

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

February—March 2023

Parchment Valley's Whippoorwill Covered Campfire



It is an exciting time at your **Parchment Valley Conference Center**. Thanks to the vision and legacy of many, we continue our mission of being a place “where lives are changed.”

2022 was an incredible year! We had a full calendar of events—including camps, conferences and retreats—and we had the joy of seeing 69 individuals give their lives to Christ! We thank God for allowing us to be used for His purpose.

But we also want to thank our board members, volunteers and the WVBC churches who have faithfully supported us over the past year. Because of you, there have been several noticeable improvements in the past few months:

- After 14 years of praying and writing letters to the West Virginia Division of Highways, 37 culverts were repaired and all of Lower Parchment Valley Road was paved.
- Thanks to an anonymous donor, Starlink satellite internet has been installed at our Santrock Education Center and new fiber optic internet will soon be available for the rest of campus.
- Thanks to another donor, our lodge rooms are going through a much-needed renovation with new carpet and décor.
- Because of a grant, we have been able to put several new security measures in place with more to come in 2023.

- Thanks to a legacy gift, there is new LED lighting in the Greenlee Activity Center, repairs have been made to the swimming pool and there are numerous other deferred maintenance items that have been taken care of.

Another noticeable improvement you will see is the addition of the new **Whippoorwill Covered Campfire**. Thanks to the initial vision and contribution of Joe Greenlee, followed by hundreds of more donations from individuals and churches across our WVBC family, we are excited to announce this new addition is almost complete! While groups are already beginning to utilize this facility, we will have a planned dedication service sometime in the early spring. We trust this will be another tool God will use to change lives at Parchment Valley.

Be sure to come visit us in the months ahead to see the many upgrades that you have been part of! Also be sure to reach out to us if you have any camp or retreat needs. Special pricing is available for all within our WVBC family.

We also hope to see you at the **Annual Training Event**, held Saturday, February 4th at Parchment Valley. This will be a great opportunity to fellowship with your WVBC family and train your church leaders.

See you soon,
Frank Miller
miller@wvbc.org

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

by Mike Sisson, Executive Minister

That All Illusive Joy

In the December 1992 edition of *The Christian Century*, Leander Keck wrote, “Why has so much of mainline Protestantism become joyless? Perhaps we are more impressed by the problems of the world than the power of God.” He could easily have written that in December 2022 or any day or any month of any year since. Surveying the current landscape, there is clearly a noticeable absence of joy. Wherever we look, people appear to be consumed by bitterness, frustration, resentment, anger and unreasonableness. Perhaps this is nothing new. In 1960, John Steinbeck published his travelogue, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*, logging his experiences traveling the country incognito with his poodle Charley. Steinbeck writes of “finding most people unhappy - with jobs, with location, with life.” There are a great many people in the world today, both Christian and non-Christian alike, who are not only unhappy, but they also lack the presence of joy in their lives. While many embrace the understanding that joy is simply a byproduct of being happy, the scriptural definition is much different. While happiness is primarily dependent upon happenstance, joy is an inner peace and satisfaction regardless of external circumstances. Someone has pointed out that in the English Standard Version of the Bible, the words “joy,” “rejoice” or “joyful” appear a total of 430 times, compared with “happy” or “happiness,” which appear only ten times.

Recently, I searched Amazon for books about joy. The results showed 598,170 books on the topic of joy. Notable were the “Joy of” books such as the Joy of Cooking, the Joy of Drawing, the Joy of Physics, of Origami, of Crafts, Trivia, Chemistry, Homebrewing, Family, Ballroom Dancing, Nature, Rhubarb, Chicken, Improv, Work, Apples, Not Working, Grandparenting, Juggling, Cranberries, Scrapbooking, Pickling, Yiddish, Grilling, Photography, St. Francis, Painting, Ushers, Living, Selling, Worry, Japan, Socks, Coffee, Teaching, Gardening, Snow, Priesthood, Handweaving, Ballooning, Geraniums, Caring, Living Dangerously, Mozart, Being a Woman, Being a Man, Doing Things Badly, Christmas and the list goes on and on. While these may be interesting topics, they are not the answer to experiencing lasting joy.

True joy will never be found in things or circumstances; it can only be realized through the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives. His presence brings with it the knowledge that He will never leave or forsake us and that He employs all our experiences to accomplish His work in and through us. Robert Foster describes it this way: “Joy is an inward singing that cannot be silenced by outward negative circumstances. Yes, even when life seemingly is falling apart.” To which Robert Louis Stevenson adds, “To miss the joy is to miss all.”

Jesus’s desire for us was to experience His joy in our lives. He said, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love...These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John. 15:9, 11).

So, when this world throws curve balls and circumstances begin to get you down, remember the words of the apostle Peter: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3).

Blessings,
Mike

MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A dozen different ministry positions are currently listed on our website in the areas of senior pastor, youth and children’s pastor, musician and maintenance.

Are you interested in learning more about any of these positions? Or is there a position at your church that you want to advertise? If so, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

To see a list of available positions, visit:
www.wvbc.org

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DOING CHRIST’S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ

Come Join us for the Engaging Mental Health with Hope Conference

In 2019, reports showed that an estimated 26 percent of American adults (about one in four) had a diagnosable mental disorder. Those same reports also stated that more than 50 percent of those adults would be diagnosed at some point in their lifetime.

Similar surveys concluded that one in five children and youth had a diagnosable mental disorder. Data from the last three years shows a marked increase in mental-health-related emergency room and outpatient visits for this demographic.

The statistics paint a powerful picture of the present world around us. However, most of us do not need these studies to help us understand what we can plainly see: people are struggling!

Caring for individuals includes physical, psychological, social and spiritual health. It is unmistakable that mental health significantly impacts an individual's ability to grow and flourish in all other areas of health, including spiritual. Therefore, those who care about the spiritual life of children, youth and young adults must also care about their mental health. The church should be at the forefront of responding to these realities.

Very few people have not been impacted by mental health—either personally or within their family and friends. However, many feel ill-equipped to offer biblical and psychologically sound responses to those in crisis. Together, we can educate, equip, empower and encourage pastors, lay leaders and community members to journey alongside our children, youth and adults in these realities.

The Discipleship Commission has mobilized a first step forward in this process with the **Engaging Mental Health with Hope Conference**. Through this event, attendees will experience an opportunity for connection, education and support in mental health first-aid, emotional intelligence, anxiety and depression. Conference speakers/presenters include Michelle Nietert (michelleniertert.com) and additional Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) from within our WVBC family. Each speaker will provide attendees with tangible resources and a toolkit to minister to the mental health of those they serve.

As believers, we recognize our individual responsibility and the role of the body of Christ to better respond to the needs around us. This mental health crisis is a universal reality. A one-day conference cannot bring an immediate solution to our problems. Yet, it will be a practical and impactful step for our WVBC family and one you will not want to miss!

Come join us! And invite parents, Sunday School teachers, camp counselors, lay leaders and pastors for this day of training, support and connecting! Better understanding and serving those who struggle with mental health is critical to us being able to more intentionally engage the communities around us for Christ.

Jill Narraway
Director of Camping and Youth



Register at
wvbc.org

\$25 per person

First 100
registrations **FREE**
with promo code
HOPE100



ENGAGING MENTAL HEALTH

WITH

HOPE

Conference

*Conversations that educate, equip,
empower and encourage*

Saturday, March 25
Gassaway Baptist Church

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Registration at 8:30 a.m.)

Contact Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org for more information.



2022 Impact Report

Doing Christ's Work Together

CAMP COWEN

1,321 campers last summer
 368 adult volunteers
 61 youth accepted Christ
 12 cabins received new windows
 7 cabins received electrical upgrades

PARCHMENT VALLEY

299 events hosted
 18 summer camps
 69 individuals accepted Christ
 18 youth groups from 7 states completed
 33 projects at **Brothers' Keeper**

BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRY

285 students being discipled each week
 75 students at Fall Retreat
 9 university campuses
 2400 international students are studying in WV, representing 110 countries

Education

14 individuals received scholarships from the **WV Baptist Education Society**
 14 girls received scholarships from the **American Baptist Women's Ministries**
 54 students took classes and 10 students graduated from the **Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies**
 6 students graduated from **West Virginia's Palmer Theological Seminary**
 1 new scholarship program was formed by the **WV ABMen**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

10 pastors participated in the **Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence** program
 9 pastoral ordinations
 8 new pastors serving a WVBC church
 8 young adults served as **Ministry Interns**

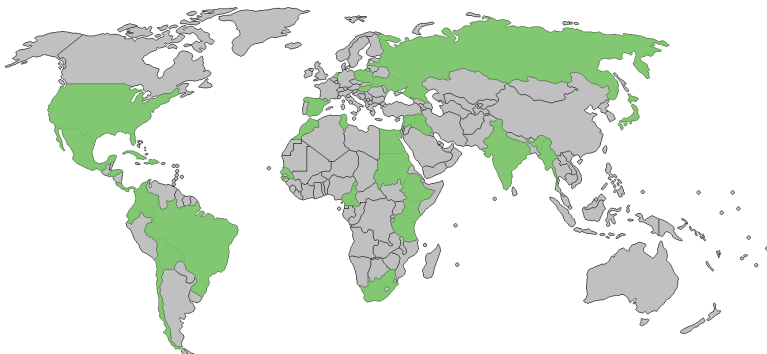
DISASTER RELIEF

\$318,872 given to support disaster relief efforts around the world
 20+ teams sent from our churches to help with relief efforts
 8 states + Puerto Rico received direct support from our churches

Financial Support

United Mission:	\$408,020	* 65% supports WVBC
America for Christ Offering:	\$71,242	* 29% supports WVBC
Mountain State Mission Offering:	\$338,667	* 100% supports WVBC
Budgeted WVBC Support: from Churches:	\$279,264	* 100% supports WVBC
Total Mission Support (All Offerings):	\$2,370,481	

Global Missions



\$567,456 given to support global missions
 36 countries impacted by WVBC support
 26 missionaries supported by WVBC churches
 1 newly endorsed missionary — **Sarah McCloy**

WVBC Executive Board Approves Plans for 2023



Members of the 2023 WVBC Executive Board

On Saturday, January 7th, the WVBC Executive Board met at Parchment Valley Conference Center to review and approve the ministry plans for 2023. Continuing the theme from last year, the focus remains on “Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ,” with a special emphasis on “communities.”

At our most recent WVBC Annual Meeting, Mike Sisson asked us to consider what communities we were currently part of and challenged us to plant the gospel in those communities. Keynote speaker Michael Beck then provided some practical examples of how to do that. Recordings of those addresses are still available on our website.

At our first Executive Board meeting of the year, WVBC President Don Biram opened with a devotion to reiterate the theme, and then each of the four commissions separated into their own

meetings to discuss their plans for carrying out the theme. Several of the commissions’ ministry plans have been in place for the past few years and remain unchanged. Other plans are new in an effort to provide our churches with relevant resources to help them better carry out their mission in the communities where they serve. **A description of some resources that each commission is currently working on is detailed on pages 6 and 7.**

Following the commission meetings, the Executive Board once again gathered to report on the commission meetings and to approve the 2023 budget. That budget was passed unanimously.

The Executive Board is made up of 60 individuals, 22 of whom are representatives from their associations and the others being at-large members. The Executive Committee, which serves as the personnel committee, also met the night before and the WVBC trustees met immediately prior to the Executive Board.



Karla Carr shares an update from the Leadership Commission.



YOU'RE INVITED: SARAH MCCLOY'S COMMISSIONING SERVICE

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH AT 4:30 PM
PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER
(HILL HALL)

SARAH IS PLANNING TO LEAVE FOR JAPAN IN LATE MARCH,
SERVING AS THE 42ND MISSIONARY FROM OUR WVBC FAMILY



Discipleship Commission

MENTAL HEALTH

GRANDPARENTING MATTERS

REDUCING THE RISK



With each passing year, it seems more individuals are struggling—or at least admitting to struggling—with mental health. This year, our goal is to help churches better engage mental health with the hope that we have in Jesus.

The first resource that will be provided is in the form of a statewide conference, held on March 25th at Gassaway Baptist Church. As part of that conference, licensed counselors from around our WVBC family will lead workshops. More resources will be released later in 2023.

With more than half of the youth in our state being raised by their grandparents, grandparents have an incredible platform to shape and nurture the spiritual lives of the next generation.

Provided by the *Legacy Coalition*, our **Grandparenting Matters** resource will provide you with inspiration, ideas and tools to help realize your potential to grandparent successfully. A day-long seminar can be led for your church by one of our staff members or the resources can be sent for you to lead on your own.

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

The WVBC is available to offer the **Reducing the Risk** training to help keep kids safe in your ministry.

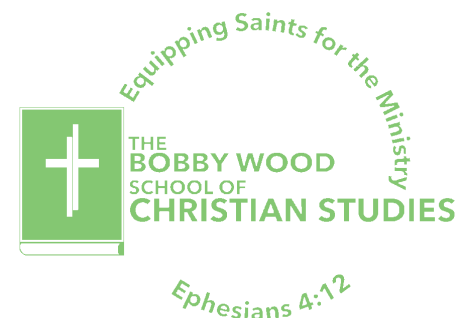
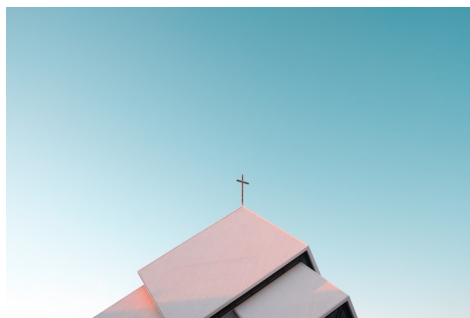
To learn more about any of the above ministries, contact Koreen Villers at villers@wvbc.org.

Leadership Commission

PASTORAL MENTORING

MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES



Offered in partnership with Renew Transformational Strategies, the **Mentoring for Pastoral Excellence Program** inspires, encourages, supports and strengthens networks between experienced pastor mentors and gifted younger pastor leaders in our WVBC churches.

This program is available and encouraged for all young pastors who are serving within our WVBC family.

The **Ministry Internship Program** provides individuals with the opportunity to explore their long-term calling to ministry by giving them an opportunity to serve within our family of churches and placing them under the guidance of a mentor for a summer-long internship.

Internship opportunities include pastoral ministry, youth ministry, worship ministry, technology or intercultural ministry.

The **Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies (BWSCS)** has expanded the number of in-person locations to better serve our WVBC family. In addition to in-person courses, online courses are also available and students can seek to graduate in one of several different tracks.

BWSCS courses are open to anyone. The Pastoral Ministry track is also a pathway for ordination and ongoing seminary training.

To learn more about any of the above ministries, contact Mark McCloy at mccloy@wvbc.org.

Outreach Commission

NEW CHURCH PLANTING



In 2021, we formed a partnership with **Stadia Church Planting** to further enhance and accelerate our ability to plant new churches in West Virginia. A major benefit of this partnership is the Church Planter Assessment Center (CPAC), where experienced assessors evaluate planters' strengths, gifts, experiences and other criteria to identify opportunities for growth. In addition to CPAC, Stadia also provides numerous other training opportunities and support to help ensure the church plant is successful. Since 2003, 1300+ churches have started with Stadia's support.

CHURCH HEALTH CHECK-UP



Offered in partnership with **Renew Transformational Strategies (RTS)**, we partner with you to explore areas where your church can improve its organizational health in the areas of spiritual growth, outward focus, congregation relationships, mission and vision, lay leadership, openness to change, facility and finances and administrative structure. Once the assessment is complete, RTS will pray, discuss and discern with our team to generate a report for your church with suggestions of areas that you may want to address.

MICROCHURCHES



A **microchurch** is simply a response to the command to "go and make disciples," by focusing less on programming and trying to attract people to our existing church and, instead, discipling and training ordinary people to be missionaries in the place where God has already placed them. Many within our WVBC family have already planted microchurches in hospitals, college campuses, sports teams, nursing homes, fire stations and places of employment. The key is simply to use your creativity to plant the gospel in a place where God has already planted you.

To learn more about any of the above ministries, contact David Hulme at hulme@wvbc.org.

Stewardship Commission

MISSIONARY INTERNSHIPS



The **Missionary Internship Program** was designed to help young adults explore a long-term calling to missions by providing them with a 3 to 6-week customized internship alongside one of our global partners.

In addition to the internship, individuals receive six months of training in mission education, support raising, culture, security and other relevant topics.

MISSION TRIP LEADER TRAINING



The **Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training** was recently revised and is available for those interested in leading a mission trip. The training is required for those seeking to lead a WVBC-endorsed mission trip.

The training includes details on recruiting your team, creating a budget, raising support, travel and security tips, helping your team debrief and much, much more.

LEGACY GIVING



Many churches and ministries across our WVBC family have benefitted tremendously from **Legacy Gifts**. A legacy gift is a gift in your last will and testament that comes in the form of property, cash or a percentage of your estate.

We are available to meet with your church to help promote this form of giving. We are also available to help manage these gifts on your church's behalf.

To learn more about any of the above ministries, contact Todd McClure at todd@wvbc.org.

BCM Campus Updates: Changing Lives that Change the World

Through **Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)**, God is “changing lives that change the world.” On nine different campuses around the state, students are able to build relationships and accountability through I-Teams (small groups), regularly worship together through their weekly meetings and enjoy one another in community. During this past fall semester, there was a consistent theme of studying God’s Word and living out His principles. Reflecting upon the 2022 fall semester, here are what some of the BCM leaders said:

“This past fall, we studied the books of 1-2 Timothy and Titus. We also had the opportunity to partner with several WVBC churches in the area, including Bethany Baptist Church, which asked our praise team to lead the worship as they started a revival for the first time in many years here in Barbour County.”

— **Jon Villers (Alderson Broaddus)**

“This past semester, we looked at the Bible, how it is applicable to our life and the role it plays in our walk with Christ. We also spent time looking at different characters in the Bible and learning from their lives.”

— **Anthony Pratt (WVU Tech)**

“We had a couple small group Bible studies in the fall that were student-led. It has been exciting for me to see students grow in various leadership roles including leading music, leading Bible studies, planning events and personal disciple-making. Our goals for the spring will be to continue growing our leadership team and small groups, while focusing even more on our outreach efforts.”

— **Lance Linden (Glennville State)**



Students interacting at BCM Fall Retreat at Camp Cowen.

“During our Bible studies, we allowed the students to pick and discuss topics they were interested in. We purchased the Foundations Bible Reading plan for each student to encourage daily Bible study and group study outside of our weekly meetings. It was enjoyable watching the students grow in their faith.”

— **Shannon Earle (Potomac State)**

As BCM transitions into 2023, we are looking forward to seeing God continue to change the lives of college students. We are so grateful for your prayers and your financial support.

If your church is interested in learning more about how God is using BCM, please contact Rob Ely (ely@wvbc.org) or Kevin Sions (sions@wvbc.org).

2023

ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 4th
Parchment Valley Conference Center

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS: THE GOSPEL FOR ALL
FEATURING: DR. LEE SPITZER

COST: \$25 (50% OFF FOR PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSE)

Register now at www.wvbc.org



Weirton Christian Center Served 170 Children in 2022

Written by Kim Weaver,
Executive Director, Weirton Christian Center



Weirton Christian Center staff at their 2022 Christmas party.

The **Weirton Christian Center** celebrated 105 years of service this past year. Another fruitful year, we were blessed to serve 170 children in our free preschool, afterschool and summer programs.

New in 2023, we are now able to offer the *Foundations Curriculum* to support our preschool and elementary students. We are partnering with Hancock County Schools, who provided the curriculum, classroom supplies and training for our teachers. As a result of the pandemic, many elementary students are struggling with reading. By having the *Foundations Curriculum*, we are now better able to understand what the schools are teaching and to assist kids with their homework. We are also able to better serve our preschool students, giving them a head start in kindergarten. This has caused our preschool program to be in high demand!

Several other programs have grown over the past year:

- Our **Signs of Hope** group was relaunched. This group learns sign language, song and dance. Then they showcase their talent and share the message of Christ throughout the community. They have had several recent opportunities to perform.
- Our **Journey Project** program works with middle school and high school students to help them learn responsibility, accountability and basic life skills, such as financial literacy. Currently, we have 18 students in the program.

- Our **Never Alone Kids** group is designed for children who are grieving lost loved ones. This past year, we were able to host two 10-week sessions for children to participate.
- Our **Evyenia's House of Hope** provides offices for the Catholic Charities and the Sexual Assault Help Center, while also providing supervised visitation, life skills and parenting classes for those in the community. This past year, the program grew and now has 10 different supervisors.
- Our **Community Garden** had 57 garden beds this past year—40 leased to community members—and our kids were able to help maintain the garden. As a result, we donated 700 pounds of produce to local food banks and senior groups.

We have been blessed by so many churches, American Baptist Women's groups, individuals, businesses and foundations over the past year. We specifically want to thank Joan Hall and Vienna Baptist Church, who donated 100 shoeboxes. And we also want to thank First Baptist Church of New Martinsville and the Ona Eggleston Circle at Mount Vernon for the hats, gloves, scarves and huge collection of socks for all of our kids. We are also grateful for the beautiful quilts that were provided by First Baptist Church of Saint Albans. We also always appreciate the many gift cards for Christmas that come from various churches and the children's rallies.

We cannot do what we do without the support of our WVBC family! Thank you all so much!



Weirton Christian Center's Signs of Hope group.

Grace UPON **Grace**
America for Christ Offering 2023

Resources available at: <https://abhms.org/volunteer-opportunities/give/where/afc/>

Join us at Parchment Valley for Brothers' Keeper 2023

It is through your faithful support and willingness to serve that **Brothers' Keeper** (BK) is on track to host another youth mission work camp at Parchment Valley on June 18-23. Designed for youth in grades 6-12, BK is always a highlight for us as we learn, serve, give and minister together. Last year's camp consisted of 18 youth groups from seven different states. These youth groups completed 33 community projects around Jackson County, and we also celebrated two youth giving their lives to Christ!

In 2023, we want to invite your church to join us! Our theme this year matches that of the WVBC: "Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ."

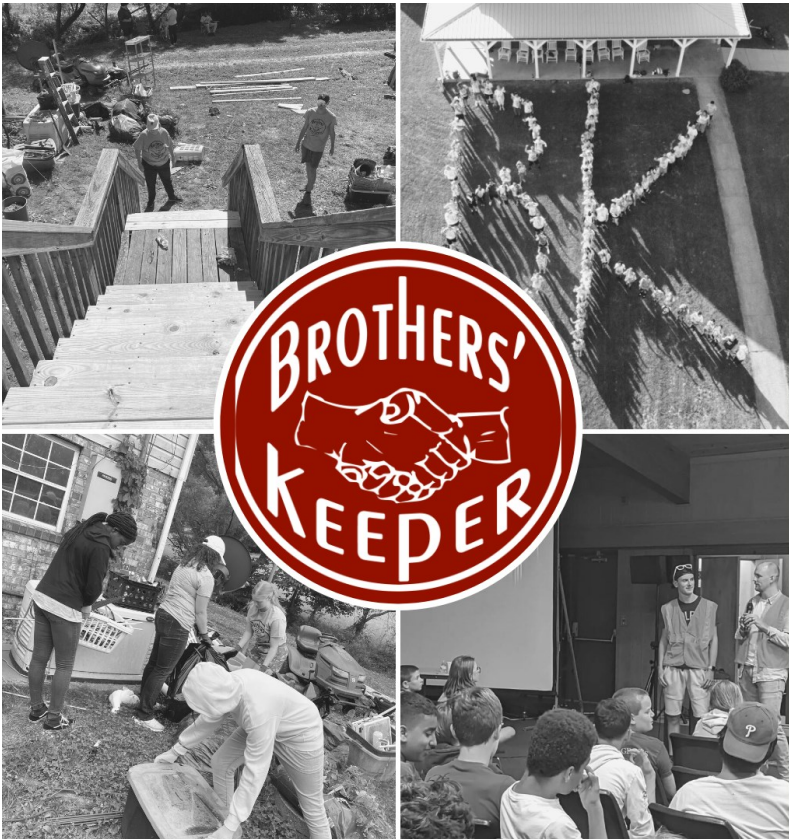
We are also excited to add a new, inner-city experience to BK this year with some projects in Charleston! Recently, while meeting with Jim Hewitt, pastor of Charleston Baptist Temple, and Don Biram, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Charleston (both are Parchment Valley board members), it became evident through prayer and dialogue that we must also be intentional about meeting some of the inner-city needs in Charleston. That prayer led to planning, which is now becoming a reality.

Our goal for BK 2023 is to serve both our traditional Jackson County qualified work projects AND the inner-city of Charleston. Youth groups will still participate in our evening worship services and other traditional BK activities at Parchment Valley but will then be commissioned to their assigned work projects during the day. It is exciting to see how God continues to bless and expand this ministry.

For those interested in bringing your youth groups, visit www.brotherskeeperwv.org. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a financial donation, contact Frank Miller at miller@wvbc.org.



BK22 participants enjoying an ice breaker before the worship service.



BROTHERS' KEEPER

A REGIONAL MISSION WORK CAMP
FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-12

JUNE 18-23, 2023

PARCHMENT VALLEY
CONFERENCE CENTER

*WITH A NEW, ADDITIONAL URBAN WORK
EXPERIENCE IN CHARLESTON THIS YEAR

\$245/PERSON BY APRIL 1

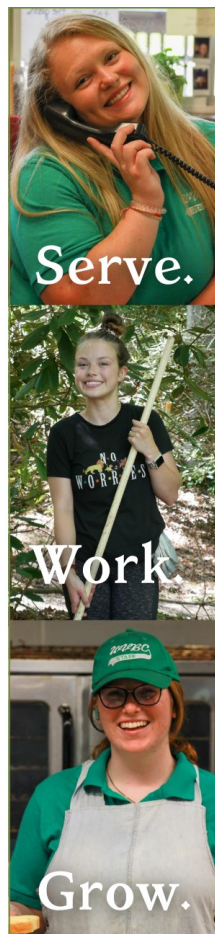
\$270/PERSON AFTER APRIL 1

WWW.BROTHERSKEEPERWV.ORG

Camp Cowen 2023

<u>JUNE 2-4</u>	Younger Midler (grades 2-4)
<u>JUNE 6-9</u>	Leaders in Training
<u>JUNE 11-17</u>	Junior 1 (grades 5-6)
<u>JUNE 18-24</u>	Junior High 1 (grades 7-9)
<u>JUNE 25- JULY 1</u>	Junior 2 (grades 5-6)
<u>JULY 2-8</u>	High School 1 (grades 9-12)
<u>JULY 9-15</u>	Junior High 2 (grades 7-9)
<u>JULY 15</u>	Senior Day (graduated seniors)
<u>JULY 16-22</u>	High School 2 (grades 9-12)
<u>JULY 23-26</u>	Older Midler (grades 3-5)
<u>JULY 28-31</u>	Family Camp
<u>JULY 31-AUG. 4</u>	Raleigh Rockcastle
<u>AUGUST 4-6</u>	AB Men & Boys Camp
<u>AUGUST 11-12</u>	Camp Global

For more, visit campcowen.org



Cowen Staff Now Hiring!

Camp Cowen is looking for 14 hard-working individuals to serve the kingdom this summer.

- \$275/week + bonus
- Free room & board
- May 30 - August 8
- Hiring office staff, kitchen staff, dishroom, maintenance, lifeguards, and more.

Apply by March 1st
at campcowen.org/staff

National Men's Prayer Breakfast

We are excited to see the men in our WVBC family coming together for another year to fellowship and pray with one another. The National Men's Prayer Breakfast is always an important day for the **American Baptist Men (ABMen)** of our state. It is a day when men from all around the state invite other men from their association to gather with them for prayer and Bible study, while enjoying a breakfast together.

This year's prayer breakfast will take place on Saturday, February 25th. To the right, you will find a list of confirmed locations. Other locations will be added to our website once they are confirmed. You will be able to view the entire list and download resources for the breakfast at www.wvbc.org.

This year's prayer breakfast offering will support the **ABMen's Scholarship Fund**. This fund provides assistance to our next generation of leaders to further their education. We are excited to offer this scholarship to young men beginning in the fall of 2023. You can make a donation to this offering at your association's breakfast or by giving online through the WVBC website and choosing "ABMen's Prayer Breakfast Offering."

If your church would like more information about the National Men's Prayer Breakfast or is interested in hosting a breakfast on this date, contact Tracie Emerick at temerick@wvbc.org.

- Buckhannon First Baptist Church (Broad Run Association)
- Racine First Baptist Church (Coal River Association)
- Fairmont Baptist Temple (Fairmont Association)
- Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette Association)
- Hopewell Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)
- Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (Guyandotte Association)
- Sardis Baptist Church (Judson Association)
- Harrisville Baptist Church (Harrisville Association)
- Kanawha City Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley Association)
- Chapel Baptist Church (Little Kanawha Association)
- Parkersburg First Baptist Church (Parkersburg Association)
- Rockcastle Baptist Church (Rockcastle Association)
- Hurricane First Baptist Church (Teays Valley Association)
- Main Street Baptist Church (Teays Valley Association)
- Beulah Baptist Church (Union Association)

Northwest Area News

by Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” (Genesis 8:22)

There is a certain rhythm to life—a cycle of change that is both normal and healthy. At times, change is painful. Sometimes it is excruciating. But many times, it is joyful. The recent year has seen times of learning and growth, times of birth and death, graduations and ordinations, weddings and funerals, family and friends, loneliness and gatherings, sickness and health, new buildings and old pipes, beautiful sunrises and difficult storms. Yet, the cycle continues. There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven. Sometimes life makes perfect sense, and sometimes it makes no sense at all. But through it all, we have God—a God who has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even the crazy world we live in or the circumstances of life. As we start a new year, it is with hope and expectation, but also with faith and knowledge that God—and His people—will be with us.

It has been a good year to be part of God’s family. As we serve Him in 2023, let us look for opportunities to be there for one another. Life is better with family.



Interim pastor, Mark Houser, receives a hug from the children of First Baptist Church of Parkersburg the Sunday before his surgery.

Southwest Area News

by Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Andy Magnusson Retires

On Sunday, December 4th, I had the pleasure of participating as Huntington Baptist Temple (Guyandotte) celebrated Pastor Andy Magnusson’s retirement with a special service. It was a blessing to hear the church’s pipe organ fired up and beautifully played by a visiting organist. Pastor Andy preached his last sermon after faithfully serving Baptist Temple for the last 30 ½ years. Several family members and friends pleasantly surprised him by showing up for his special day. Following the service, the church served a wonderful celebratory dinner. Congratulations Andy!



Pastor Andy Magnusson preaching his last sermon.

Judson Baptist Church Clothing Center



From left to right: Mike and Judy Akers, Pat Winston and Stella Winters.

I enjoyed visiting Judson Baptist Church, Belle, (Kanawha Valley) as they hosted their Judson Baptist Church Clothing Center. The center operates at the church twice a month to help serve the clothing needs of those in their community. Donations are received from both church members and those in the community. As with any community support ministry, much time is required by the volunteers to separate and organize the items. The clothing center works through the local schools so that that the schools can have clothes on hand for students. The center also works with other centers and shelters around the state to provide for those who have needs.

Northeast Area News

by David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Quiet Dell Celebrates Volunteers



Quiet Dell Baptist Church volunteers at Apple Annie's for dinner.

Who is it that makes ministry in the local church happen? We call them “volunteers,” but in reality they are people who have answered God’s call to use their gifts to serve others in and through the local church. Every gift is different, yet every gift has a purpose in God’s Kingdom.

To show their appreciation, Pastor Ed Carpenter and Quiet Dell Baptist Church (Fairmont) celebrated the ministry of their volunteers with a dinner at Apple Annie’s. Although recognition isn’t the reason these people serve, simple acts that celebrate their ministry are important on a regular basis...and well-received, I might add. It is an important reminder for all of us to regularly celebrate the service of others.

Clarksburg Baptist Launched “Weird Faith” Podcast

Featuring Pastors Phil Wayman, Scott McClure and Josh Weddle, Clarksburg Baptist Church (Union) launched their new *Weird Faith* Podcast in December. While that might sound like a strange name for a podcast featuring three pastors, their desire is for their podcast to be a fun and entertaining way to help others think a little differently about their faith. Pastor Phil says, “The word ‘weird’ originally had the meaning of supernatural and other-worldly. That’s what we want from our faith.”

You can catch their podcast on YouTube, Apple, or Spotify.



From left to right: Scott McClure, Phil Wayman and Josh Weddle discuss *Weird Faith* during the first episode of their new podcast.

Southeast Area News

by Dana Gatewood, Southeast Area Minister

FBC Webster Springs Celebrates Their 150th Anniversary

On the third weekend of December, the First Baptist Church of Webster Springs (Hopewell) celebrated their 150th anniversary. There was an open house for the community to stop by the church on Saturday, and on Sunday morning, Pastor Shawn Frame shared some highlights from the church’s history. Some of those highlights include:

- The church has had four different names.
- One of the early pastors used his skills to do a great deal of the construction of the church building.
- There has always been interest in supporting missions.

While much has changed over the past 150 years, one thing that hasn't changed is the church’s desire to share Jesus and to be a beacon of hope in the community of Webster Springs. We are grateful for this church and their ongoing commitment to making Christ known in their community, around the state and around the world.



Shawn Frame shares about the history of Webster Springs First Baptist.

November—December 2022

SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION

February 24-26, 2023

Grades 9-12

South Parkersburg Baptist Church



Hebrews 10:23-25

register at wvbc.org/ministries/youth

REV. CALVIN "CHUCK" FERRELL, JR., 75, of Waverly, died on December 11, 2022. He pastored two churches, including Pine Grove Baptist Church, and later served many other local churches as pulpit supply.

DALLAS WOODFORD IGO, 89, of Glenville, died on December 1, 2022. He was a member of Sand Fork Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher and was active in both missions and assisting with Vacation Bible School.

JOHN JASPER "JOHNNY" POOLE, 82, of Glenville, died on September 27, 2022. He was a member of Glenville First Baptist Church.

DONALD "DON" JACK SANDY, 85, of Parkersburg, died on November 11, 2022. He was a member of Union Valley Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and Sunday School superintendent.

LEONARD EARL SMITH, SR., 87, of St. Albans, died on November 18, 2022. He was a member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and chairperson of the church's anniversary committee.

PEGGY JANE SMITH WEAVER, 94, of Logan, died on November 5, 2022. She was a member of Logan First Baptist Church, where she served as the treasurer.

STEPHEN A. WICKLAND, 73, of Bridgeport, died on November 6, 2022. He was a member of Simpson Creek Baptist Church, where he taught Sunday School and served as church moderator, deacon and trustee.

Leadership Updates

Andy Kiddle to Fayetteville Baptist Church (Fayette) as pastor 10/30/2022

Bryan Knight to Beckley First Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh) as pastor 9/12/2022

James Truman to Calvary Baptist Church (Fayette) as associate pastor 1/1/2023.

For Sale

Oakwood Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley) is selling their Rodgers 805 organ with two external speakers and PR300 midi system. It is in excellent condition.

Contact Marsha Raker at musicdirector@obcww.org.

Spring Children's Rally

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

Saturday, March 4, 2023

At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



COST:
\$13 (\$25 after February 13)

MISSION PROJECT:
Faithful Fostering, Grafton

SCHEDULE:
9:00 AM—Registration
9:30 AM—Welcome & Singing
10:00 AM—Lessons 1-3
12:15 PM—Lunch
12:45 PM—Singing & Lessons 4-5
2:45 PM—Closing

DONATION ITEMS:
Small Duffel Bags
Twin Sheets
Underwear & Socks
Shampoo & Conditioner
Deodorant
Walmart Gift Cards

Register Online at www.wvbc.org

February 2023

FEBRUARY 1 – The ministry of Goshen Baptist Church; Dan Meadows, pastor (Goshen Association)
FEBRUARY 2 – The ministry of Union Valley Baptist Church (Fairmont Association)
FEBRUARY 3 – The ministry of Vermont Baptist Church; Chadrick Ash, pastor (Judson Association)
FEBRUARY 4 – The Annual Training Event happening today at Parchment Valley
FEBRUARY 5 – Scott McClure, member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
FEBRUARY 6 – The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; John Vetter, pastor (Eastern Association)
FEBRUARY 7 – Ruth Vindas, International Ministries Global Servant to Costa Rica
FEBRUARY 8 – Kayla Starcher, Student Ministries and Mission Support Assistant, WVBC
FEBRUARY 9 – The ministry of Danville First Baptist Church; Danny Mitchell, interim pastor (Coal River Association)
FEBRUARY 10 – Mary Davis, WV American Baptist Women's Ministries' president and member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
FEBRUARY 11 – The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church; Carl Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run Association)
FEBRUARY 12 – The ministry of Eskdale Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley Association)
FEBRUARY 13 – The ministry of Auburn Baptist Church; Harry Drake, pastor (Harrisville Association)
FEBRUARY 14 – Jae Stockton, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
FEBRUARY 15 – Eliberto Juárez, International Ministries Global Servant to El Salvador
FEBRUARY 16 – Tan Coats, International Ministries Global Servant to Myanmar and Thailand
FEBRUARY 17 – The ministry of Evergreen Baptist Church (Hopewell Association)
FEBRUARY 18 – The ministry of New Hope Baptist Church; Bob Mylott, interim pastor (Elk Valley Association)
FEBRUARY 19 – Leigh Ellen Eades, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
FEBRUARY 20 – The ministry of Peterstown Baptist Church; John Pena, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
FEBRUARY 21 – Ricardo Mayol-Bracero, International Ministries Global Servant to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean
FEBRUARY 22 – The ministry of Page Baptist Church; James Keith Cook, pastor (Fayette Association)
FEBRUARY 23 – Dwight Brohard, trustee and member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
FEBRUARY 24 – Michael Sisson, Executive Minister, and Dana Gatewood, Southeast Area Minister, WVBC
FEBRUARY 25 – Senior High Convention happening this weekend at South Parkersburg Baptist Church and the AB Men's Prayer Breakfasts happening around the state
FEBRUARY 26 – The ministry of Hurricane Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)
FEBRUARY 27 – Rebecca Mann, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
FEBRUARY 28 – The ministry of Pea Ridge Baptist Church; Dan Londeree, pastor (Guyandotte Association)

March 2023

MARCH 1 – The ministry of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church; Michael Harriman, pastor (Goshen Association)
MARCH 2 – Annie Dieselberg, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
MARCH 3 – David Parajón, International Ministries Global Servant to Nicaragua
MARCH 4 – The Annual Bible Conference and the Spring Children's Rally happening at Parchment Valley
MARCH 5 – The ministry of Mount Olive Baptist Church; Timothy Black, pastor (Broad Run Association)
MARCH 6 – The ministry of Jordan Run Baptist Church; Charles Stoner, pastor (Eastern Association)
MARCH 7 – The ministry of Sistersville First Baptist Church; Darrell Mayfield, pastor (Panhandle Association)
MARCH 8 – The ministry of Dunbar First Baptist Church; David Keeney, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
MARCH 9 – The ministry of Fort Gay Baptist Church; Timothy Preston, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
MARCH 10 – Nathan Reed, International Ministries Global Servant (youth) to Bolivia
MARCH 11 – The ministry of East Clarksburg Baptist Church; Timothy Gunter, pastor (Union Association)
MARCH 12 – Michael Cornell, member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
MARCH 13 – The ministry of Fort Spring Baptist Church; Joseph Morgan, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
MARCH 14 – The ministry of Harrisville Baptist Church; Robert Perine, pastor (Harrisville Association)
MARCH 15 – The ministry of Nitro First Baptist Church; Michael Perry, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
MARCH 16 – The ministry of Gassaway Baptist Church; Mark Stump, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
MARCH 17 – The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; John Vannoy, pastor (Little Kanawha Association)
MARCH 18 – Tim Long, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
MARCH 19 – Kristy Engel, International Ministries Global Consultant
MARCH 20 – Mayra Giovanetti, International Ministries Global Servant to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean
MARCH 21 – The ministry of Logan First Baptist Church; Michael Hatfield, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
MARCH 22 – The ministry of Spruce Grove Baptist Church; Stephen Gamallo, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
MARCH 23 – Lou Ann Nicholas, chair of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
MARCH 24 – The ministry of Hill Grove Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)
MARCH 25 – The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Lisa Grays, pastor (Parkersburg Association)
MARCH 26 – The ministry of Mannington First Baptist Church; Ethan Starcher, pastor (Fairmont Association)
MARCH 27 – Mark Shaffer, president of the WV American Baptist Men and member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
MARCH 28 – The ministry of Hope Christian Center; Michael Lewis, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
MARCH 29 – The ministry of New Prospect Baptist Church; Tim McClung, pastor (Hopewell Association)
MARCH 30 – The ministry of Hepzibah Baptist Church (Judson Association)
MARCH 31 – Yvette Shafer, chair of the WVBC Stewardship Commission

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

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

- February 4**
Annual Training Event
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- February 21**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Theology II (T-02)
 Various locations
- February 24-26**
Senior High Convention
 South Parkersburg Baptist Church
- February 25**
AB Men Prayer Breakfasts
 Various locations

MARCH

- March 3**
Pastor4Pastors Event
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- March 4**
Annual Bible Conference
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- March 4**
Spring Children's Rally
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- March 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Caring for People (M-04)
 Online
- March 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: WV Baptist History (E-02)
 Online
- March 25**
Engaging Mental Health With Hope Conference
 Gassaway Baptist Church

APRIL

- April 14-15**
AB Men Work Party
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- April 14-16**
Women's Camp
 Camp Cowen
- April 20-22**
Musicians Summit
 Camp Cowen
- April 22**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Hospital Ministry (E-04)
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- April 28-29**
AB Men Work Party
 Camp Cowen

MAY

- May 2**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Communicating God's Word (M-01)
 Various locations
- May 5**
WVBC Executive Committee Meeting
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- May 6**
WVBC Executive Board and Commission Meetings
 Parchment Valley Conference Center
- May 8-15**
BCM Beach Week
 Myrtle Beach, SC
- May 12-13**
Summer Kick-Off
 Camp Cowen

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.

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Youth Ministry Planning Team


Attention Pastors and Youth Leaders!

If you know a high school sophomore or junior who is

- a member of a WVBC church
- hard-working and willing to learn
- a committed follower of Jesus

Nominate them for WVBC's Youth Ministry Planning Team!

Nominations Due March 15



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