

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

April - May 2020

Interns Preparing to Serve Christ in Our Churches and Among the Nations

In the opening chapter of his book, Let the Nations Be Glad, John Piper writes, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't." He goes on to write that worship is both the fuel and the goal of missions. It is the goal in that the aim is to bring people into "the white hot enjoyment of God's glory." However, it is also the fuel in that "passion for God in worship always precedes the offer of God in preaching. You cannot commend what you don't cherish." Therefore, missions begins and ends in worship.

As the 2020 internship programs kicked off, it was evident for the more than 25 young adults that were gathered together that worship was both their fuel and their goal.

On January 31, 2020, the eve of our Annual Training Event, the next wave of interns gathered at Parchment Valley Conference Center to explore a variety of internship opportunities available to them this summer. Opening with a time of worship, the sound was very reminiscent of what could be heard on one of our college campuses where many of these interns gather weekly as part of Baptist Campus Ministries. Fueled by worship, the common response heard from each of these individuals was that they are ready to serve God wherever He would lead them this summer.



Interns join in worship during the Annual Training Event.

There are two types of internships the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) offers. The first is through the **Ministry Internship Program**, which aims to identify and develop the next generation of church leaders by creating paid internship opportunities in the churches, associations and ministries of the WVBC family. Now in its fourth year of existence, this program has already grown from the initial four interns in 2017 to the 18 interns that served last summer in a variety of ministry settings - pastoral, youth, children, music, media, graphic design, etc. Another exciting note is that several of our previous interns are now serving on staff at some of our churches.

The second type of internship we offer is through the **Missionary Internship Program**, which seeks to provide individuals with the opportunity to explore their long-term calling to

missions by pairing them with a long-term missionary partner overseas. These internships typically last between three to six weeks and are customized to the intern's ministry interests. Last year, interns were sent to Mexico, Lebanon and India.

Of the more than 25 students that gathered, around 20 of them are expected to participate in the **Ministry Internship Program**, while six were accepted into the **Missionary Internship Program**. Funding for the former was made possible by a grant from the American Baptist Foundation, a grant from the Bowen Educational Trust, a gift from an individual and budgeted WVBC funding. For the latter, individuals are currently raising their support, much like what would be required of them if they were full-time missionaries. This not only provides them with the opportunity to learn about support-raising, but it also gives them the opportunity to develop a network of individuals and churches who might be interested in supporting them if they continue pursuing full-time missions.

In addition to the time of worship, the training that interns were offered on the opening weekend was a discussion of "the call to ministry," a challenge to create a "Personal Development Plan," some instruction on communication, and they were able to choose two workshops of interest from the Annual Training Event. Missionary Interns are also participating in semester-long training via video conferencing, and Ministry Interns have been provided numerous books and will be assigned a mentor for the summer. At the conclusion of the summer, interns from both programs will gather once more at Parchment Valley for a debrief and cookout.

It is exciting to see how God continues to raise up young leaders from within our state who are passionate about serving Him. Both the **Ministry Internship Program** and the **Missionary Internship Program** are integral to the way we *Do Christ's Work Together*.

*Todd McClure,
Minister of Missions and Finance*

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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A Great Awakening



Mike Sisson

John Denver, singer-songwriter, famous for the song *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, which is the official state song of West Virginia and the theme song of West Virginia University, wrote another song while on vacation with his family in Colorado. One line of the song begins, "He was born in the summer of his 27th year ..." Denver seems to be saying, "This is the moment when I really began to live." Many Christians seem to encounter a similar experience in their faith journey. There comes that moment when they begin to see Christ more clearly. Like the apostle Paul when he was touched by Ananias and the scales fell from his eyes. Suddenly, he saw everything in a new light. The result: Paul went from an antagonistic persecution of Christianity to a fully surrendered follower of Jesus Christ! It is these powerful life-changing moments, when suddenly, the real meaning of being alive in Christ shines through.

Awakenings like this happen when someone steps out of their comfort zone to answer God's call on their life. Maybe it is to go on a mission trip, teach a class or cross the road to share Christ with a neighbor. It is when serving Christ is no longer a duty or a burden; instead, it is the most fulfilling, refreshing and empowering thing in your life.

This kind of awakening led the disciples to "immediately" leave their nets (and their careers) to follow Christ before they knew where it would lead them. It caused the prophet Isaiah to say with conviction, "Here I am Lord! Send me!" This powerful vision of life in God gave courage to prophets as they went into captivity and the apostles, as they went to prison. It can be found in the conviction evidenced in the martyrs, who throughout history, suffered and died for the privilege of following Christ. It was the tipping point that brought about the Great Awakening in the 1700's, reviving multitudes of believers from complacency and spiritual "dryness" to pursue a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is what many of the old revival preachers simply called being "sold out for Jesus."

In the words of our Lord Jesus, "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?" (Luke 9:24-25)

It is when our life's song truly is:

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;
 I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
 I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;
 I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.

I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause;
 I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
 I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame;
 I'd rather be true to His holy name.

I'd rather have Jesus than anything
 This world affords today.

Blessings,
 Mike

Joe and Peg Greenlee: Leaving a Legacy at Parchment Valley

Joe and Peg Greenlee are two incredible servants. Not only do they still continue to serve their church, the Charleston Baptist Temple (Kanawha Valley), but they also continue to serve our West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) family by investing in the people and projects at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Anyone who has visited Parchment Valley has certainly been impacted by their legacy.

The Greenlees have a great love for Parchment Valley, and they were very instrumental in the Vision 2000 Capital Campaign that helped establish much of what we see at Parchment Valley today. Specifically, they helped plan and build the Greenlee Activity Center, which is utilized year-round to host our children's rallies, Golden'eers' conferences, WVBC training events, youth retreats, sports camps and many other activities. By the grace of God and many dedicated volunteers, the building was built three years ahead of schedule. Reflecting back on the fact that more than a thousand youth were using the facility before the contractor was even finished, Joe replied, "We just couldn't wait!"

Now in the year 2020, another year of vision for us, Joe and Peg continue to be involved in many aspects of Parchment Valley. Recently, Joe and I attended one of the West Virginia American Baptist Men's Prayer Breakfasts, and I asked Joe,



Joe and Peg Greenlee

"Looking back, would you and Peg have done anything different?" To which Joe replied, "Absolutely not! We are now enjoying the blessings of Vision 2000 and are thankful for all those that volunteered and supported the hard work."

Another ministry of Parchment Valley that the Greenlees have had an impact on is Brothers' Keeper (BK). Celebrating our 20th year this summer, BK 2020 is sure to be a major success! One of the primary reasons for our success is volunteers like Joe, who give of their time, wisdom and experience to serve the Jackson County community. Every year, crew chiefs like Joe help instruct their teams to build according to plan and then help share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the homeowner(s). Through BK, we have seen several enter into a relationship with Jesus.

Many people were involved in Vision 2000 and we, at Parchment Valley, continue to reap the benefits of their sacrifice. It is because of individuals like Joe and Peg Greenlee, and their commitment to doing Christ's work together, that we have a place "Where lives are changed in Christ our Lord."

Frank Miller

Director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center

Celebrating 20 Years of Brothers' Keeper

Written by R. Scott Weaver

Campus Pastor, Active Christians Today, University of Toledo

I have been blessed to be part of *Brothers' Keeper* (BK) for over a decade. I have served in many different capacities, both on the work sites around Jackson County and on the programming staff. I have seen the difference *BK* can make in the lives of not only those we serve, but the campers who are out there in the field doing the work.

I can't believe God has allowed this opportunity to come into our lives. I get to bring a group of campers from Northwest Ohio to Parchment Valley Conference Center every year. I have had the blessing to watch my children grow old enough to serve with our work teams. Just as it has been with our students from Ohio, my own children look forward to the *Brothers' Keeper* experience each year.

You might think that serving in hot, cramped, dusty and sometimes very inhospitable work environments would be unpleasant for the students. This has not been the case. Our students look forward to *BK* as they call it just like they look forward to Christmas. "It's better than Christmas," said one student after a week of serving.

To see our students and volunteer leaders this excited about giving up a week of vacation to serve might seem out of the ordinary, but maybe it's because *Brothers' Keeper* is truly so extraordinary. *Brothers' Keeper* is a place for worship, discipleship, fellowship and joy in the community of faith. But most of all, we have the opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Could anything be better?

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

West Virginia Baptist Convention Winter Events Recap

Annual Training Event



Annual Training Event attendees join together in worship at the Annual Training Event.

Our Annual Training Event was a big success this year. We offered 22 workshops over a variety of topics that are relevant - and in many cases urgent - for our churches. Each year, the entire convention staff works together to pull off this event - taught mostly

by those from among our churches. As people share their expertise and experience, we all benefit. This year, we had workshops on both church security and protecting children. There were also technology workshops on using technology in worship, social media and electronic giving. You could even go to current issue driven workshops, such as relational wisdom, caring for the church wounded or dealing with addiction. With eight new workshop topics this year, our goal is always to keep the event relevant and challenging.

Overall, more than 250 individuals participated in this year's event and we are already making plans for next year. Go ahead and mark your calendar for the first Saturday of February and join us at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

AB Men of West Virginia Prayer Breakfasts

On the morning of Saturday, February 29, 2020, 19 of our West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) associations hosted the American Baptist Men's Annual Prayer Breakfast. This year's emphasis centered around the Mountain State Mission Offering, which is the only offering that 100% supports the work we do together as a WVBC family.

Nearly a thousand people participated in our prayer breakfasts this year. Frank Miller, director of Operations at Parchment Valley said, "I attended the prayer breakfast at Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley) and met a young man, Bill, who has been a member of the church for five years. Bill first connected with other believers during men's camp at Camp Cowen



Nutter Fort First Baptist Church (Judson) men gather for the annual prayer breakfast event.

in 2015. It was there, during vespers, that he experienced a calling to serve the Lord. The camp pastor encouraged him to follow the Lord's leading, and now, at the prayer breakfast, Bill was sharing his story and leading a devotion for the first time. Bill is an example of another life that was changed at Cowen."

The response from all the prayer breakfasts was that it was a great time of fellowship, eating and prayer. We are thankful for all the associations that hosted these prayer breakfasts, for the supporting work of the WVBC through the Mountain State Mission Offering and for being part of the important work we do together.

Annual Bible Conference



Trent Eastman leads the Divided Kingdom Bible study at the fifth annual Bible Conference.

The fifth annual Bible Conference was held at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, March 7, 2020 and explored the Divided Kingdom - a study on the books of Kings and Chronicles. Dr. Trent Eastman, pastor of New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and adjunct professor for Palmer Theological Seminary, presented the study, and more than 60 individuals were in attendance. The first 25 pastors to register this year

were able to attend for free, courtesy of a grant provided through the WVBC's leadership development budget. As a West Virginia Baptist Convention family, we continue to value both biblical and practical training for our pastors and leaders.

With the Spring Children's Rally also taking place at Parchment Valley that day, the Bible Conference was held in the Administration Building (the Barn), which was perhaps a nostalgic throw-back to when our conference center had only one building. An aspect of Vision 2000 was to help Parchment Valley be a place "Where lives are changed" through things like higher education. The Bible Conference certainly fit that vision, as we had a great time of learning and digging deeper into God's Word together.

Many thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes to bring this event about. We hope you can join us next year for our sixth annual Bible Conference, which is always held the first Saturday in March.

Senior High Convention

You know God is going to work powerfully when the weekend starts with the speaker issuing this challenge, "We were



The Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT)

never meant to only gaze into heaven - that is only step one. We were meant to move with God as He moves in this world. So many never get to know God because they never learn to move with Him." That night, during the Friday opening session, seven students responded to

the call of God on their lives to accept Him as Lord and Savior! Praise the Lord!

With 230 in attendance, Senior High Convention hosted by Gassaway Baptist Church (Elk Valley) February 21-23, 2020 was a blessed weekend indeed. With *Profound Revival* leading in worship, small group rotations, prayer stations, fun games, good food and plenty of fellowship, the Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) provided a great weekend. Speaker, Mike Distefano, brought messages filled with story, scripture, challenge and commitment. In John 14:12, Jesus says, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." In daily living, ministry and teaching, Jesus gives us an example to follow with our own lives. Our lives are ever-changing, but God offers us Himself, His kingdom and His righteousness, as our North Star to fix our eyes upon as we navigate life.

Pastors4Pastors Pre-Bible Conference Event

About 20 pastors from around the state gathered at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Friday, March 6, 2020 for the Pastors4Pastors (P4P) Pre-Bible Conference Event. The pastors came the day before the annual Bible Conference for a time of fellowship and learning. Dr. Trent Eastman, pastor, New Baptist Church (Guyandotte) and adjunct professor, Palmer Theological Seminary, presented an interesting study on a recent book, The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People That No Longer Need a God. The book, written by Andrew Root, explored how secularization of our culture is affecting our efforts to pastor people in our communities. The study focused on ministering to a world that

has tried to "crop God out of the picture," and has also "buffered itself" against the gospel.



Pastors gather for the Pastors4Pastors Pre-Bible Conference Event.

After an afternoon of learning, the pastors went out for a nice meal and returned to Parchment Valley for an evening of entertainment. First, Bill and Charlene Stokes presented a Christian illusionist act involving audience participation. Then, Tracy Miller and friends finished the evening with a time of gospel music. The day was a great mixture of edifying learning, reconnecting and refreshing Christian entertainment. Pastors are invited to join us for our next event, the P4P Spring Retreat, April 17-18, 2020 at Camp Cowen.

Spring Children's Rally

More than 250 children and volunteers gathered at Parchment Valley Conference Center on Saturday, March 7, 2020 for the Spring Children's Rally. Continuing the theme from the fall of "Books of the Bible," the spring rally focused on the New Testament books. Children were divided into groups and rotated through several different lessons. There was also a time of worship, crafts and other activities.

Tammy Myers, children's volunteer from Dunbar First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) looks forward to bringing children from her church every year. "The Spring Rally lessons taught us the books of the New Testament. Our kids were especially impressed with Levi Casto's science experiment during his lesson about the gospels. All the teachers did a great job teaching through hand motions, games and scripture - all proving to be very effective. Not only did our children learn during the lesson time, but our leaders also came away with new ideas of lessons and games for our junior church department. From the

crafts and activities during registration time to the band playing during the closing, and everything in between, the West Virginia Baptist Convention did an excellent job teaching and showing Jesus' love to everyone there."

Reaching children with the gospel and teaching them about God's word is an essential aspect of our mission of *Doing Christ's Work Together*.



Spring Children's Rally attendees learn the books of the New Testament.

What Sort of Legacy are you Leaving Behind?

More than a decade after their passing, Gaillen and Arretta Cheatham continue to hold the rope for the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC).

The Cheatham's were members of the 26th Street Baptist Church in Huntington. Gaillen served as a Sunday School teacher, a deacon and he drove the church bus. Arretta was also a Sunday School teacher and served in the nursery. Together, they were also very active in the Guyandotte Baptist Association and the WVBC. Gaillen served as the association moderator and as a trustee for the association camp. He also served in numerous leadership roles with the WVBC, including serving on the Executive Board from 1984 to 1991.

Tim Arthur, pastor of 26th Street Baptist Church, recalls how fond Gaillen was of the association camp. As a trustee, he often coordinated work projects for the camp and would often use the youth from the church to complete those projects. Reflecting on Gaillen, Tim described him as "always generous, hardworking and he had a great love for the Lord." The 26th Street Baptist Church continues to use the Guyandotte Baptist Association Camp to this day.

Gaillen was preceded in death by Arretta. Arretta passed away in 2002 and Gaillen in 2010. However, they continue to hold the rope for the work we do today. A few months after Gaillen's funeral, the WVBC received a letter indicating Gaillen and Arretta had left an endowment with the American Baptist Foundation to support numerous charities - the WVBC being one of them. For nearly a decade, the foundation has sent quarterly checks and the funds are used to support more than a dozen different ministries. The Cheatham's are an essential part of our mission of *Doing Christ's Work Together*.

We are thankful for individuals like Gaillen and Arretta Cheatham who served the Lord so faithfully for so many years. Reflecting on their legacy, Billy Graham once said, "The greatest legacy that one can pass on is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith." The Cheatham's legacy of character and faith is still being felt among the members of the 26th Street Baptist Church, among the churches of the Guyandotte Association and among everyone involved in the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

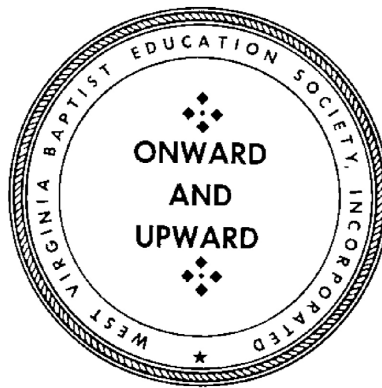
What sort of legacy are you leaving behind?

The West Virginia Baptist Education Society

*Written by Lee Boso
President, West Virginia Baptist
Education Society*

Twenty years ago, I sat at my kitchen table filling out an application for the West Virginia Baptist Education Society scholarship/loan. I had recently felt God's call to ministry, but I had no idea where that would lead me. I was a senior in high school about to go off to college, which was just one step in the journey of pursuing God's call in my life. My pastor had suggested this scholarship for assistance in my undergraduate work, and I found it greatly beneficial as I continued my education at West Virginia's extension of Palmer Theological Seminary.

The great thing about this scholarship/loan is that it helps students from West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC) churches acquire an education for ministry and mission fields. Every year served in a WVBC ministry or in an ABC-USA mission field cancels a year's debt to the society and provides an incentive to serve within the WVBC or alongside ABC-USA partners. If God leads recipients of this scholarship/loan down a different path, they are encouraged to repay the loan without interest in a timeframe within their means. Either way, we have the joy to partner with students and churches to foster education and develop a skilled set of ministers.



I, for one, have benefitted greatly from the West Virginia Baptist Education Society scholarship/loan during my undergraduate work at Shepherd University and my Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) from Palmer Theological Seminary. The equivalent of seven years of support has already multiplied into 16 years of service in WVBC churches and ministries. It is because of the investment that was made in me that I am passionate about serving my local church, as a director at Camp Cowen, as president of the West Virginia Baptist Education Society and currently as the president of our West Virginia Baptist Convention. I hope I can continue to foster these relationships between leaders, churches and individuals that multiply participation in the kingdom of God. It is truly *Doing Christ's Work Together* that has helped me grow, but it also inspires me to serve so others might have the same opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about the West Virginia Baptist Education Society, you can find us at www.wvbc.org under "Education." It is through the partnership of churches and pastors that students are made aware of this scholarship/loan. We also welcome financial contributions that develop an educational legacy for local pastors and missionaries. For additional questions, contributions or applications, you can reach our executive director, Dr. Lawrence Hoptry at drhoptry@aol.com.

Golden'eers

*Written by Jerry Losh
Minister of Senior Adults,
Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley)*

I have served in full-time ministry for the last 45 years, working with children, youth, college students and now, senior adults. I am having as much fun now as I have had in any time of ministry. I never realized the potential, excitement and satisfaction I could have in working with seniors.

Statistics show that 34% of all Americans are 55 years of age or older. Every seven seconds another person turns 55. Golden'eers is a ministry from the West Virginia Baptist Convention that gives those in our churches 55 or older the chance to come together twice a year for a Golden'eers' Conference. We meet once in the spring and once in the fall. This year's conferences will be held May 4-6, 2020 and September 21-23, 2020.

I asked one of our past attendees, Loretta Swinerton of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), to share why she comes to Golden'eers and why you should too. She says, "Golden'eers is a great, relaxing time to get away for three days and enjoy the fellowship with people from all across West

Virginia. I have attended twice a year for seven years and I always look forward to the next conference. I enjoy the great Bible studies and all the wonderful music. They also have crafts, games and informative speakers. I would encourage anyone to take advantage of this spiritual, uplifting time away to make new friends and have lots of laughter and fun. I am sure you will be warmly welcomed as I was."

I agree with Loretta! If you come in May, you will enjoy a time of Bible study, lead by Rev. Mark Jarrell, pastor of Genesis Fellowship (Kanawha Valley), and we will have an abundance of good music and a whole lot of fun. And, I can guarantee you will be welcomed by genuinely warm and caring people.

At each conference, I think we all grow in our meaningful relationship with Jesus, and this relationship bonds each of us together as part of God's family. Seniors today need social fellowship, which Golden'eers provide, but seniors today also need spiritual fulfillment, and I think our Golden'eers' Conferences provide this also.

If you are 55 or older, please join us at Parchment Valley Conference Center on May 4-6, 2020. By God's grace alone our needs will be met in Him. God Bless.



Spring Golden'eers' Conference
"Fun in the Spring"
May 4-6, 2020
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Bible Study Leader:
Mark Jarrell, pastor, Genesis Fellowship
The conference will begin on Monday in the Santrock Building with registration and pizza at 12:00 noon and will end on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.
Registration deadline with full payment due: April 20, 2020.
Register online at www.wvbc.org
For more information, please contact Valma at adams@wvbc.org or 304.422.6449.



Doing Christ's Work Together

2019 Impact Report

Camp Cowen



14 Camps
1,796 Campers
325 Volunteers
84 Salvations

Parchment Valley



279 Events
185 Volunteers for
Brothers' Keeper
19 Salvations

Local Missions



Baptist Campus Ministries

8 Campuses
275 + Students
22 Served as interns
within our churches
or overseas



Churches

3 New churches
17 New Pastors
266 Churches
supporting the work
of the WVBC



Education

12 School of
Christian Studies'
graduates
32 Enrolled in
WV Palmer
Theological Seminary M. Div. Program
18 Girls receiving scholarships from the
American Baptist Women's Ministries of
WV
35 Individuals receiving scholarships
from the WV Baptist Education Society
\$250,000 + Given by Bowen Trust to
strengthen vocational ministry



2019 Giving Totals

Mission Offering	Amount
United Missions	\$446,891
ABWM Love Gift	\$91,463
America for Christ	\$91,152
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$114,608
World Mission	\$463,537
Mountain State Mission Offering	\$301,967
Retired Ministers and Missionaries	\$102,376
Institutional Support	\$169,957
Specifics	\$335,019
West Virginia Specifics	\$303,155
Targeted	\$38,389
Total Mission Support	\$2,460,553

Global Missions



VISION 2020 - Holding the Rope at \$20 per Month:



Current Number of Rope Holders:
Equivalent of 290 Individuals

2020 Rope Holders' Goal:
2,000 Individuals

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.

Camp Cowen 2020: Will you Answer the Call to Summer Adventure?

Your summer adventure is calling! Will you answer? Registration is open, sign up today and secure your spot. Nestled in the mountains of West Virginia along the Gauley River, the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen is a scenic backdrop for a week of friends, adventure, worship, Bible study, campfires and more! Since 1943, Camp Cowen has been a place *"Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."* Each summer, this ministry impacts nearly 2,000 lives. Will one of those lives in 2020 be yours?



our mission of being a place *"Where people meet Jesus and grow as his disciples in a community of faith."* From family-style meals in the dining hall and snacks in the camp store, to games and activities, worship and Bible study, in all we do, our desire is to introduce campers to the love of God in Christ that encourages Christ-centered living.

Whether this will be your first time at Cowen or your 50th, God has an adventure waiting for you! Are you ready? We are praying, camp is being prepared and we are looking forward to what God will do in you this summer!

At Camp Cowen, the safety and spiritual growth of our campers is our priority. Each week of camp is designed to fulfill

John 1:4-5 says, "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." What assurance we have that Christ, our light, has not been overcome by darkness. No matter how "dark" the times are that we face, we can know Jesus shines in that darkness ... and the darkness has not overcome His light! What's more is Christ has called us to bring that light of life to our broken and dying world.



This summer our theme is: **GREATER**. Did you know, our eyes are magnificently designed to perceive light? Our eyes are so keen that scientists say we can perceive the glow of a single candle from miles away. While darkness may change our perception and diminish our ability to see, even the smallest amount of light is visible to our eyes.

The theme **GREATER** draws our focus to see the light of Christ, which is more powerful than any darkness we may face while challenging us to shine His light to the world. **GREATER** also challenges followers of Christ in discipleship and the process of sanctification. In John 3:30, John the Baptist said of Jesus, "He must become greater; I must become less." Thousands of years later, growing as Christ's disciples means that same thought expressed in John 3 must be the goal of our daily walk with God.

2020 CAMP COWEN SCHEDULE

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 BOY'S CAMP: August 7-9

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



Cuba Missions: Strengthening Relationships

This is a particularly difficult time for the Cuban people. Although each Cuban receives a ration of a few basic items from the government, there is a severe shortage of meat, eggs, hygiene and cleaning supplies, medicine and gasoline. I've been traveling to Cuba since 2001. Although shortages are common, I've not seen them to this degree.

The Cubans say this is their "reality." However, there is another reality at work in Cuba; one that transcends the difficulties of everyday life.

Since 1968, the Iglesia Bautista El Jordan (El Jordan Baptist Church) has been ministering and making disciples in Guanabacoa, a municipality within the city of Havana. Under the present leadership of pastors Maykel Baez and Mayra Pardo, the church reaches out in both traditional and creative ways to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the community. An annual family camp provides an important renewal opportunity for church members and leaders.

Pastor Phil Wayman, Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union), Pastor Ben Moses, Simpson Creek Baptist Church (Union) and I recently traveled to Havana to share in the work of El Jordan as well as learn from their example. Pastors Phil and Ben led a leadership event to both challenge and equip church leaders. We also had the opportunity to worship, preach, lead Bible study, participate in both adult and children's home prayer groups and make home visits.



Pastors Ben, David and Phil meet with a prayer group.

Although this trip was confined to the Havana area, we have relationships with many of the 42 churches in the Fraternity of Cuban Baptist Churches. We are grateful to Max Hill

who laid the foundation for so many of these relationships. Moving forward, we expect more opportunities to strengthen these relationships and build new ones as well.

*David Hulme
Northeast Area Minister*

What is YLC?

YLC - No doubt you've seen this acronym before and its very likely you or someone you know has been impacted by this ministry. Since 1978, Youth Leader Core (YLC) has been training and discipling leaders in the West Virginia Baptist Convention (WVBC). Jerry Losh recalls the inaugural YLC class of 1978-1979 was comprised of 24 students and four leaders including: Jerry Losh, Fred Lewis, Faith Bell and Joyce Perry. Doing the math, over the last 41 years this ministry has trained more than 1,000 tenth and eleventh grade students!

So what is YLC? YLC is a program of the WVBC with the purpose 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. Held over five weekend training events during each school year, meetings are hosted by local churches and led by a team of volunteers. Each weekend contains seven sessions, along with volunteer opportunities, fellowship times, worship and sometimes, we even get a little sleep. Sessions are focused on four main areas: personal awareness, life skills, discipleship and leadership skills.

For the 2019-2020 school year, leaders Jill Narraway, Jonathan Delgado, Levi Casto, Lori Frees and Kasey Stevens

worked with 17 students from 11 different WVBC churches. Three of the most powerful aspects of this program are: 1 - connection, 2 - homework and 3 - community. This isn't a leadership program that happens in isolation, students are nominated from their local church, and connection to a local church is an essential component to putting leadership skills into practice. Students select an advocate, an adult from their home community to walk



The current YLC group joins together in prayer.

this journey alongside them as they process material from each weekend and work through homework. Why give students homework? Because this material is meant to be lived! All too often, we hear messages or encounter lessons that inspire us and speak truth; however, it is too easy to leave that material in the room and not put it into action. With homework, students are given a few prompts to help them process the material learned during the weekend and take action to utilize what they've learned.

Finally, the relationships made during YLC create a community of believers from across the WVBC to encourage, challenge and support the students in life for years to come!

Nominations for the 2020-2021 YLC will open May 15, 2020. Applications will be available at: <https://www.wvbc.org/ministries/youth/>.

Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Revival is in the Air

Spring revival season is in full swing once again in the southwest area. I don't have enough space to mention them all, but I'll comment on a couple of them. I was blessed to have the opportunity to preach a five-service revival for pastor David Radcliff and the folks at Harmony Baptist Church (Teays Valley), beginning the morning of February 29, 2020 and concluding the evening of March 4. There was beautiful special music and great crowds attended each service to participate and prayerfully grow in their walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The upper valley churches in the Kanawha Valley Association came together the week of March 22-27, 2020 in their annual roving revival. They met at different churches with a different pastor delivering the message each evening. It is always such a blessed time of worship when several churches come together to worship our Lord, to lead the lost to Jesus and to grow as His disciples together. To me, this is why we choose to be a family of churches, *"Doing Christ's Work Together!"*



Harmony Baptist Church

Ordination Celebration at Genesis Fellowship

A couple of months ago, the Kanawha Valley Association ordination committee had their initial meeting with Genesis Fellowship youth pastor, Anthony Lucas. The meeting was a true blessing as we were able to witness Anthony eagerly accept the advice and help from the committee and to use it as a



Anthony Lucas at his ordination council meeting

learning opportunity to help him further his personal growth in the Lord as well as in his ministry. On February 29, 2020, the Kanawha Valley ordination council convened at Genesis Fellowship with a good number of the association churches represented for the "interrogation." After Anthony's reading of his position paper and answering questions from the association church members and pastors, a vote was taken, and was unanimous in recommending Genesis Fellowship move forward with Anthony's ordination.

The ordination service was held on

March 22, with several people participating and celebrating this milestone in Anthony's path of following Jesus. Anthony was blessed to have his pastor as his mentor throughout this process, Genesis Fellowship pastor, Mark Jarrell.

Northwest Area News

Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

Sunrise Baptist: Creating New Beginnings

Back in 1939, Sunrise Baptist Church (Parkersburg) was a new church plant in the residential area off of Hill Street, just outside and east of Parkersburg. The church experienced rapid early success, growing to 75 in worship their first year, and building their first building shortly thereafter. The church stayed growth minded and purchased a larger, nearby property, and began to save for a possible new building. But the years passed, and although the building fund slowly grew, the relocation never came - until the late 70's. In 1977, the church entered into a new growth phase and began having baptisms in the double-digits, a trend that would continue for a decade or more. Two building programs would follow and provide a new building, followed by an enlarged sanctuary and fellowship hall. After the church peaked, a slow fade ensued with occasional increases over the years.

By 2012 or so, the church was in a severe state of decline, with attendance in the twenties worshipping in a sanctuary designed for several hundred. About this time, the church called pastor Casey Dawson, a School of Christian Studies' graduate and bivocational pastor, as their interim. Things began to slowly turn around. In 2013, they called Casey as their pastor.



Casey Dawson, pastor, Sunrise Baptist Church, follows through on his promise.

One thing Pastor Casey realized early-on was the need for vision, a vision bigger than themselves and one that was about God and His kingdom. What the church needed, was a new beginning.

As the church found their new beginning, they soon realized there is an entire world of people needing their own new beginning. The vision began to move outward into the neighborhood and the church became more mission minded. They began to develop a servant's heart and a desire to grow

deeper as well as in number. About two and a half years ago, the attendance had grown to the mid-sixties. Pastor Casey issued a challenge, that if the church would someday surpass 125 in worship attendance, for three Sundays in a row, then he would allow the church to shave his head. About eight months ago, Casey began to realize God was going to bring this dream to reality. To make it more interesting, he discontinued haircuts and let his hair grow, using it as a witnessing tool when people asked about it. He says, "You would be amazed at how many people are willing to tell you that you look bad." In early March, church attendance hit 127, breaking the challenge number for the third Sunday in a row. Sunday night,

Pastor Casey allowed the church people to remove his hair, and the youth pastor, Justin Blankenship joined in by allowing them to shave his head as well. Congratulations, Sunrise Baptist Church, and may God continue to bless you as He uses you to create new beginnings, and may you continue to set an example for us in how you follow your vision for 2020, to love God, serve others and see transformed lives in the name of Jesus.

Neighbors on Wheels

On January 15, 2020 the Beckley Register Herald newspaper highlighted the NOW (Neighbors on Wheels) ministry of Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh). Below is that article, and we as a West Virginia Baptist Convention family are thankful for this outreach ministry.

"The NOW team, a mobile community outreach ministry, distributes food to various locations across town. Sue Swepston, 68, a member of Crab Orchard Baptist Church, has been a key figure in the church's NOW ministry for the six years since its creation.

Swepston, along with three other church members, originated NOW in the hopes of reaching those who need help, while also sharing their testimony as a church. 'We just realized people won't always come inside church doors for whatever their individual reasons may be. We decided to go to them instead and try to meet their pivotal needs. We are just trying to build relationships, get to know our neighbors and share God's love with the community as we go,' said Swepston.

Swepston, who is retired, acts as a team leader and spends a large majority of her time helping run the team's endeavors. She explained that when the team began six years ago, it was on a much smaller scale than it is now.

It wasn't until the team seriously started distributing food that Swepston was

able to see the ministry take off. Now, food ministry agents of Mountaineer Food Bank, NOW receives food, which they distribute to various locations across town where they are needed. They also travel to produce and food markets in the different communities where they are able to meet as many needs as possible.



Neighbors on Wheels (NOW) members include, from left, Dean Black, Sue O'Neal, Sue Swepston, Jim Long and Becky Riffe.

Recently, the group has also been responsible for providing coats, clothes, food, toys, furniture or anything useful to target areas in the community. Most of the items come from donations by local businesses, but Swepston says the church has been known to

Southeast Area News

Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

hold food drives and other fundraisers to help obtain items.

The NOW ministry team, which Swepston says is made up of mostly retirees, but also has younger members, meets nearly every day. Most meetings are spent sorting and packing the nearly 200 backpacks the team sends out weekly to schools in the area. Distributing the backpacks takes a whole day to complete.

'The backpack ministry has grown so much. We used to only give out maybe 50 backpacks at one location and now we are handing out close to 180. It definitely takes up the most of our time,' Swepston stated, adding that the backpacks are given to Ridgeview Elementary School, which from there are fed into Independence Middle School.

Swepston said last year, the team's efforts were rewarded with a grant from CSX Railroad, which allowed them to get a refrigerated vehicle for their deliveries. The new vehicle will allow the food being delivered to stay fresh as the team makes its rounds.

'I definitely want us to continue NOW as long as possible,' Swepston shared. 'I get a blessing when I'm out meeting people. It makes you realize we all have struggles. That is something we all share together. It is just a pleasure to serve and share God's love.'

Northeast Area News

David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Shinnston First Baptist Dedicates Renovated Sanctuary

After many months of work and many Sundays worshipping in the Lighthouse Activity Center across the street, Shinnston First Baptist Church (Judson) dedicated their newly



Members of Shinnston First Baptist Church meet in their renovated sanctuary.

renovated sanctuary, Sunday, January 19, 2020. The service featured special music, words of gratitude and encouragement from those involved in the project, a litany of dedication

led by Rev. David Hulme, West Virginia Baptist Convention Northeast Area Minister and a message by the pastor of Shinnston First Baptist Church, Rev. Kevin Nuzum. A fellowship meal followed the service.

Romney First Baptist to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

On the evening of September 11, 1919, Baptists in the Romney area met at the home of Rev. Robert Bragg to explore the possibility of having a place in town to worship. From that simple beginning, a church grew that continues to worship and witness in the community and beyond.

Romney First Baptist Church (Eastern), chartered April 7, 1920, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with special services and events on Palm Sunday weekend 2020. On April 4, 2020, a special afternoon service will feature church history, special music, remembrances from the congregation and a message by Rev. David Hulme, West Virginia Baptist Convention Northeast Area Minister. A meal and a time of fellowship will follow. On April 5, the morning worship service will feature special music and a message by former interim pastor, Dr. Cyril Johnston. Pastor of Romney First Baptist Church, Rev. Steve Wilson invites any in the community and our West Virginia Baptist Convention family to attend their celebration.



Romney First Baptist Church

December 2019 - February 2020

ORVILLE RICKARD CHAPMAN, 89, of California, died January 2, 2020. He was an International Ministries' (IM) alumnus, who served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

PHYLLIS JUNE GODFREY, 81, of Washington, died February 24, 2020. She was a member of South Parkersburg Baptist Church (Parkersburg) for 62 years and had served as a Sunday School teacher, was active in American Baptist Women's Ministries and was a leader of Baptist Youth Fellowship (BYF) in years past.

MILLARD C. MCGHEE, 77, of Alum Creek, died February 28, 2020. He had served the following churches as pastor: Briar Creek Baptist Church in Charleston, Elizabeth Baptist Church (Parkersburg) and Bethel Missionary Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley).

IDA MADALINE MOORE, 89, of Grantsville, died January 16, 2020. She was a member of Enon Baptist Church (Little Kanawha), where she was a member of American Baptist Women's Ministries, taught Sunday School, helped with Vacation Bible School and worked as church clerk and association clerk.

MERLE ELIZABETH BIGGS NEAL, 91, died January 10, 2020. She was a member of Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh), where she served as a deaconess and Sunday School teacher.

HENRY HOWARD NORRIS, 77, of Milton, died January 16, 2020. He was a member of Union Baptist Church (Guyandotte), where he served as an usher, trustee and Sunday School teacher for many years. He was a gifted prayer warrior who regularly led prayer at family and church gatherings.

JAMES EDWARD RUCH, 93, of St. Albans, died March 1, 2020. He was a member of Saint Albans First Baptist Church (Teays Valley), where he spent 50 years teaching Sunday School and singing in the church choir.

TRISSIE LAURA MILDRED (TURNBULL) RUMOHR, 96, of Florida died December 2, 2019. She was an International Ministries' (IM) alumna, who served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOHN DAVID REED, SR., 70, of Webster Springs, died February 20, 2020. He was the father of J.D. Reed, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Bolivia.

PATRICIA "PATSY" WYATT, 71, of Bruceon Mills, formerly Friendly, died February 16, 2020. She was a member of Sistersville First Baptist Church (Panhandle).

Leadership Updates

DR. JACK EADES to Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette) as interim pastor on February 1, 2020

REV. RONALD E. GEORGE, JR. to Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette) as interim pastor on February 2, 2020

REV. SCOTTIE LUSK to Toned Baptist Church (Rockcastle) as interim pastor on February 2, 2020

REV. CARL TRICKETT to Independence Baptist Church (Goshen) as pastor on October 1, 2019

West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries' Conference



August 14 - 15, 2020

**Parchment Valley
Conference Center,
Santrock Education Center
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

*Take a journey through the past, present and future ministries of American Baptists,
West Virginia Baptists and American Baptist Women's Ministries.*

SPEAKERS: **Todd McClure**, Minister of Missions and Finance,
West Virginia Baptist Convention and
American Baptist Women's Ministries' State Officers - Past and Present

*There will be a book store, taco bar luncheon, ministry challenges, project updates and
information, special music, communication progress and much more.*

GET INVOLVED IN THIS MINISTRY OF SERVICE!

*Access pre-conference activities and available lodging registration form at
www.wvbc.org.*

April 2020

APRIL 1 - The ministry of Beaver First Baptist Church; Steve Gibson, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh)
APRIL 2 - The ministry of Hopewell Baptist Church; Michael Anderson, pastor (Hopewell)
APRIL 3 - The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Jason Sleeth, pastor (Fairmont)
APRIL 4 - Jennie Mathias, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
APRIL 5 - The ministry of Murphy's Creek Baptist Church; Wease Day, pastor (Broad Run)
APRIL 6 - Rebecca Stanton, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Hungary
APRIL 7 - Grace Reed, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Bolivia
APRIL 8 - Susan Hegarty, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Costa Rica
APRIL 9 - Mafungu Nzunga, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Haiti
APRIL 10 - Pray a prayer of thankfulness for a Savior who died to save us from our sins.
APRIL 11 - Stephen James, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Haiti
APRIL 12 - Celebrate the risen Christ!
APRIL 13 - DaVontae Edwards, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
APRIL 14 - Shigemi Tomita, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Japan
APRIL 15 - Ginny Prunty, administrative assistant to the executive minister, West Virginia Baptist Convention
APRIL 16 - Sandy Foster Currey, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
APRIL 17 - The ministry of Spencer First Baptist Church; Mark Wood, pastor (Good Hope)
APRIL 18 - Jessica Wu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to South and East Asia
APRIL 19 - Skylar Dieselberg, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Thailand
APRIL 20 - The ministry of Wallace First Baptist Church; Keith Swiger, pastor (Judson)
APRIL 21 - The ministry of Sutton Baptist Church; Eric Thomas, pastor (Elk Valley)
APRIL 22 - Kay Hensley, chair, Baptist Campus Ministries' Board and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
APRIL 23 - The ministry of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church; Eric Porterfield, pastor (Guyandotte)
APRIL 24 - American Baptist Men's Work Party happens this weekend at Camp Cowen
APRIL 25 - Elijah Williams, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
APRIL 26 - Cristina Parajon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Nicaragua
APRIL 27 - Laura Parajon, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Nicaragua
APRIL 28 - Thelma Nambu, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Philippines
APRIL 29 - Daniel Chetti, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Lebanon
APRIL 30 - Valerie Osterbrock, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Malaysia

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

May 2020

MAY 1 - Darrell Mayfield, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Leadership Commission
MAY 2 - West Virginia Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting happens today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 3 - The ministry of Lubeck Community Baptist Church; Mark Houser, pastor (Parkersburg)
MAY 4 - The Spring Golden'eers' Retreat begins today at Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 5 - The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Paul Byrd, pastor (Union)
MAY 6 - The ministry of Welch First Baptist Church; Fred VanDyke, pastor (Rockcastle)
MAY 7 - Ed Noyes, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 8 - The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; James Murphy, pastor (Elk Valley)
MAY 9 - The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Cody Lambert, pastor (Teays Valley)
MAY 10 - Jill Lowery, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 11 - Baptist Campus Ministries' (BCM) Beach Week happens this week in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
MAY 12 - Nzunga Madudiga, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Haiti
MAY 13 - Frank Miller, director of Operations, Parchment Valley Conference Center
MAY 14 - The ministry of Chapel Baptist Church; Harold Francis, pastor (Little Kanawha)
MAY 15 - The Summer Kick-Off Event happens this weekend at Camp Cowen
MAY 16 - Judy Prater, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Discipleship Commission
MAY 17 - Cari Pauley, second vice-president, West Virginia Baptist Convention and member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Outreach Commission
MAY 18 - Laura Freeman, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Turkey
MAY 19 - The ministry of Deep Water Baptist Church; Thomas Skaggs, pastor (Fayette)
MAY 20 - Hermelinda Damasceno, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to United Kingdom
MAY 21 - Lee Ann Hwang, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to Japan
MAY 22 - Carrie Gasaway, member, West Virginia Baptist Convention Christian Stewardship Commission
MAY 23 - The ministry of Swiss Missionary Baptist Church; Gene Truman, pastor (Hopewell)
MAY 24 - The ministry of Crum Missionary Baptist Church; Greg Ramey, pastor (Twelve Pole)
MAY 25 - Remember those who have gone on before us as we celebrate Memorial Day
MAY 26 - Wayne Niles, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MAY 27 - The ministry of New Martinsville First Baptist Church; Thomas Stevens, interim pastor (Panhandle)
MAY 28 - Mark Smith, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Brazil
MAY 29 - Abie Reed, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Bolivia
MAY 30 - The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley)
MAY 31 - Jack Bolick, International Ministries' (IM) Global Servant (youth) to Chile

Coming Events

APRIL

April 10

Good Friday Holiday

West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

~~April 17-18 - Canceled~~

~~Pastors 4 Pastors' Spring Retreat
Camp Cowen~~

April 24-25 - Moved to May 15-16

American Baptist Men's Work Party
Camp Cowen

April 25

**Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Hospital Ministry (E-04)
One-Day Class**

Parchment Valley Conference Center and
Elkins First Baptist Church
Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m.
Class Begins at 9:00 a.m. and Ends at
2:15 p.m.

MAY

May 1

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Committee**
Parchment Valley Conference Center in the
Santrock Education Building

May 2

**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Executive Board and Commission
Meetings**
Parchment Valley Conference Center in the
Santrock Education Building

May 4-6

Spring Golden'eers' Retreat
Parchment Valley Conference Center

May 5

**Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Communicating God's Word
(M-01) Six-Week Class**
Various Locations

May 11-18

Baptist Campus Ministries' Beach Week
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

May 15

**Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Communicating God's Word
(M-01) Digital Learning Initiative (DLI)
Class**
Online

May 15

**Bobby Wood School of Christian
Studies Worship and Music (E-03)
Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) Class**
Online

May 15-16

Summer Kick-Off Event
Camp Cowen

May 25

Memorial Day Holiday
West Virginia Baptist Convention Office
CLOSED

JUNE

~~June 5-6 - Moved to August 14-15~~

~~**American Baptist Women's Ministries'
Conference**~~
Parchment Valley Conference Center

June 5-7

Younger Midler Camp (grades 2-4)
Camp Cowen

West Virginia Baptist Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewobaptist@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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**West Virginia Baptist Convention Goal:
\$350,000**

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100% in West Virginia.*

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