent treasurer for the West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM), where she served in that role for over 37 years.

It was in that role that Janey Carrico, former executive board member for ABWM, first met Dorothy. Initially, Janey was intimidated by how business-minded and thorough Dorothy was with everything, but eventually that intimidation dissolved after she gained a sense of her humor.

"She was a gem," Janey described. "There was nobody that did not like her. She was subtly funny, she was wise, and she was a really good mentor."

Another former ABWM member, Debbie Higginbotham, described Dorothy as having an incredible vision with a plan for how to bring that vision to completion. "She engaged the women of the state using her precious humor," Debbie explained, "but she was also consistent and forward thinking."

One example of Dorothy's humor that many of the women remember was she consistently brought a sock to each event that she passed around to raise money for national projects. "I don't think there was ever a project that was not fully funded with that sock," Janey recalled. "That was probably due to Dorothy's ability to cast vision as well as her willingness

to complete the funding of projects out of her own pocket." That willingness was also seen in Dorothy's establishment of an endowment which still provides income for ABWM to this day.

In addition to her work at the state level, Dorothy was also active in women's ministry at her home church, Charleston Baptist Temple, where she also served as

the church organist and piano teacher. Due to her vision and leadership, she was coveted by nearly every board and committee, and she served numerous terms as a trustee on the WVBC Executive Board, the Camps and Conference Board of Directors and the Budget Committee. She also served on boards for various community organizations.

It is because of rope holders like Dorothy Santrock that we are able to *Do Christ's Work Together*. Her vision and leadership had a direct impact on other rope holders for Parchment Valley, for ABWM and for the WVBC. Her vision is also still being realized in the lives of individuals all throughout our convention family.

As we enter into this new decade of ministry together, we are grateful for the men and women of previous generations who have laid the groundwork for us. We continue to reap the benefits of the labor of individuals like Dorothy Santrock and others who contributed to Vision 2000.

As we enter into Vision 2020, would you join us in laying the groundwork for the next generation? May God continue to raise up people who are as faithful to the Lord as Dorothy Santrock was!



The Santrock Education Center

WV American Baptist Women's Ministries

West Virginia Hope

Written by Sue Hamric

West Virginia (WV) Hope is a new ministry created in 2019 by former WV American Baptist Women's Ministries' (ABWM) president, Debbie Higginbotham, as an alternative to the former White Cross program. The national ABWM removed White Cross from their jurisdiction and transferred it to an International Ministries' (IM) project. Debbie was inspired by the Herald of Hope Chapel Car that once ministered to West Virginians through the railroad system. Herald of Hope founded or helped to found many churches in our state.

WV ABWM groups now have the choice of an IM White Cross project, the WV Hope Project or both, if they so choose. Each year there will be several ministries chosen by the WV ABWM first vice-president and her committee. Among the ministries chosen each year for assistance from our organization, Weirton Christian Center will be perpetual. Anyone wishing to submit a ministry for consideration should contact Libby Young at el.young@aol.com.



This first year of the program, Weirton Christian Center, Baptist Campus Ministries, the Gabriel Project and Star Club (an afterschool ministry) were selected and presented to the associations and local WV ABWM groups. The response to the program has been very good as the ladies involved are more than pleased to be able to lend help and support to the in-state programs.

A contest was sponsored for the creation of a logo for WV Hope, and LaAnna Blake designed the winning entry at right. She described the sketch by saying, "sometimes we are in a position to reach down and help others and sometimes we are in a position that we need to reach out to others for help."

The results of this first year of the WV Hope Ministry will not be available until late 2020. We are, however, optimistic about the success of the project based solely upon input from the WV ABWM membership-at-large.

Women's Camp 2020

Last year's Women's Camp welcomed 250 women from all across the state for a weekend of fellowship. We sang, we danced, we cried and loved on each other. This year's theme is Share Your Story and the speaker is Claire Cottrill. We hope you can join us this year!



March 27-29, 2020

West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen

Cost is \$45* for the weekend, includes all meals, housing and a t-shirt.

Please join us for a wonderful weekend uniting generations of women ages 18 or older as we focus on sharing the story God has given us.



Priority Registration:
March 13, 2020

\$45, if received by March 13 or \$50 at the door.

Register by March 6 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Questions: 304.531.5466

For more information, visit www.wvbc.org.

Women's Camp 2020 Registration Form

Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City/State/Zip:	_____
Phone #:	_____
E-mail:	_____
Church:	_____
T-shirt Size:	_____ Roommate: _____
Special Needs, request for handicap facilities, food allergies?	_____
Yes:	_____
Do you give permission for photographs to be taken during the camp and used for promotional purposes?	___ Yes ___ No
Make checks payable to: WVBC and mail to: Women's Camp Registrar, 3073 Wallace Circle, Huntington, WV 25705.	

Margaret Ernestine Mitchell: Missionaries Could Not Have Found a Better Advocate

Margaret Ernestine Mitchell, more affectionately known as Ernie, was a longtime member of Meadow Grove Baptist Church (Hopewell). She served for more than 20 years as the church treasurer and was influential in starting their first American Baptist Women's Ministries' (ABWM) circle. Her involvement in the local women's circle led to her involvement in the state ABWM, where she became even more familiar with the ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC). In addition to ABWM, she was active in the Historical Society, in supporting the initial development of Parchment Valley Conference Center, and in supporting missions.

"Her passion was always missions," said Dana Gatewood, her former pastor at Rainelle First Baptist Church (Hopewell). Ernie had transferred her membership near the end of her life and had continued to be active in ministry. Never married, she found companionship in opening her home to missionaries on furlough and providing them with homemade dinners. "Missionaries could not have found a better advocate than Ernestine."

Ernie was active in the Hopewell Association and she especially had a heart for young people. Goldie Treadway, now a member at Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), recalls Ernie frequently supporting young people in their pursuit of college. "She gave whenever she could," Goldie recalls. "That is what she enjoyed!"

Dana had the opportunity to preach Ernie's funeral service and still remembers the service. "Her funeral was held at the church and I was watching as the hearse delivered her body for the 1:00 p.m. viewing. I smiled when I saw the casket she had picked out because it was the least expensive one they offered - thin wood covered with velvet, the casket used for people who didn't have much money. Even in death, Ernestine was still providing for missions."

In her last written will, Ernie chose to leave an endowment that is to be used "to support American Baptist missions overland and overseas." Each year, a portion of the interest from that endowment is divided to support overland and overseas missions. In 2019, she gave nearly \$5,500 to support Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) and she gave an equal amount that was divided among our West Virginia International Ministries' missionaries: J.D. and Rhonda Reed (Bolivia), Keith and Deborah Myers (Mexico) and Juan and Denise Aragon (Mexico). Nearly two decades after her passing, Ernie is still providing for missions!

It is because of rope holders like Margaret Ernestine Mitchell that we are able to *Do Christ's Work Together*. If you are interested in learning how you can leave a legacy gift, please contact the WVBC office at 304.422.6449.

2020 Camp Cowen Schedule



WOMEN'S CAMP: March 27-29
MEN'S WORK PARTY: April 24-25
SUMMER KICK OFF EVENT: May 15-16
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.

Senior High Convention

Calling all 9-12 graders! Join us for a great weekend
of fellowship with believers from across the state.
This will be a time of worship, teaching and
fun you won't want to miss!

February 21-23, 2020
Gassaway Baptist Church

Cost: \$40.00, if postmarked (with money
enclosed) by February 7, 2020. \$50.00, if after
February 7 or at the door.

Housing Deadline: February 7, 2020

Speaker: Michael Distefano,
Regional Impact Director for Amirah, Inc.,
an anti-slavery aftercare organization that operates
domestically.

Band: Profound Revival

A ministry focused on sharing the genuine love of
Jesus. Members: Josh and Andrea Richmond

Register online at www.wvbc.org.

Passion 2020

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) and several churches from the West Virginia Baptist Convention attended the Passion 2020 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. It is a conference designed for young adults between the ages of 18-25; an incredible event with an estimated 65,000 in attendance at the Mercedes Benz Dome December 31, 2019 - January 2, 2020. The three days began with an evening of worship and a New Year's Eve celebration. The entire event challenged the college students to carry the "light of Christ" wherever they go. The new year rang in with beautiful fireworks and a bracelet each student had lighting up, symbolizing the message can begin with one person who has the responsibility to share the light. Eventually, everyone's light in the dome was shining!

There were several amazing speakers who offered biblical sermons and practical guidance. One speaker, Christine Cane, Australian activist, evangelist, author and international speaker, spoke on John 7:37-38, challenging the students to come to Jesus and allow the living water of Christ to flow through them!

BCM has the mission of *changing lives that change the world.* Here are a few statements from students who attended:

The first word that came to my mind was healing. That is what it has been for me. I know that is a short statement, but I feel like my praise is back and my love for things of the Lord has increased. -Abbie

Passion has been very eye opening for me. The past two years have shown me areas in my life I need to change to live for Christ correctly. This year really lit a fire in me to make this year all about Christ and to really try hard to make Him glorified in all areas of my life. -Trent

Passion is a place to put aside your troubles and further your relationship with God because in order to do that you have to make God big and yourself small. -Mandy

Passion is a place where thousands of college-age students come together to worship and learn different ways we can show the world the goodness of God. -Jenni

Passion has truly been the most amazing experience I've ever been a part of. To see 65,000 believers worshipping the same God in one arena is something truly magical.



The Baptist Campus Ministries' group from Marshall University that attended the Passion 2020 Conference.

Listening to all of the guest speakers has lit a fire inside me to become a better follower of Christ. My favorite lesson learned is that when you turn God's pages in His book, He will turn pages in my life and that's a big thing I have to remind myself of every day. -Bree

It was the most beautiful experience I've ever been a part of. Sixty-five thousand of this generation together praising the One who deserves all the praise to commit this year to His glory alone. -Hunter

So, is it worth it? The travel, loss of sleep, and stress of traffic/logistics are factors that may lead one to say it's not worth it. To experience worship and Bible teaching along with 65,000 young adults outweighs the challenges. The students were grateful for the support through BCM to attend. The experience at Passion this year provided the opportunity for young adults and college students to start the new year worshipping God and learning what it means to follow Christ by hearing challenging sermons.

It was great to celebrate with Alderson Broaddus, Marshall and West Virginia Universities, along with Clarksburg (Union), Gassaway (Elk Valley), Saint Albans First Baptist (Teays Valley) and Williamstown First (Parkersburg) Baptist Churches that made up the 123 from the WVBC Group. Our prayer is the experience of Passion will jumpstart the transformation in the lives of students to be changed by God so they may change their world. Please continue to pray for BCM as students return for the spring semester.

Attention: Baptist Campus Ministries Alumni

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) is actively working on eight college campuses across the state to "change lives that change the world." This ministry is possible because of the support received from churches and individuals.

If your life has been impacted by being a student in BCM, we want to hear from you! As an alum, you are part of the legacy of the ministry of BCM and we want to know how God has impacted your life in the past and present through the ministry of BCM. Please fill out the form at right and send it to be included in the BCM alumni updates and mailings.

To send in your alumni information online, go to www.wobcm.com/alumni. If mailing, please send to WVBC, Attn: Jennifer, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

Baptist Campus Ministries Alumni Information

Name: _____
 (Include Maiden Name)
 Address: _____
 School Attended: _____
 Years Attended: _____
 Phone #: _____
 E-mail: _____
 How did BCM impact your life?

 What are you doing now?

 How has BCM helped you change the lives of others?

Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence


In January 2020, the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) launched a new mentoring initiative, *Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence*. The mentoring program takes place through a partnership between the West Virginia Baptist Convention and Renew Transformational Strategies with the focus of raising the level of excellence of pastoral leadership within convention churches, while at the same time providing a network of support and encouragement for the participating pastors.

The idea for the program was born from the convergence of many different streams all pointing to the need for a mentoring support system within our convention family. The first indicator for the need of such a program took place a few years ago when the WVBC Leadership Commission became concerned with the increasing number of pastors leaving the ministry after only two or three years. Fast forward five years with the advent of the ministry intern emphasis, the Leadership Commission again began to discuss the strong need of mentors for pastors. About this same time, the convention staff began sharing that many pastors were asking them about potential mentors. That was when Dr. Ed Rogers, owner of Renew Transformational Strategies and former senior pastor of South

Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg), came forward offering to donate access to his resources and knowledge in mentoring leaders to come alongside the convention to develop the concept of a *Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence* program.

The model adopted for the program was simple. Find pastors/leaders with long track records of leading churches to be healthy and growing, consistently leading with wisdom, walking in integrity and a heart for supporting other pastors. Once these mentors were recruited, pair them with pastoral leaders desiring to lead with excellence and willing to have someone walk alongside them in their life and ministry.

The mentoring program requires a commitment by leader and mentor to meet once a month for a minimum of 1 ½ hours. During this meeting, 1/3 of the time will be used for a continuing education emphasis addressing topics such as self-awareness, leadership, boundaries and congregational dynamics. The remaining 2/3 of the time together will be framed by the leader based on their current context and needs. Additionally, there is a two-day conference planned that will bring all the leaders and mentors together for further networking and continued education. This is a pilot program that we hope to expand in the future to include all interested leaders.



*March 7,
2020*

*Parchment Valley
Conference Center,
Administration Building
- The Barn*

*“The Divided Kingdom” The Book of Kings
featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman*

Pastor, New Baptist Church, Huntington and Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary

Registration: 9:00 a.m., instruction will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the event will end at 3:00 p.m.

Register online at www.wvbc.org.

Pastors 4 Pastors Pre-Bible Conference Event

*Friday, March 6, 2020
Parchment Valley Conference Center*

Presenter: Dr. Trent Eastman

*Event begins with lunch at noon in the
Administration Building (The Barn).*

Presentation: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Dinner: 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

An evening of worship and fellowship: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00, includes meals and presentation

You may register online at www.wvbc.org.

Reducing the Risk: A Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Program

No child should ever experience the trauma of sexual abuse - and certainly never in a church or ministry setting. Sadly, there are hundreds of allegations made each year over incidents of child sexual abuse in faith communities. In fact, churches, by virtue of their open, welcoming nature, often attract predators looking for a low-resistance environment where they can prey on children.

At the same time, there are simple steps your ministry can take to protect children. We know you love kids. We do, too. Our hope is that no child - and no ministry - would ever fall victim to the devastating effects of sexual abuse. Koreen Villers, director of Discipleship for the West Virginia Baptist Convention, has been trained to provide training and assistance to your church to help keep kids safe in your ministry. Together, your leaders and volunteers will discover what they can do to protect the kids they love.

Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) offered the training to their paid staff and volunteers in their children and youth ministries. Debbie Shadowen, children's director, at Emmanuel Baptist Church had this to say about the *Reducing the Risk Training*.

I took over as children's director a year ago and started researching our safety policy. I discovered training had not been done for several years and some volunteers had some

questionable actions. Nothing illegal or immoral, but I had some concerns. I scheduled the Reducing the Risk training to protect our youth and children as well as the volunteers working with them. We have since begun doing background checks on all our workers and have rewritten our safety policy. The training gave our volunteers some great insights as well as making them aware of situations that could cause them problems, even when done with the best of intentions. We have since had a second training for new volunteers and others who missed the first training. Our next step is final approval of our rewritten safety policy which we will require volunteers to sign off on and perhaps add additional steps if the policy is not followed.

Von Edwards, associate pastor of youth and young adults at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte) sponsored a *Reducing the Risk* training and had the following to say.

God gave us the blessing to be stewards of young people in our communities and it is our job to make sure they are safe and protected. With this training we are not only learning how to be better stewards, but we are also learning how we can best love our hurting world.

Please contact Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org to schedule training at your church.

Spring Children's Rally 2020

For children currently in grades K-5, 6th grade is optional.

March 7, 2020

Parchment Valley Conference Center
Greenlee Activities Center

Cost: \$13.00 - Early Bird Registration,
postmarked by February 24, 2020 with money enclosed

\$25.00 - late registration,
postmarked after February 24, 2020 or at the door

Theme: Books of the Bible - New Testament Books

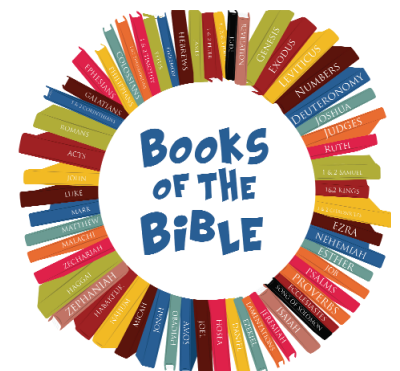
"God has breathed life into all scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Children bring your Bibles!

T-shirts are available and must be pre-ordered, pre-paid and postmarked by February 24.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. The event begins at 9:30 and ends and 3:00 p.m.

Online registration available at www.wvbc.org. For more information, please contact Valma at adams@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.



Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Vision 2020: Looking Forward to a Blessed Decade

As we finished 2019, I was blessed to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior with my family, and particularly blessed to celebrate Christmas Eve communion with them at New Baptist Church (Guyandotte). It was wonderful to see the church full as children read scripture reflecting the birth of Christ and lighting an Advent Candle following their reading. Along with several Christmas songs, the readings and prayer, the night was special as families gathered around tables in the sanctuary to take communion together as individual families, yet at the same time as the family of God. I am thankful to hear about many other churches having similar stories and the shared blessing of experiencing Christ at Christmas.

As we think of new beginnings we often look forward to in a new year, we have two churches in the Southwest Area celebrating the arrival of new pastors. At the beginning of December 2019, Rev. Jim Adkins began his new ministry as the pastor at W.A. Connolly Memorial



Jim and Mellisa Adkins begin their ministry at W.A. Connolly Memorial Baptist Church.

Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo). The church celebrated Jim's installation service January 12, 2020 with several of the Logan-Mingo association churches attending and participating in the celebration. At the beginning of January 2020, Rev. Philip Walton started as the pastor of Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley). Philip and the church are extremely excited as they plan to work in the community and with other churches to better reach their community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Several years ago, I preached a sermon series with the title *Vision Check 2020*. My focus was to look at where we were as a church and where God wanted to lead us, so we could be who He wanted us to be in 2020. I think we should always be evaluating ourselves and our churches to make sure we are following the ministry path God has placed us on and not merely a ministry path that is familiar and comfortable. As we begin this new year and decade, may we all keep our focus on Christ so we can be who He would have us to be and be our best at building His kingdom.

Northwest Area News

Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

Lubeck Community Baptist Church: A Family of Families

We continue our look at various churches in the area by turning our focus to Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg). There is something both inviting and comfortable about worshipping at Lubeck. The sermons are good, the atmosphere relaxed and informal, the music uplifting and the people are friendly. There are some subtle differences at Lubeck. For one, they don't "pass the plate." There is a box in the back of the sanctuary for those who would give, and it would be possible for you to not even find it for a couple of Sundays. According to pastor, Mark Houser, one of the regular questions new people ask is where the money comes from ... "I see the numbers from last week's offering in the bulletin, but I was here and don't remember you taking one."

There are no committees and just one board (trustees). The structure has been kept intentionally simple, "so that we don't get bogged down with it." The people are organized in teams formed to fulfill ministry ideas. It would

be truthful to say the church is both ministry centered and outwardly focused. For example, during school months the church sends a "missionary" team to McDowell county to minister in some underserved areas there. Likewise, every month a team goes to Ravenswood to minister to the poorest of that community, a ministry that began as a partnership with another church.

Every Sunday, shortly into the worship time, the church hits the pause button and stops for a time of fellowship and snacks, which seems both odd, yet biblical! See Acts 2:42 - after all, we've never done it that way before ... but my teenager loves it. Lubeck, it would seem, is comfortable doing things just a little differently.

Founded in September of 2000, the church began as a Bible study with thirteen in attendance and has grown to a robust congregation of 330 members, with over 200 in average worship attendance. For the first 16 years of their history, Pastor Mark - their founding pastor - was part-time. Now, retired from his secular job, he works full-time with the church. Just this year, the church added a youth director to their staff, and other changes are on the horizon. And God continues to bless - there were 43 new members in the most recent year, with 34 coming by baptism. In the new year, Pastor Mark has challenged the church to "move God up in their priorities."



Pastor of Lubeck Community Baptist Church, Mark Houser, brings the message to the congregation.

Ron George Jr. Retires

On Sunday afternoon, December 29, 2019, Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette) hosted a reception to honor 20 years of ministry with Rev. Ron George, Jr. and his wife, Lynn, and also to celebrate Ron's retirement as full-time pastor. He will continue to serve as pulpit supply and interim pastor.



Ron George, Jr. and his wife, Lynn

Ron, a graduate of the first Palmer Seminary, West Virginia location class, prior to pastoring Fayetteville Baptist Church, served at Little Union Baptist Church, Craigs ville; Sutton Baptist Church (Elk Valley); and Sand Fork Baptist Church (Little Kanawha).

Our West Virginia Baptist Convention family wishes the best for Ron, Lynn and all their family. Ron and Lynn hope to spend even more time with their grandchildren in this next chapter in their lives and are thankful for many souls born into the kingdom through their ministry together.

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister



Aimee Williams volunteers at the Azizi Life table



William and Suzanne Kniceley lead Jingle Jam

Clarksburg Baptist Holds 10th Annual World Market

Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) held its 10th Annual World Market, featuring Fair Trade Certified items from around the world. The purchase of Fair Trade Certified items supports a sustainable wage, a safe work environment and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Sales from this year's World Market totaled \$39,000, with a ten-year total of \$219,000. All proceeds go back toward supporting the laborers who created the products.

Plum Run Dance Ministry

The message of salvation came alive in creative ways as the Dance Ministry of Plum Run Baptist Church (Fairmont) led worship during Advent. The ministry, led by Rebecca Humphreys, includes dancers from the church and community and is known for its inspiring seasonal worship programs.



Rebecca Humphreys, left, and Dance Ministry members

Salem Hosts Jingle Jam "Unboxed"

Approximately 100 people from the congregation of Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run) and the surrounding community attended Jingle Jam "Unboxed" at Salem Baptist Church. The event featured fun for the whole family, including skits, games, food and a video on the true meaning of Christmas. Director of Youth Ministries, William Kniceley, along with his wife, Suzanne, led the lively event.

Southeast Area News

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

Bolivia Mission Trip Rescheduled

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, asks that our West Virginia Baptist Convention family uplift his Bolivia mission trip team in prayer as they begin construction work on a new Baptist church through the House of Hope for a Quechan community outside of Cochabamba in March.

This trip was originally planned for early November 2019, but due to violent unrest in the country after a presidential election, it was rescheduled to begin on March 16, 2020. The country has settled down now after the promise of a new election and the team with members from Page (Fayette) and Athens Baptist Churches (Greenbrier-Raleigh), along with a former House of Hope intern from Fargo, North Dakota look forward to working alongside International Ministries' (IM) missionary J.D. Reed, the House of Hope and the local Quechan community in this new project.

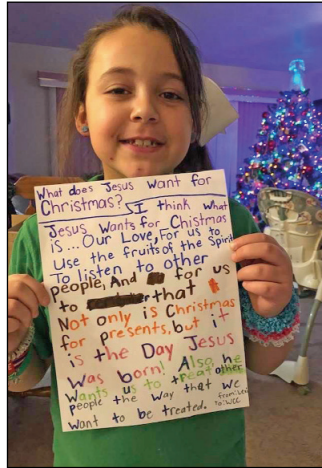
Celebrating Jesus

CHRISTmas is always a wonderful time at Weirton Christian Center because we get to share our celebration of Jesus with our kids and our Baptist family helps us to make them all smile. Each year, Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) provides us with shoebox gifts for all our preschool and afterschool children, and this year we totaled 140. For those who registered for shoeboxes after our October deadline, Lubeck Community Baptist Church (Parkersburg) came through with extra shoeboxes. Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont) provided toys and Emmanuel Baptist Church (Parkersburg) sent gifts and parent items. The annual creation of hats, gloves and scarves from the Knit-Wits at Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) were distributed as soon as the temperature dropped, but we still had a variety for Christmas, along with more from New Martinsville First Baptist Church (Panhandle). Ona Eggleston from Circle of Concern at Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley) sent 360 pairs of socks. Many churches have supported us financially, with gift cards and in-kind donations we couldn't possibly list them all, but please know your support is crucial to our existence and has been since 1917. And even beyond that, we know your prayers have also kept us going

because God has heard them and he is in the forefront of all we do ... from our vision for the ministry to daily interactions with our children. Please continue to pray for us.

New for 2020, we are planning to start a grief group for children called *Never Alone Kids* and we would like the children to meet at least biweekly. With West Virginia being ranked number one in drug overdoses and our area being at the top of the list, we are seeing many children who don't know how to cope with the loss they have experienced. Please be in prayer for this project. We also will be applying again in May for the 21st Century Learning Grant to add a social worker and implement more social emotional learning to help our kids learn to cope with life issues. We have partnered with Hancock County Schools for early 2020, and they will be providing elementary teachers for tutoring. This is amazing for our kids.

With 140 children and six vans on the road, we definitely count on your support to keep our doors open and our wheels rolling. Thank you for all you do and may God bless our West Virginia Baptist family.



Lexi answers the question: What does Jesus want for Christmas?

American Baptist Men of WV

2020 National Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast

American Baptist Men Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, February 29, 2020

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.

Calling all men! You are invited to gather together for a time of prayer, Bible study, fellowship and a delicious breakfast at the 2020 Annual Men's Prayer Breakfast on February 29, 2020. Breakfasts will be held at various churches throughout the state and locations will be announced on our website.

Please visit www.wvbc.org for more information or to download a prayer guide. If you have questions, you may contact Frank Miller at 800.489.8564 or miller@wvbc.org.

Offerings received are designated to support the Mountain State Mission Offering.



First Hand Perspective on Political Unrest in Bolivia



International Ministries' missionaries to Bolivia: J.D. and Rhonda Reed

Convulsions ... that is how Bolivians would describe the recent political situations in their country, and frankly in all of North and South America in recent days. Late last October, the National elections for president were held, and the incumbent, Evo Morales, was running for a fourth (constitutionally illegal and democratically opposed) term as president. He had been in the office for 14 plus years. If you asked people on the street, they would say he had done some positive things, but it was time for a democratic change. After the election, it was widely proven there was electoral fraud by his party to maintain their power, and a national civic strike began. In Santa Cruz, it was a very non-violent peaceful protest. But in other parts of Bolivia, it was much more tense as the supporters of the president and his party lashed out at the opposition. The strike literally shut down the country and would last three weeks, and it seemed there was no end in sight. During this time, due to a number of reasons, both we and International Ministries (IM) felt it best for us to return to the states until things stabilized. Then November 9, 2019, the president resigned and fled to Mexico. Soon after, based on the report of outside governments and auditors, the election was annulled and it was announced another would be held on May 3, 2020.

In the days since, we are pleased to share many positive things have happened. The interim president, Janine Añez, who was the next in line after many in the president's party resigned, has become the second female president in the history of Bolivia and she has wasted no time getting things ready for the new election. Many positive steps have been made to bring healing to the country and prepare for the next election to be free and fair for all the world to see. One change that has been a wonderful blessing to the ministry of the *Fundación Proyecto de Esperanza* (FPE), formerly known as the House of Hope, is that the government has lifted the need for visas for United States' citizens in an effort to open opportunities for tourism. They are also pursuing re-establishing a United States Ambassador in the country for the first time in 12 years.

We, the Reed family and Sarah Nash, want to say thank you for all your prayers during this time. The ministry of FPE is back to normal and we are looking forward to a busy 2020. In mid-December we were able to purchase a 30 passenger bus - a goal we have been working toward for two years - to help us do mobile medical and dental clinics as well as provide transportation for teams. We are eagerly waiting to see what will come of the new elections this year. We are sure whatever happens, the ministry of *Fundación Proyecto de Esperanza* will continue partnering with churches, pastors and ministry leaders to make a difference and provide the hope of Christ to people in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

*J.D. Reed,
International Ministries' Missionary to Bolivia*

Paul Fulks: Continuing to Hold the Rope for Missions



**Paul Fulks,
leaving a legacy**

Paul Fulks had a passion for missions. He believed mission engagement changed lives and encouraged mission involvement and support. In addition to serving as a pastor for 18 years, he also served on staff with the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC), first as the minister of Mission Support and later as an area minister. Following his retirement in 2005, he continued to serve in a volunteer role with both the WVBC and South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg).

Upon his retirement, he and his wife, Judy, established a scholarship fund for *"the purpose of helping persons interested in participating in a cross-cultural mission trip with needed funds for this experience."* The fund was established with a sacrificial gift from Paul's retirement account. Quarterly, the fund is reviewed by the trustees and the accrued interest is distributed as scholarships to approved applicants. Priority is given to first-time applicants who demonstrate financial need. Since the scholarship fund was established, more than 250 people have received financial assistance for their mission trips.

John Simmons, former associate executive minister of Missions and Administration, remembered fondly, "Paul is the

one who took me on my first mission trip." There are dozens of individuals around the state who have made the same statement. John then added with even greater fondness, "And I had the pleasure of taking him on his last one."

Through the establishment of the Mission Trip Scholarship Fund, Paul and Judy Fulks continue to be rope holders for our WVBC family. Not only did they demonstrate a passion for missions in their time of ministry together, but they continue to demonstrate a passion through the ongoing support of their legacy gift. In 2020, six individuals have already been awarded a scholarship - four from Petersburg First Baptist Church (Eastern), who traveled to Nicaragua in January and two from New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) who will be traveling to Haiti in March.

The Paul and Judy Fulks Mission Trip Scholarships are awarded quarterly, with the next application deadline coming March 1, 2020. If you are interested in contributing an additional amount to this fund, you can do so by sending a check to the convention office and designating it toward the "Fulks Mission Trip Scholarship Fund." This fund has been used to help us reach people all over the world with the gospel. It is through rope holders like Paul and Judy Fulks that we are able to continue *Doing Christ's Work Together*.

November 2019 - January 2020

PATRICIA ASH, died November 29, 2019. She was a member of Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette). She was the wife of James Ash, pastor, Mount Hope Baptist Temple.

LINDA MAE BAILEY, 74 of Normantown, died November 23, 2019. She was a long-time member of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), having attended for over 50 years. She was a member of the Martha's and Mary's Women's group, the American Baptist Women's Ministries and the Golden'eers.

DELANO L. "SONNY" COX, 86, of Chesapeake, died, December 5, 2019. He attended Chesapeake First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where he was an usher and church bus driver.

BEULAH MAE DEWITT-ERSKINE, 87, died November 7, 2019. She was a life-long member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and attended Philathea Women's Sunday School Class and Women's Mission Circle groups.

MARY HELEN ESTEP, 93, of Belle, died January 1, 2020. She was a 62-year member of Judson Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley), where she taught Sunday School, started the Judson Baptist Church Library and was a member of the Lydia Bible Sunday School Class.

STEPHEN BRENT FRANCO, 75 of Richwood, died December 9, 2019. For 32 years, he pastored numerous churches throughout West Virginia.

ERNESTINE IONA FULTON, 80, of Clarksburg, died November 16, 2019. She was a member of Wilsonburg Baptist Church (Judson), where she was a Sunday School teacher and past treasurer.

WILLIAM H. "JACK" KIBLER, JR., 93, of Saint Albans, died November 23, 2019. He was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served on the board of trustees, was a chairman and was in the McClure Sunday School class for 40 years.

ALBERTA L. MCCAULEY, 86, of Flemington, died December 1, 2019. She was a member of Point Pleasant Baptist Church (Union), where she was the clerk.

ROBERT J. MERRITT, 88, died November 13, 2019. He was a pastor for over 40 years in Harrison and Doddridge counties and served several churches. He was the father of Jane Perine, wife of Bob Perine, pastor, Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville).

JOYCE EVELYN WINTER MILLS, 85, of High Point, North Carolina, died December 20, 2019. She was an active member of Vienna Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and then Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). She co-founded First Place, a nationally recognized and award-winning, after school program for at-risk students from Central Elementary, held at Beckley First Baptist Church. Additionally, she was instrumental in starting the Helping Hands Resource Center and the Backpack Beginnings ministry at Beckley First Baptist Church to provide food to children who would otherwise go hungry. She served as president of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and in many capacities for American Baptist Women's Ministries, locally and regionally.

JAMES RANKIN ROACH, 95, of Hilton Head, South Carolina, formerly of Ravenswood, died December 11, 2019. He was a retired minister with 70 years in the ministry. He was a pastor in several local churches including Fairplain; Calvary Baptist Church, Ravenswood; Mill Creek Baptist Church (Good Hope); Grass Lick Baptist Church (Good Hope); Belleville Baptist Church (Parkersburg); Christian Brethren, Mason; United in Christ Church, Cottageville; and Fairview Bible Church in Mason County.

JAMES C. SAMPLES, 89, of Hurricane, died December 12, 2019. He was a member of Mount Vernon Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he served as a deacon and started the Men's Fellowship Saturday morning breakfast meetings.

CLARICE ELLEN SMITH, 92, of Milton, died November 7, 2019. She was a member of Union Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and was the treasurer for a number of years.

ROBERT TATUM STUCKEY, 89, of Diamond, died November 6, 2019. He was an active member of Diamond Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

Leadership Updates

REV. WILLIAM "CHUCK" C. COOK to Cook Memorial Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as interim pastor on October 19, 2019

REV. GEORGE MURPHY to Hebron Baptist Church (Fairmont) as pastor on December 1, 2019

MR. BILLY PATE to Meadow Grove Baptist Church (Hopewell) as pastor on September 15, 2019

REV. JOHN NATHANIEL PENA to Peterstown Missionary Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as interim pastor on November 10, 2019

REV. DANNIE TAYLOR to Stump Chapel Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as pastor on October 27, 2019

Trading Post

TO GIVE AWAY: 36 CHOIR ROBES IN GOOD CONDITION. A RANGE OF SIZES IS AVAILABLE AND EACH ROBE IS STORED IN A GARMENT BAG. If interested, please call Pine Grove Baptist Church (Parkersburg) at 304.464.4853 or e-mail secretary@pghbcwv.org.

February 2020

FEBRUARY 1 - The Annual Training Event happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
FEBRUARY 2 - The ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church; Daniel Cunningham, pastor (Fairmont)
FEBRUARY 3 - The ministry of Marshville Baptist Church; John Mark Camenga, pastor (Judson)
FEBRUARY 4 - The ministry of Auburn Baptist Church; Harry Drake, pastor (Harrisville)
FEBRUARY 5 - The ministry of Danville First Baptist Church (Coal River)
FEBRUARY 6 - The ministry of Petersburg First Baptist Church; Rick Bergdoll, pastor (Eastern)
FEBRUARY 7 - Sheila Chipps, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
FEBRUARY 8 - The ministry of Parchment Valley Baptist Church; Matt Ash, pastor (Good Hope)
FEBRUARY 9 - Alisa Coats, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Thailand
FEBRUARY 10 - Jeff Davenport, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
FEBRUARY 11 - The ministry of Indian Fork Baptist Church; Stanley Harrod, pastor (Broad Run)
FEBRUARY 12 - The ministry of Gauley Bridge Baptist Church; Raymond Butcher, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
FEBRUARY 13 - The ministry of Lauckport Baptist Church (Parkersburg)
FEBRUARY 14 - Jae Stockton, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico
FEBRUARY 15 - Eliberto Juarez, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to El Salvador
FEBRUARY 16 - Tan and Sam (youth) Coats, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servants to Thailand
FEBRUARY 17 - Nancy James, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Haiti
FEBRUARY 18 - The ministry of Big Union Baptist Church; Kenneth Adkins, pastor (Elk Valley)
FEBRUARY 19 - Keith Cook, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
FEBRUARY 20 - The ministry of Breckenridge Baptist Church; Corey Brooks, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
FEBRUARY 21 - Ricardo Mayol-Bracero, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean
FEBRUARY 22 - Senior High Convention happens this weekend at Gassaway Baptist Church (Elk Valley)
FEBRUARY 23 - Greg O'Neal, trustee and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
FEBRUARY 24 - Michael Sisson, Executive Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
FEBRUARY 25 - Boyden Myers, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Mexico
FEBRUARY 26 - The ministry of Mount Urim Baptist Church; Larry Gawthrop, pastor (Hopewell)
FEBRUARY 27 - Becky Mann, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand
FEBRUARY 28 - The ministry of Milton Baptist Church; Allen Stewart, pastor (Guyandotte)
FEBRUARY 29 - The American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfasts happen today in each association

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

March 2020

MARCH 1 - Emerson Wu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to South and East Asia
MARCH 2 - Annie Dieselberg, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Thailand
MARCH 3 - David Parajon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Nicaragua
MARCH 4 - Nora Kalkman, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Europe, the Middle East and Liberia
MARCH 5 - Matthew Hwang, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Japan
MARCH 6 - Carol Moats, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
MARCH 7 - The Spring Children's Rally and Annual Bible Conference happen today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MARCH 8 - The ministry of Rush Run Baptist Church; John Vannoy, pastor (Little Kanawha)
MARCH 9 - The ministry of Ebenezer Baptist Church; James Asbury, pastor (Twelve Pole)
MARCH 10 - Nathan Reed, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Bolivia
MARCH 11 - Joan Hall, assistant for Mission Support, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 12 - Barney Stinnett, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
MARCH 13 - The ministry of Hamlin First Baptist Church; James Lutz, interim pastor (Logan-Mingo)
MARCH 14 - Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 15 - The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; Benjamin Simmons, pastor (Teays Valley)
MARCH 16 - The ministry of South Charleston First Baptist Church; Jody Pistore, pastor (Kanawha Valley)
MARCH 17 - Miki Hwang, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Japan
MARCH 18 - Tim Long, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Mexico
MARCH 19 - Jack Wu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to South and East Asia
MARCH 20 - Mayra Giovanetti, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Colombia
MARCH 21 - Steve McCartney, site maintenance manager at Camp Cowen
MARCH 22 - The ministry of Panther Baptist Church; Jonathan Hunt, pastor (Rockcastle)
MARCH 23 - Allan Copenhaver, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
MARCH 24 - Donna Snyder, assistant for Leadership Ministries, West Virginia Baptist Convention
MARCH 25 - The ministry of Two Ripple Baptist Church; Gary Richmond, pastor (Parkersburg)
MARCH 26 - Ruth Stanton, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Hungary
MARCH 27 - The American Baptist Men of West Virginia Work Party and the Women's Camp happen this weekend at Camp Cowen
MARCH 28 - Sam Gasaway, American Baptist Men President and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
MARCH 29 - The ministry of Summersville Baptist Church; Dana Gatewood, pastor (Hopewell)
MARCH 30 - The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church; Todd Jarman, pastor (Judson)
MARCH 31 - The ministry of Mount Carmel Baptist Church; Leon Brown, pastor (Union)

