

Who is My Neighbor?

Who is my neighbor? That was the question the expert in the Mosaic law asked Jesus in Luke’s Gospel. Of course, Luke explained that he only asked it because he wanted to justify himself. The lawyer knew that if he could narrow the scope of his responsibility to include only the people that he considered neighbors, he could easily reply to Jesus, “Oh, I have already done that.” However, Jesus instead answered with a parable.

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ (Luke 10:30-35)

After telling the story, Jesus then asked the lawyer, “Which person would you say was the injured man’s neighbor?” The one who showed mercy was the only logical response the lawyer could offer.

Bible scholar Warren Wiersbe explains that the decision to stop and assist the injured man was not as easy as it may sound. To begin with, there was no logical reason for the Samaritan to rearrange his plans to stop and assist a man who was likely considered an enemy or at the very least a stranger. Likewise, it didn’t make sense to spend his own money on the injured man for the same reasons. On a practical note, the road from Jerusalem to Jericho was an extremely dangerous one. It was a difficult journey

because the elevation dropped 3500 feet in only 17 miles. It was known as the "Way of Blood" because of the blood which was so often shed there by robbers. There were many tight turns that created excellent hiding places for robbers to ambush travelers. One ploy used by thieves was to have someone pretend to be injured and when someone stopped to help them, they would attack and rob them. However, in spite of all these rational excuses the Samaritan took the time to stop. He made the sacrifice to spend his own money to help the injured man. He experienced the uncomfortableness and inconvenience of placing the man on his donkey and walking the rest of the way to Jericho. And he took the uncomfortable risk of stopping to help even though the robbers may be hiding nearby.

Jesus made his point clear: to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength includes also loving your neighbor as yourself. And your neighbor is the person within your sphere of influence. This is why, as the West Virginia Baptist Convention family of churches, we have chosen to focus a second year on **“Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ.”** This year, we will highlight the word “community.” Community can be defined as a group of people living in a particular local area or, as Jesus would say, “your neighbor.” Communities can be friends, family members, co-workers, sports teams, ethnic groups, neighborhoods or anywhere people gather. These are the people in need of the hope and salvation Jesus can offer, and we have been called to be the person who shows them Christ’s love.

During our **WVBC Annual Meeting** in Summersville on October 20-21, we will focus on how to effectively fulfill Jesus’ calling to identify who our neighbors are and how we can intentionally engage them with the love of Jesus Christ. We have several workshops planned, as well as guest speaker Dr. Michael Beck, to help equip us. I hope you can join us!

Blessings,

Mike Sisson, WVBC Executive Minister

Register now for the
157th
ANNUAL MEETING
 OF THE
WEST VIRGINIA
BAPTIST CONVENTION
 Registration form on Page 10



MIKE SISSON
Executive Minister

JONATHAN TURNER
Annual Sermon

MICHAEL BECK
Keynote Speaker

20-21
OCTOBER

Summersville Baptist Church
422 Main Street, Summersville, WV 26651

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Doing Christ's Work Together

There is likely no greater visual of our mission of "Doing Christ's work together" than watching our WVBC churches respond to the various disasters around our state, region and world. Starting with the tornadoes that devastated the Midwest, followed by the Ukrainian refugee crisis and now more recently the floods in both Kentucky and West Virginia—our churches have been quick to respond through your volunteer efforts, your donations and your generosity. More than a dozen trips have been made to assist families in both Kentucky and West Virginia, and more than \$400,000 has been given to support relief efforts through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Below is a letter from one of the flood relief coordinators in Kentucky, as well as some pictures to give you a small glimpse of your impact. Thank you for being the church!

- Todd McClure, Minister of Missions and Finance

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A Letter of Thanks

In the early morning hours of July 28, 2022, areas of Letcher County, Kentucky, received more than 10 inches of rain within a three-hour period. This resulted in widespread flash flooding with water levels reaching as high as 22 feet. Letcher County, as well as several surrounding counties in southeastern Kentucky, were declared a natural disaster area. Meteorologists are deeming this flash flooding as a 1-in-1000-year flooding event.

Through the generosity of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, many citizens have been blessed with the essentials to carry on with daily life as we recover from the flooding. Frank Miller was able to mobilize donations from churches within the Convention to Letcher County within days of the flooding event. This outpouring of love through essential supplies, gift cards and, most importantly, prayers, has helped ease the burden on hundreds of families working to move forward following July 28.

We could never express our appreciation enough for the West Virginia Baptist Convention and the kindness shown to Letcher County. They have been heaven-sent and shown God's goodness through their love in action.

Crissy Sexton
Letcher County Flood Coordinator
Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ



Baptist Campus Ministry: Changing Lives that Change the World



BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

CHANGING LIVES THAT CHANGE THE WORLD

We began the semester with a focus on community and discipleship. Students are learning to walk with Christ and walk with one another. We have a great leadership team and are preparing to launch our I-teams.

-Kevin Sions, WVU BCM

We have been studying Old Testament examples of faithful and faithless kings, discussing how their examples should or shouldn't be followed. We have also participated in several campus events where we have met over 100 students that we are following up with this semester.

-Karla Carr, Fairmont State BCM

We have been active in many aspects of campus life, such as participating in student organizational fairs and weekly meetings. We also welcomed students back with a barn dance and a disc golf tournament. The teaching emphasis this semester is on the life of Jesus through the book of Hebrews. God has blessed BCM at Marshall with many new freshman looking for community and several committed seniors discipling new students.

-Rob Ely, Marshall BCM

Over the last few years, we have been praying for God to raise up a new BCM associate at UC. However, in the meantime, we continue to meet with a few students and are continuing to be extremely intentional with international students.

-Todd McClure, Charleston BCM

So far, we have had one leadership meeting and one regular Bible study. We have two new leaders, with one being a freshman, and they have mapped out our entire semester with service projects and ministry opportunities. There were also several new students that attended our first Bible study of the semester.

-Tim Mitchem, Concord BCM

The students are back! The freshmen are wide-eyed and looking for community, while the seniors are focused and preparing for their college years to conclude. **Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)**, the college mission agency of the WVBC, is actively engaged on nine different campuses around the state, reaching students for Jesus. If you know of a college student in our state who is not currently being reached, please let us know by contacting Kayla Starcher at kayla@wvbc.org.

BCM's mission is: "Changing lives that change the world." We are grateful for your support as, together, we change the lives of the next generation.

We hope you enjoy reading these short updates from each of our campus leaders. We also ask that you pray for the students on these campuses regularly.

Join us for our BCM Banquet on Thursday, October 20th at Summersville Baptist. You can register for the banquet as part of your Annual Meeting registration.

We have returned to meeting on campus. This year, our focus is on partnering more with other Christian groups, connecting with the community and being more mission-minded. Also, we are trying to form a praise and worship band to add to our weekly meeting time. I'm excited to see what this group can do! It's going to be a great year!

-Shannon Earle, Potomac State BCM

We opened the semester providing a table of information to students during lunch on the first week. Over 60 people signed up on our interest form! For our weekly Bible study, we are going through Paul's letters to his next generation: Timothy and Titus. We are also planning an outreach event in a couple weeks that is set to include a 30-foot banana split!

-Jon Villers, Alderson Broaddus BCM

BCM has been meeting weekly and discussing topics that relate to life as a college student, such as what the Bible says about anxiety, stress, depression, perseverance and temptation. We have also regularly been gathering to play ultimate Frisbee and volleyball in an attempt to build community and reach non-believers for Christ.

-Lance Linden, Glenville State BCM

The last three weeks have been busy! We have partnered with YoungLife to host three different on-campus events and have met dozens of new students. We have also been meeting weekly on Thursdays to discuss how the Bible changes us, teaches us, applies to us and challenges us to be different. We are grateful for families from Crab Orchard Baptist Church who have been providing food for our students every week.

-Anthony Pratt, WVU Tech BCM

Preparing for 60 Years of the Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp



Corey Brooks (left) and Dewey Lowe (right) at the Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp at Cowen.

Next summer will mark the 60th anniversary of the Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp. Former camp director and pastor, Dewey Lowe, has been involved in 51 of those camps. His successor in the pulpit at Breckenridge Missionary Baptist Church was also his successor as camp director. Corey Brooks has a great vision for both the church and the camp.

The Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp was started in 1963 under the leadership of Dewey Wilson, pastor at the time of Sophia First Baptist Church. Others who were involved in the initial formation of the camp were Bob Keaton and Charlie Hudson. Associations would frequently host rallies and youth would travel to other churches for times of fellowship and Bible study. Relationships were built that evolved into a closeness of community, as youth would often see each other at ballgames and other events. The association camp was formed to deepen those relationships and further strengthen the association of churches.

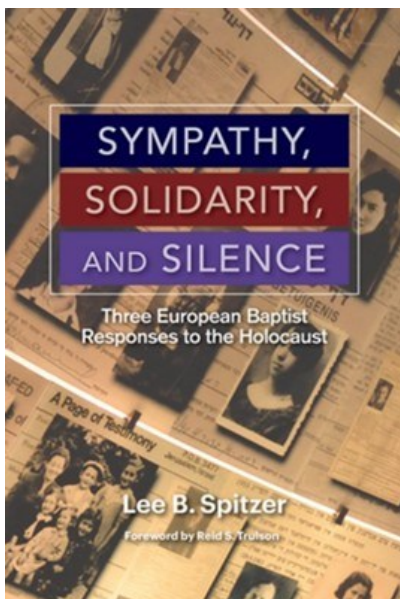
Held annually at Camp Cowen, this camp is open to all middle and high school-aged youth. What makes the Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp unique, compared to WVBC-operated camps, is that the association handles the entirety of their registration, scheduling and menu. Pastors and leaders from within the association also rotate as speakers. Again, because it is an association camp, deep relationships are often formed that can be continued back at home. For Dewey Lowe, the camp is where he met his wife, Jeanne, where they raised their children and where they met their eventual son-in-law. Reflecting back on their many decades of involvement, Dewey said, "I wouldn't have changed a single thing!"

Corey's involvement is a bit more recent. He attended a couple times as a youth, but it wasn't until he became an adult that he really grasped the value of the camp. He initially volunteered as a counselor but later joined the camp leadership team when he was hired as the youth pastor at Breckenridge. Now serving as senior pastor of the same church, he continues to organize the camp and has involved many of their college students as counselors. A highlight for him this past summer was watching how well those college students poured into the lives of the youth. "It was so thrilling to watch them lead," Corey said. "They truly made it a great week for our students."

Thousands of lives have been changed over the past six decades of the Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp. That was also the case this past summer, as four more youth gave their lives to Christ and 60 more rededicated their lives.

"My hope for 2023 is to continue growing our camp," Corey said. "I love the history of it, and it is a blessing to be a part of it. If you are part of this association, we hope that you will join us next year!"

The 60th Raleigh-Rockcastle Association Camp will take place next summer at Camp Cowen. Be sure to watch for details as they are released later this fall.



You are invited:

The **West Virginia Baptist Historical Society** is hosting a luncheon as part of this year's WVBC Annual Meeting featuring Dr. Lee Spitzer.

Dr. Spitzer is an affiliate professor at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and serves as the Historian for the Baptist World Alliance. He also previously served as the General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA. He will be speaking on the topic of his latest book: *Sympathy, Solidarity, and Silence: Three European Baptist Responses to the Holocaust*.

The luncheon will take place on Friday, October 21 at Summersville Presbyterian Church and you can register for \$15 as part of your Annual Meeting registration.

Parchment Valley; Covered Campfire Update

It is with great excitement that I share with you an update on Parchment Valley's newest addition: the **Greenlee Activity Campfire**, also known as the "**Whippoorwill Covered Campfire**." This new facility is being built to honor all of the wonderful volunteers who have given of their time and finances to help build this incredible ministry.

Ground was broken last spring and construction began mid-summer. Currently, we are installing the trusses and the construction of the roof will immediately follow. Once the exterior of the covered campfire is complete, we will then begin the construction of the inside. That is where we need your help!

The inside of the covered campfire will consist of 24 sections of seating. With two sections of seating already claimed and purchased, that leaves 22 sections to be funded – equal to the number of associations that make up our WVBC family. That being said, the challenge is: **Would you, as a church or as an individual, consider sponsoring a section of seating on behalf of your association? With 22 commitments of \$2000, that will be sufficient to complete this project.**

Our goal is to have the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire completed and available for use by late fall. We are already receiving calls from groups interested in reserving this space. We are excited to see how God uses it to help us continue our mission of being a place "where lives are changed."

One of our dear friends who was instrumental in the planning and construction startup of the project was Joe Greenlee. Joe recently



Volunteers began assembling the exterior of the covered campfire in August of this past summer.

finished his course in life and departed for heaven. Shortly before his passing, he asked his pastor, Dr. Jim Hewitt of Charleston Baptist Temple, about the progress of the covered campfire. After seeing a few pictures from Dr. Hewitt's phone, Joe folded his hands and offered thanks to God.

Likewise, I regularly give thanks to God for Joe, the Parchment Valley board, our staff and volunteers, and all those who have been involved or will be involved in this project. These are exciting times in the history of Parchment Valley! To learn more, you can contact me at miller@wvbc.org.

Blessings,

Frank Miller, Parchment Valley Director of Operations

Rebekah Williams and Samantha Karle Serve as Ministry Interns

Written by Josh Weddle, Associate Pastor of Next Generations, Clarksburg Baptist Church

Clarksburg Baptist Church had the privilege of working with both Rebekah Williams and Samantha (Sam) Karle through this year's **Ministry Internship Program**. Rebekah and Sam both grew up in the Clarksburg area and are long-time members at Clarksburg Baptist, where they have grown in their faith in Christ over the years. They both are now college students, entering their second year at different universities – Rebekah at West Virginia University and Sam at the University of Washington. However, both felt a desire to spend the summer leveraging their lives for Jesus through the local church. The Ministry Internship Program allowed for that to happen.

Both Rebekah and Sam had the opportunity to plug in and serve alongside ministry staff to use their own spiritual gifts and talents to do meaningful work for the kingdom. They helped lead both our kid's and youth ministry, they helped organize some large ministry events, they scheduled and executed service projects and they completed different types of leadership training and development. They also led from the stage by hosting and delivering announcements.

Rebekah and Sam are extremely talented and it was inspiring to see their devotion to serving God through His church this summer. They excelled at every challenge and task they were given, and they continually grew into better leaders every day. The next generation of leaders is rising up to do meaningful work for the sake of the gospel, so let us continue to encourage, empower and equip them to do so.



Rebekah (left) and Sam (right) assisted with several ministries at Clarksburg Baptist Church this past summer.

The **Ministry Internship Program** is designed for young adults who are interested in exploring a call into ministry. These internships typically last ten weeks and take place within one of our WVBC churches, alongside a mentor like Josh Weddle. **If you are interested in participating in next year's internship program, or if you are a church interested in hosting an intern, contact your area minister or send an email to Mark McCloy at mccloy@wvbc.org.**

Update on Some of Our West Virginia Global Servants

Keith and Deborah Myers



After completing their second term of missionary service with International Ministries (a term is considered five years), Keith and Deborah are currently on home assignment and are set to return to Mexico for the start of their third term in the spring.

As part of their current home assignment, they are visiting individuals and churches who are part of their support team, as well as making connections with others who are interested in joining their support team. **Overall, they are around 90% funded, meaning they need to raise an additional \$1,500 in recurring monthly support.**

Although most of their Sunday mornings are booked for the remainder of their home assignment, they have some openings in 2023, as well as a lot of mid-week availability for lunch meetings or small group gatherings. Come meet with them during this year's WVBC Annual Meeting or request a visit from them by contacting Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

Sarah McCloy

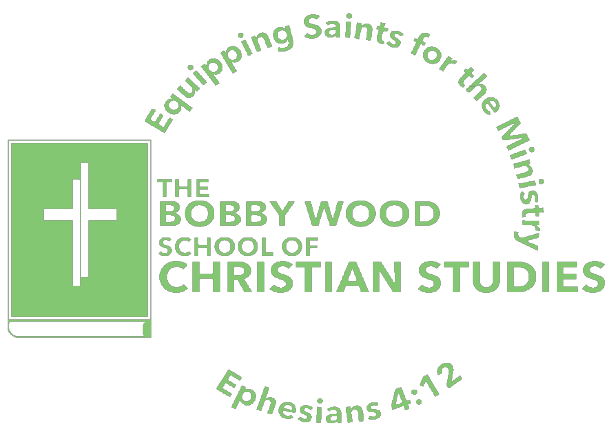


Sarah was endorsed in January to begin serving with International Ministries. She will be serving in Japan and working in the areas of education and evangelism. Her commissioning service will take place once she is fully funded.

Sarah has been busy over the last several months, visiting churches and association meetings as she begins to build her support team. **Currently, she is around 60% funded, meaning she needs to raise an additional \$3,000 in recurring monthly support.**

Sarah is planning a vision trip to Japan in early October. She still has some availability to speak at churches on Sunday mornings, as well as a lot of availability during the week. Our goal is to help her reach 100% funding by the end of this year. Come meet with Sarah during this year's WVBC Annual Meeting or request a visit from her by contacting Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

A NEW MISSIONS TRACK!



We are excited to announce the launch of the new, two-year Missions Track that is being added to the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies. Approved earlier this year by the Stewardship Commission, the eight courses to be included in the track are:

- The Missiological Basis of the Bible
- The Expansion of the Christian Movement
- Eras of Missions History
- Pioneers of the Modern Missionary Movement
- Cross-Cultural Ministry
- Major World Religions
- Mobilizing the People of God to Live Out the Mission of God
- Cross-Cultural Missions in Our Own Backyard

Courses within this track are open to everyone and will be available both in-person and online. **The first in-person course, on the topic of "The Missiological Basis of the Bible," is being offered on Saturday, November 5th, at Parchment Valley.** The online version of the course will be launched in early 2023.

Those interested in participating in this course can learn more at wvbc.org or by contacting Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

157TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE WEST VIRGINIA BAPTIST CONVENTION



MIKE SISSON
Executive Minister



JONATHAN TURNER
Annual Sermon



MICHAEL BECK
Keynote Speaker

20-21

OCTOBER

Summersville Baptist Church

422 Main Street, Summersville, WV 26651

INTENTIONALLY ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR CHRIST

[The greatest commandment is:] "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

-Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Register online at wvbc.org

Pre-Convention Activities

All Pre-Convention Activities are on Thursday, October 20th.
You can register for these activities and on the WVBC Annual Meeting registration form.



Men's Day—\$25

Organized by the American Baptist Men of WV, the Men's Day activity will involve a tour of the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, WV, just south of Summersville. The Summit Bechtel Reserve is a world-class recreational facility that has hosted both the national and international Scout Jamboree, along with many other events. Registration will be at Summersville Baptist Church and the shuttle will leave at 9:00 AM. After touring the facility, the men will have lunch on the patio of the Scott Visitor Center that overlooks the facility. The shuttle will return prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.

Women's Day—\$6

Organized by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV, Women's Day will take place at Summersville Baptist Church. This year's theme is "Beautifully Blessed" and the keynote speaker is Sandra Lutz. Worship will be led by Brian and Sara McClure and the missionary speaker will be Deborah Myers. Also included in the program is a discussion of next year's WV Hope Ministries, Mission Outreach Project and Special Project. Registration is at 9:00 AM, followed by the start of the program at 9:30 AM. Lunch is included and the program will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.



Pastors4Pastors Event—\$25

Organized by Pastors4Pastors, also known as the WV Baptist Ministers' Council, all pastors from across the WVBC family are invited to join for this special presentation. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Lee Spitzer, retired General Secretary of the American Baptist Churches USA, and the topic will be "Growing Your Church Through Authentic Relationships." Registration is at 9:00 AM at Summersville Baptist Church and the event will start at 9:30 AM at Summersville Presbyterian Church (only two blocks away). Lunch is included and the event will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:30 AM: Pre-Convention Activities
2:45 PM: Session 1
5:00 PM: Baptist Campus Ministry Banquet
6:30 PM: Session 2
8:30 PM: Alderson Broadbuss Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

8:30 AM: Workshop Session 1
9:15 AM: Session 3
11:15 AM: Workshop Session 2
12:00 PM: Lunch Break
2:00 PM: Session 4

Annual Meeting Registration Form

This registration form can be used by delegates, visitors and exhibitors. Please use a separate form for each person. All mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 10. Online registration will be open on wvbc.org until October 16.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____ Association: _____

REGISTRATION TYPE:

Delegate (\$20)

Non-Delegate (\$20)

Exhibitor (\$20)

NOTE: DELEGATES MUST HAVE THIS FORM SIGNED BY PASTOR OR CHURCH CLERK

Pastor or Clerk Signature: _____

PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please mark any pre-conference activities you plan to attend.

American Baptist Men of WV (\$25)

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV (\$6)

Pastors4Pastors (\$25)

MEAL OPTIONS

Please mark any meals for which you wish to purchase tickets.
They will be available for pickup at the registration table.

THURSDAY AT 5 PM:

Baptist Campus Ministry Banquet (\$15)

FRIDAY AT NOON:

Ministers' Wives' Fellowship (\$12)

Palmer Theological Seminary (\$12)

WV Baptist Historical Society (\$15)

CHILDCARE

Childcare is available during the following sessions. Please list the names and ages of children you will be dropping off.

ABWM—Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4

Registration Fee Total: _____

2022 Youth Ministry Planning Team

This year continues to bring us reason to celebrate youth ministry within the WVBC. The **Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT)** is excited to plan a full year of ministry events! While YMPT has been a part of Convention life for many decades, it has been a few years since the team has seen a “regular” year of activities. While the pauses caused by COVID have left the team with some rebuilding to be done, there is a LOT of excitement this year!

The YMPT is comprised of 11th and 12th grade students who are nominated by their local churches and selected as leaders to plan our four yearly events for middle and high school students: Fall Rally (September), Junior High Convention (November), Senior High Convention (February) and Summer Kick-Off (May). This year’s members include Matthias Freeman (Clarksburg Baptist), Donovan Haynes (Clarksburg Baptist), Ben Marsh (Summersville Baptist), Lauren Modesitt (Emmanuel Baptist, Parkersburg), Sarah Norweck (Pea Ridge Baptist), Brayden Price (Saint Albans First Baptist), Logan Rider (Pea Ridge Baptist) and Zenna Zwoll (Spencer First Baptist).

Our theme for the year is “Community.” Built off Hebrews 10:23-25, the question we seek to answer is, “How do believers develop true community?” Our answer is that, first, each person must have their own faith and personal relationship with God as the base for true Christian community. Secondly, we must spend time with other like-minded believers, giving us solid relationships and strong bonds, which are the building blocks of even greater community—the Church. Thirdly, it is in this greater community that are equipped and called to live out our faith in the other communities we find ourselves.

YMPT invites you to join us this year as we build community!

Youth Fall Rally



Brian Angus leading campfire on Friday night during Fall Rally.

Camp Cowen was filled with the fun and excitement of YMPT’s **Fall Rally** event, held at Camp Cowen on September 9-10. Youth groups gathered to kick off their school year together with worship, teaching and lots of fun! Kyle Huffman led worship and Scott McClure was the main speaker.

Enjoying time at Camp Cowen playing gaga and four-square, having fun in interest groups, singing together at campfire, playing team-building games and learning together reminded students that God did not create us to live life alone but that we are meant to live in community! Fall Rally gave 6th through 12th graders a chance to connect, fellowship and learn together. This is the first of four YMPT youth events that will take place this school year.



Hebrews 10:23-25

Junior High Convention

November 11-13

FBC St. Albans

\$40 per person

Register at wvbc.org/ministries/youth

Northwest Area News

by Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

“Forsake Not the Assembling of Yourselves Together ... “



Deborah Myers speaking at the Harrisville Association meeting.

With a tinge of excitement, the background hum of joyful conversation, the smell of fresh rolls, baked steak and country green beans in the air, our association season is finally rolling once more. It is not hard to imagine why the scripture tells us we need to gather together, especially after having a season or two where that just was not possible. I, for one, have missed the church family gatherings, the happy banter and the great joy of singing, worshipping and eating together. Is it not good when brothers and sisters gather together in prayer?

As this goes to print, over half of my associations have already met, and two more are gearing up for our church family gatherings. In many ways, these series of meetings embody some of the best of what it means to be both Baptist and Christian – more focused on fellowship than business, gathering around the

table, the altar and the word. (Have we heard of something like this before?) “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42 NKJV)

At their best, these simple events focused on mission, being together, working together and praising together give us just a little taste of heaven as we renew relationships and celebrate what God is doing and what he has already done. All of us have heard those who do not think they need family, church or denomination, and indeed maybe they do not “need” anyone. But most of us know that life is sweeter and better when we live in fellowship with those we love and who are called according to his name. Take advantage of the opportunity to gather together and realize there are still some who cannot.



Sarah McCloy speaking at the Little Kanawha Association meeting.

Southwest Area News

by Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Coal River Association’s Annual Picnic

Written by Anthony Pratt
Pastor, Racine First Baptist Church

On Sunday, August 12th, the Coal River Association hosted their annual picnic. It was an afternoon full of worship, fellowship and fun. There were five churches represented: Olive Baptist, Danville First Baptist, Yawkey Baptist, Madison Baptist and Racine First Baptist. The food was good, the fellowship was great and the fun was excellent! And the children had a great time on the inflatables.

There was also a time of prayer for each of the association churches. Ian Randant, member of Racine First Baptist, led in worship and Anthony Pratt, senior pastor of Racine First Baptist, preached a message from Acts 2:42 on how the Bible is lived out through “**B**elievers with an **I**ndividual relationship with Christ that become part of a **B**ody and **L**ove **E**veryone.” (Note the BIBLE acronym).

The Coal River is one of five associations that Evan serves. Others include Guyandotte, Teays Valley, Kanawha Valley and Logan-Mingo Associations.



A group enjoying a meal together at the Coal River Association’s Annual Picnic.

Northeast Area News

by David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Sheila Chipps Ordained at New Life Ministries

A Service of Ordination for Pastor Sheila Chipps was held, Sunday, July 10, at New Life Ministries. Sheila is a graduate of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and is currently a Palmer Seminary student. She has served as associate pastor at New Life Ministries since 2003. In addition to her work at New Life, Sheila is active in associational, WVBC and community ministries.

Participating in the service were Pastor Charles Chipps, Pastor Larry Harker, Pastor Gerald Nuzum, Pastor Mike Richards, Pastor Orville Wright and myself. Dr. Allan Copenhaver, pastor of The Baptist Temple, Fairmont, preached the ordination sermon, Tracy Thompson provided special music and a reception followed.



Scenes from Bethel's 150th Anniversary celebration.

Bethel Celebrates 150th Anniversary

Bethel Baptist Church, located in Kirby, WV, celebrated their 150th Anniversary on September 4. The church's rich history includes not only ministry in their community but also reaching beyond their community to plant new churches in the area. However, the day was not just a celebration of the past but a challenge to look forward with expectancy for what lies ahead. In addition to morning worship, the day included a covered-dish lunch and an afternoon session that included various musicians, a presentation of the church's history and remembrances from members of the congregation.

Participating in the celebration were Pastor John Vetter, who has served as Bethel's pastor for 21 years; Mike Sisson, WVBC Executive Minister; Koneda Devrick, President of the West Virginia Baptist Historical Society; and members of the congregation.



More scenes from Bethel's 150th Anniversary celebration.

Southeast Area News

by Jim Anderson, Southeast Area Minister

The Joy of Harvest

After digging out potatoes from our garden and realizing that our original 10 pounds of seed had become 125 pounds of potatoes for our consumption (and giving away some to our children), my mind went back to yesteryear when at the age of 6½ my father (Rev. James Anderson, Sr.) let me ride and guide our work pony, Buckshot, while he was behind the plow harvesting many more planted potatoes (having to dig mine out by a shovel also made me wish we had a work pony now).

All of this reminds me of a favorite passage from Galatians 6:7-8, which has always been a reminder about sowing and reaping – whether in the spiritual or physical realm: “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.” (NRSV)

Make no mistake, we sow and plant to have a harvest whether physically or spiritually. One of the songs I like to share when visiting churches, titled *Drinking from the Saucer*, has this line, “As I go along life's journey, I'm reaping better than I sow.” In our Christian life, no matter the circumstances, this is so true...we just need reminders from time to time and hope the pictures inspire!



Potatoes from Jim and Susan Anderson's garden.

The fields truly are ripe for harvest, but unfortunately the laborers are few. We must always, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, be creative in our harvest labors. And we must also remember that the old ways have merit, too.

GLENNA JANE BAILEY, 89, died on August 13, 2022. She was a member of Dunbar First Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School, volunteered with Vacation Bible School and served as a deaconess.

PATRICIA LOU (MORRISON) BAILEY, 92, of Belpre, OH, died on July 12, 2022. She was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, where she served as the choir director for 33 years, Sunday School superintendent and the treasurer for the American Baptist Women.

REV. DR. WILBERT DONALD BOUGH, SR., 104, died on August 13, 2022. He previously served as the pastor of Clarksburg Baptist Church.

DOROTHY CATHERINE SPARKS BRADLEY, 101, of Kenova, died on June 27, 2022. She was a member of Kenova First Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School for 20 years.

JUDITH ANN DUNN, 68, of Diamond, died on July 10, 2022. She was a member of Diamond Baptist Church.

LYDIA MARGARET (WHEELER) FLOWERS, 107, of New Haven, died on July 9, 2022. She was a member of Hopewell Baptist Church, where she served as a Sunday School teacher, youth group leader and sang in the choir.

JOE WILKES GREENLEE, 97, of Charleston, died on August 18, 2022. He was a member of the Charleston Baptist Temple, where he served as a trustee and deacon, member of the property board and member of the finance board. He was also a long-time volunteer and member of the board at Parchment Valley Conference Center.

REV. FREDERICK DAVID MCCALLISTER, 93, of Southside, died on August 9, 2022. He was ordained into the ministry and licensed to preach by Judson Baptist Church, and he later pastored the following WVBC churches of the Teays Valley Association: Buffalo Baptist Church, Concord Baptist Church, Harmony Baptist Church, Judson Baptist Church and Zion Baptist Church.

JANET LYNN HAGER MILLER, 65, of Mount Hope, died on August 1, 2022. She was a member Mount Hope Baptist Temple, where she served as the church clerk and loved singing.

JOHNNY NELSON MILLER, 80, of Spencer, died on August 5, 2022. He was a member of Spencer First Baptist Church, where he sang in the choir, was a member of the Faith Sunday School Class and was a member of the finance committee.

ROBERT WILLIAM ROSENBERGER, 97, of Fairmont, died on August 12, 2022. He was a member of The Baptist Temple, where he served as a trustee and deacon, taught Sunday School and previously sang in The Baptist Temple Men's Chorus.

GILBERTO VALENTIN VALENTIN, 74, of Moorefield, died on August 6, 2022. He was a member of Comunidad Luz Y Vida.

Leadership Updates

WILLIAM KNICELY to Salem Baptist Church (Broad Run) as interim pastor on 8/14/2022

TEDDY LEGG to Stump Chapel Baptist Church (Elk Valley) as pastor 8/7/2022

DELMAS WOLFE to Mount Hope Baptist Temple (Fayette) as interim pastor 8/3/2022

MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Pastor (Part-Time)

Location: Huntington area

Pastor to Student Ministries (Full-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Beckley area

Music Director (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Youth and Family Life Minister (Full-Time)

Location: Huntington area

Maintenance Director at Camp Cowen

Location: Camp Cowen

Minister to Youth (Part-Time)

Location: Ripley area

Minister to Children (Part-Time)

Location: Ripley area

Minister to Children (Part-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

Family Ministry Position (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Church Pianist (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

To learn more about any of the above positions, or to see a list of our most current opportunities, visit wvbc.org.

To advertise a position at your church, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

October 2022

OCTOBER 1 – Tracie Emerick, WVBC Discipleship / Outreach / Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies administrative assistant
OCTOBER 2 – Drew Crislip, vice chair of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
OCTOBER 3 –Debbie Myers, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 4 – The ministry of Sand Fork Baptist Church (Coal River Association)
OCTOBER 5 – The ministry of Oak Hill Baptist Church; Samuel Blaylock, pastor (Fayette Association)
OCTOBER 6 –The ministry of Send the Light Baptist Fellowship; James Anderson, president (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
OCTOBER 7 – The ministry of Birch River Baptist Church; Christopher Tatman, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
OCTOBER 8 – Patti Long, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 9 – The ministry of Cook Memorial Baptist Church; Chuck Cook, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
OCTOBER 10 –The ministry of Grantsville First Baptist Church; Ron Chesser, pastor (Little Kanawha Association)
OCTOBER 11 – Michael Knotts, member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
OCTOBER 12 – Jonathan Nambu, International Ministries Global Servant to the Philippines
OCTOBER 13 – Kihomi Ngwemi, International Ministries Global Servant to Haiti
OCTOBER 14 –The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Geoffrey Saunders, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
OCTOBER 15 - Jon Good, International Ministries Global Servant to Hungary
OCTOBER 16 –The ministry of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church; William Stout, pastor (Panhandle Association)
OCTOBER 17 – Nelson Fisher, Site Maintenance Manager at Parchment Valley Conference Center
OCTOBER 18 – The ministry of Kingwood Baptist Church; Charles Warger, pastor (Goshen Association)
OCTOBER 19 –The ministry of Hamlin First Baptist Church; Jonathan Butcher, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
OCTOBER 20 – The WVBC Annual Meeting beginning today at Summersville Baptist Church
OCTOBER 21 – The ministry of Parkersburg Baptist Temple; Dave Richardson, pastor (Parkersburg Association)
OCTOBER 22 –The ministry of Reedy Baptist Church; Bill Stewart, pastor (Good Hope Association)
OCTOBER 23 – The ministry of Antioch Baptist Church; Larry Peck, pastor (Hopewell Association)
OCTOBER 24 –The ministry of Harmony Baptist Church; Gary Crislip, pastor (Eastern Association)
OCTOBER 25 – Andy Walker, vice chair of the WVBC Outreach Commission
OCTOBER 26 –The ministry of Cairo Baptist Church; Waiford “Pudge” Wolfe, pastor (Harrisville Association)
OCTOBER 27 –The ministry of Tallmansville Baptist Church; Timothy Lewis, pastor (Broad Run Association)
OCTOBER 28 – The ministry of Fairmont Baptist Temple; Allen Copenhagen, pastor (Fairmont Association)
OCTOBER 29 – The ministry of Mallory Baptist Church; Jim Saunders, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
OCTOBER 30 – DaVontae Edwards, member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
OCTOBER 31 – The ministry of Ten Mile Baptist Church; Jeffrey Perine, pastor (Judson Association)

November 2022

NOVEMBER 1 –Christy Lafferty, International Ministries Global Servant to Nicaragua
NOVEMBER 2 – Jeni Pedzinski, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
NOVEMBER 3 – Molly Juarez, International Ministries Global Servant to El Salvador
NOVEMBER 4 –David Hoge, secretary of the WVBC and member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
NOVEMBER 5 – The Fall Children’s Rally happening today at Parchment Valley
NOVEMBER 6 –The ministry of Welch First Baptist Church; Fred VanDyke, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
NOVEMBER 7 – Konedá Devrick, president of the WV Baptist Historical Society and member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
NOVEMBER 8 –The ministry of Wilsonburg Baptist Church; Brian Thompson, pastor (Judson Association)
NOVEMBER 9 –The ministry of Cyrus Baptist Church; Manfred Langer, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
NOVEMBER 10 –The ministry of Worthington Baptist Church; Everett Palmer, pastor (Fairmont Association)
NOVEMBER 11 – Remember our Veterans who have served our country so faithfully
NOVEMBER 12 – Junior High Convention happening this weekend at Saint Albans First Baptist Church
NOVEMBER 13 –The ministry of Jackson Mill Baptist Church (Broad Run Association)
NOVEMBER 14 –The ministry of Seventh Avenue Baptist Church; Robert Withers, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
NOVEMBER 15 –The ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Kurt Busiek, pastor (Parkersburg Association)
NOVEMBER 16 – Stan Slade, International Ministries Global Consultant
NOVEMBER 17 – The ministry of Milhoan Ridge Baptist Church; Lester Morgan, pastor (Good Hope Association)
NOVEMBER 18 – The ministry of Charity Baptist Church (Elk Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 19 – Tammy Jordan, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
NOVEMBER 20 –The ministry of Shuck Memorial Baptist Church; Jonathan Turner, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
NOVEMBER 21 –The ministry of Mount Vernon Baptist Church; Paul “Jay” Byrd, pastor (Union Association)
NOVEMBER 22 – Jillene Narraway, WVBC Director of Youth and Camping
NOVEMBER 23 – The ministry of Genesis Fellowship; Rick Pursley, interim pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 24 – Count your blessings...name them one by one!
NOVEMBER 25 – Matt Ash, chair of the Committee on Ministerial Standing and member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
NOVEMBER 26 – Onenlemia Ao, International Ministries Global Servant to India
NOVEMBER 27 –The ministry of Mount Urim Baptist Church; Larry Gawthrop, pastor (Hopewell Association)
NOVEMBER 28 – The ministry of Hurricane First Baptist Church; Jeff Davenport, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 29 – Christina Muteyo, International Ministries Global Servant to Zimbabwe
NOVEMBER 30 –Teresa Miller, WVBC Assistant Director of Operations at the Parchment Valley Conference Center and WVBC Office Manager

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

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER

October 7
WVBC Executive Committee
Parchment Valley Conference Center

October 8
WVBC Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center

October 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Spiritual Formation (Mod-01)
Parchment Valley Conference Center

October 20-21
WVBC Annual Meeting
Summersville Baptist Church

NOVEMBER

November 5
Fall Children's Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 5
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Missiological Basis of the Bible
Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 11-13
Junior High Convention
Saint Albans First Baptist Church

November 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Discipleship Essentials (M-02)
Online

November 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Spiritual Formation (Mod-01)
Online

JANUARY

January 6
WVBC Executive Committee
Parchment Valley Conference Center

January 7
WVBC Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center

January 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Church History (H-01)
Online

January 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Digital Learning Initiative: Hospital Ministry (E-04)
Online

FEBRUARY

February 4
Annual Training Event
Parchment Valley Conference Center

February 24-26
Senior High Convention
South Parkersburg Baptist Church

Newsletter Submissions

Send submissions for *The West Virginia Baptist* to: thewvbaptist@wvbc.org or mail submissions to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, Attention: Todd McClure, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, West Virginia, 26102. If you are submitting text, send typed copy only. We also accept hard copy and digital photos of 300 dpi (dots per inch). Please include a caption for your photo and your name and address if you want your photo returned.

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

The **West Virginia Baptist** is a newsletter of the West Virginia Baptist Convention..

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Fall Children's Rally

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

Saturday, November 5, 2022

At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



It's a **SWEET** idea to trust God!

Cost: \$13 (if registered Oct. 17)
\$25 (if registered after Oct. 17)

*T-shirts are available for \$11

Download registration form or register online at: wvbc.org

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