

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter

October—November 2023

Incarnational Living



South Parkersburg Baptist Church October 19-20, 2023

Register today at
www.wvbc.org

Or scan this
QR code



One of the most powerful thoughts in all of Scripture is the doctrine of the incarnation. The incredible, almighty, holy, invisible God condescending to take on human form. The Creator became that which He created to redeem humanity from sin. Paul describes it this way, “[Jesus] Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:6-8).

The apostle John, in his Gospel, writes, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). John Calvin says of the incarnation, “the glory of the Father is invisible until it shines forth in Christ.” As the Son of God, Jesus did not use His power to His own advantage, instead, He became one of us in order to redeem us, to free us from sin and death and reconcile us to God.

In Jesus, God became accessible to us in a most familiar form. In fact, six times in John’s Gospel, he declares, “We saw him!” During His time on earth Jesus intentionally spent time with the people the religious elite considered unworthy of God’s attention, and He chose to do so in a customary setting which represented hospitality, around the dinner table.

Pharisees and the teachers of the law criticized Jesus saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). Matthew recounts a time when Jesus was having dinner at his house and many tax collectors and sinners came to join Jesus and His disciples for the meal. Matthew witnessed, “When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Matthew 9:11-13).

The incarnation, therefore, serves as a model of sacrificial love, and it should exemplify for us not just who we are as followers of Jesus, but also who we are as servants and missionaries showing that same love to others. We are called to follow Jesus’ example by living incarnationally and one effective way we can do that is to become a community of mealtime missionaries.

In 1727, Nicolaus Zinzendorf and the Moravian Christians in Germany introduced a service of sharing a simple meal, prayer, testimonies, religious conversation and hymns. Like with Jesus, the dinner table became a safe place to invite people outside the church to come and hear the stories of God’s love and hope of salvation.

During our upcoming Annual Meeting on October 19-20, we will focus on incarnational living with the theme of **Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ**. One way to do this is through adopting Jesus’ example of sharing a meal with those outside the church and engaging them with the stories of how He changes lives.

Join us at South Parkersburg Baptist Church as our featured keynote speaker, Verlon Fosner, shares the best practices on how to host a Dinner Church, drawing from his 20 years of experience serving a 93-year-old church which now has expanded to include 27 Dinner Church locations in surrounding neighborhoods.

In 2024, let us all commit to living incarnationally in the communities of influence Christ has placed us.

**Blessings,
Mike Sisson**

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

Pre-Convention Activities

Download the WVBC APP!

Have the WV Baptist Newsletter delivered to your phone!



DOWNLOAD NOW:
<https://tithely.app.link/wvbc>

Vol. LXXXX, Issue 06 October-November 2023

Table of Contents

Pre-Convention Activities	2
Annual Meeting Registration Form	3
J.D. and Rhonda Reed Update / Global Servants at Annual Meeting	4
Ministry Internship Program / Missionary Internship Program	5
Camp Cowen Summer Recap	6-7
Sunny Day Recreation Center	8-9
Parchment Valley / Baptist Campus Ministry	10
Youth Leader Core / Junior High Convention	11
Area Minister News	12-13
Obituaries / Ministry Employment Opportunities / Todd Godby Resigns	14
Prayer Calendars	15
Coming Events / WVBC Annual Meeting	16

All Pre-Convention Activities are on Thursday, October 19th with registration taking place at 9:00 AM. You can register for these activities on the WVBC Annual Meeting registration form.

Women's Day—\$6

Organized by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV, Women's Day will take place at South Parkersburg Baptist Church. This year's theme is "Engaging God Mentally & Emotionally" and the keynote speaker is Claire Cottrill. Worship will be led by Ginny Prunty and the missionary speakers will be Joyce Reed and Anita Gutierrez. 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.

Men's Day—\$25

Organized by the American Baptist Men of WV, the Men's Day activity will involve a tour of the Oil & Gas Museum in Parkersburg. This nationally recognized museum presents the intriguing history of the oil and gas industry, including how the accumulation of wealth from oil impacted West Virginia statehood. Registration is at 9:00 AM, and the shuttle will leave at 9:30 AM. After touring the museum, lunch will take place at Corner Café (included in the registration). The shuttle will return 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 event. The keynote speaker will be David Reed, Global Coordinator for Spiritual Care with International Ministries, and the topic will be "Pastoral Soul Care." Registration is at 9:00 AM and the event will start at 9:30 AM at the AMP (located directly beside the church). Lunch is included and the event will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ

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 9. Online registration will be open on wvbc.org until October 15.

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: _____

An Important Ministry Update on J.D. and Rhonda Reed

Due to health issues, J.D. and Rhonda Reed will be transitioning into new roles with International Ministries (IM) that will relocate them back to West Virginia this fall. Rhonda's health has been challenged by the high elevations of Bolivia, and J.D. is scheduled for a second cochlear implant later this year.

J.D. will continue working with the Masters in Theological Studies program, which requires him to travel to various locations across Central and South America to meet with cohorts of students. Rhonda will continue to support the work of the House of Hope in a remote capacity, as well as take on a new role with IM where she serves her colleagues in the areas of mental and physical health. This is becoming an increasingly urgent ministry.

While we are excited to see how God uses J.D. and Rhonda in this next phase of ministry, we also recognize that any transition is hard. Please pray for the entire Reed family as they move back to West Virginia. For the next several months, they will be residing at the Mission House at Parchment Valley and will be sharing more details at our WVBC Annual Meeting.

Please also note that their financial support goals will remain the same as they transition into these new roles.



J.D. and Rhonda have served with International Ministries since 2011.

Additional Global Servants at This Year's WVBC Annual Meeting:

David and Joyce Reed



David and Joyce serve as Global Coordinators for Spiritual Care to facilitate the care for personnel, a goal outlined in IM's strategic plan. Building on 20 years of ministry experience, they seek to cultivate a culture of health in which colleagues can thrive and be effective in ministry. They offer spiritual guidance, support and presence; provide workshops and retreats on self-care, soul care and community care practices; research and find resources to support spiritual growth and health; walk with colleagues through significant times of transition; and mentor global servants during their first years on the field.

Rick and Anita Gutierrez



Family doctors Rick and Anita serve in South Africa and train and equip "Health Builders" to combat lifestyle-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, heart and artery disease, diabetes and malaria in homes, schools, places of worship and marketplaces. Health Builders also receive training in fruit tree propagation, gardening, and poultry skills to help them promote good nutrition, generate income, and lead Bible study groups in their communities. They have also recently served alongside other IM medical experts in Ukraine.

Rodney Ragwan



As a Global Consultant for Theological Education, Rodney works with IM staff, global servants and international partners to promote contextually relevant theological education around the world. Building on extensive experience as a Baptist leader in Africa, as a theology professor who has mentored students from around the world, and as IM's Director of Mission Mobilization, Rodney facilitates and supports the development of training programs and resources with theological depth, cross-cultural sensitivity and heart-felt commitment to Jesus Christ.

Lea Bibbee Served as Ministry Intern at Camp Cowen

This past summer, Camp Cowen launched a new summer program: the **Young Leader Internship Program**. This innovative opportunity allowed 16-, 17- and 18-year-olds a chance to work at camp for two or more sessions during the summer. With about 20 young leaders participating during various summer sessions, camp also needed additional leadership to properly support this program's logistics.



As an intern, Lea had many early mornings and late nights, helping to serve the other young leaders.

God opened the door to partner with the **WVBC Ministry Internship Program** to bring Lea Bibbee on board as the Summer Intern for Young Leader and Staff Community Development. While her job title is likely the longest title in Camp Cowen's history, her role was invaluable to the functioning of camp. Lea worked with the young leaders to provide training, mentorship, daily check-ins and supervision. She also created fun staff experiences, such as movie and game nights, and she led our staff in a weekly Bible study in the book of Ephesians.

Lea said of her summer internship experience:

I deeply love the ministry that occurs on Cowen summer staff. Each staff member steps into a role where they are tasked with being the hands and feet of Christ to those around them all day, every day. If we're honest with ourselves, that's something we always make the effort to practice in our daily lives. Watching how each young leader rose to the occasion of the sacred work before them was such a blessing and honor. At Camp Cowen, our acts of love for campers may seem mundane from the outside, but there is beautiful worship to be found in taking care of the needs of others so that they can focus on leaning into the presence of the Lord."

Katelyn Dorsey Served as a Missionary Intern in Mexico

The **Missionary Internship Program** was created in 2019 with the goal of helping young adults explore a long-term calling to missions by providing them with three- to six-week internships alongside some of our global partners. In addition to the in-country internship, interns also receive several months of pre-internship training on topics such as missiology, culture, conflict resolution, support raising and more.

This summer, Katelyn Dorsey served for five and half weeks alongside Keith and Deborah Myers in Mexico. The following is her reflection on her internship:

The time I spent in Mexico was so impactful. My faith is changed as God helped grow me in several areas. I hope He continues to grow me in those areas and that I won't forget the impact of this experience.

I truly feel like Keith and Deborah are family to me now. The love they show for others is truly a reflection of God's love for us, and their ministry is absolutely beautiful. I'm so grateful to know them and to have experienced the work they are doing.

While in Mexico, I got to experience the preparation for and visit of three teams—two to Zongozotla and one to Haucapa. The communities and the people now have a huge place in my heart. Their faith, love and hospitality showed in every action, and I was blessed to have experienced it. I truly hope to see them again soon.



Katelyn (center) is pictured with Deborah Myers (left) and Cortney Hall (right), a 2019 WVBC Missionary Intern.

Please join us by praying for Katelyn as she discerns the next steps in her faith journey. Please also pray for the WVBC Missionary Internship Program and future interns.

Are you interested in serving as a Missionary Intern? The application for next year's program is available on the WVBC website. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by December 31st.



Camp Cowen



This year's Young Leader Interns



Pool time is fun and refreshing during free time on hot summer afternoons.



High School 2 Camp's 4-Square Tournament



Everyone loves a good Cooks' Parade.



Playing guitar during Interest Groups



With more than 30 teens, Family Camp continues to grow.



Even though it rains nearly every day, it doesn't keep us from dancing!



Over 225 men attend Men's Camp.



Campers participated in small group Bible studies.



Lots of smiles are seen around Camp all summer.

“Where people meet Jesus and grow as

Summer Recap



We celebrated our 80th year of Camp this year.



Alone time with God is important for each camper.



Lifelong friendships are formed.



Games like basketball are a camp favorite.



Interest Groups give kids the chance to learn a new skill.



This year's theme: Base Camp.



Kids love the Cabin Competitions.



Reflecting during campfire



Senior High 1 Leaders



Object lessons bring Bible stories to life.



Numerous decisions were made during campfire.



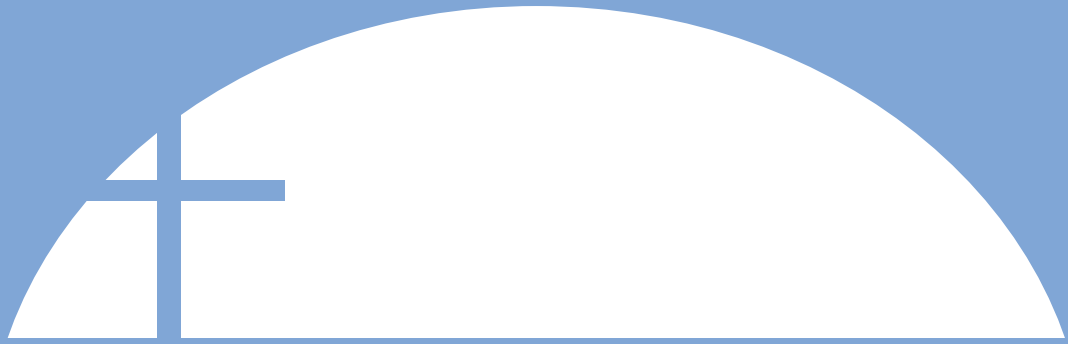
Vespers has long been a place to experience God.



Camp Cowen is a "community of faith."

His disciples in a community of faith.”

Join Us in Fulfilling the Dream



SUNNY DAY ACTIVITY CENTER — at Cowen —

THE VISION:

The vision of the Sunny Day Activity Center is to further enhance and expand the ministry of Camp Cowen to be a place “where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith.”

This started with a dream of Rob Ely and the Camp Cowen Board in 2015 to provide the much-needed space to enhance the ministry of camp. This vision has been embraced by the generous donations of many that bring us to where we are today!



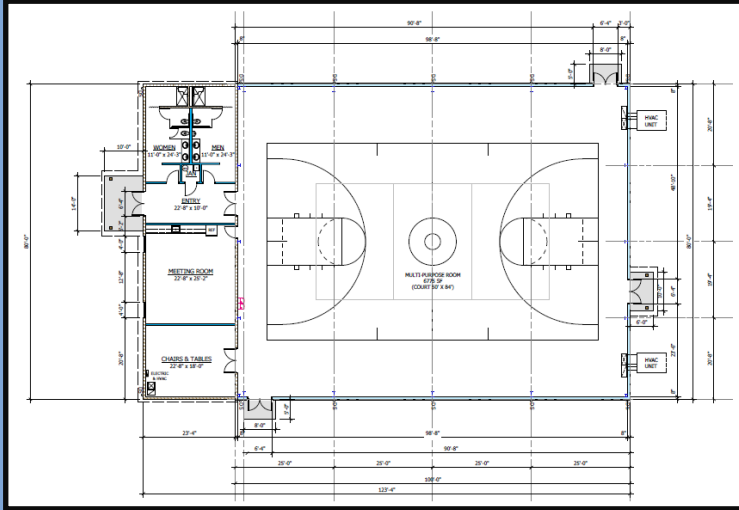
THE PUPOSE:

Building the Sunny Day Activity Center helps meet the following purpose:

- It provides a space for kids during those rainy days that seem to regularly accompany every camp.
- It provides a much needed space for large events, such as Family Camp, where there needs to be separate spaces for the various age groups.
- It gives us the opportunity to host two camps simultaneously when needed.
- It allows us to offer year-round events with a larger heated and air-conditioned venue.
- It expands the ways we can engage the local community.

THE PLAN:

The plan is for the foundation work to begin in early 2024 and the project to be completed in the fall. This will avoid major construction on-site during the busyness of summer camping season.



Remaining Goal: \$300,000

FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS:

- Gym Exterior Masonry Walls 8' - \$50,000
- Sports Equipment - \$22,000
- Sports Flooring for Gym - \$87,500
- Tile Flooring for Entrance & Restrooms - \$8,000
- Carpet for Classroom - \$2,500
- Paving the entry road and parking lot

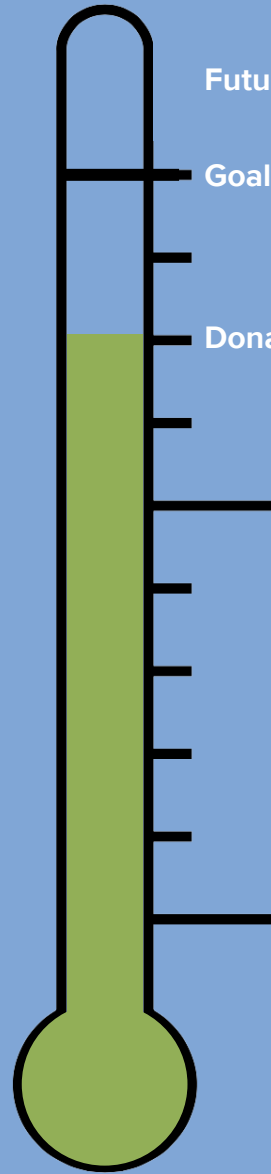


WV Baptist
Camp at **Cowen**


Future Enhancements

Goal: \$1,400,000

Donations YTD: \$1,100,000



WAYS TO GIVE:

- Send checks to the WVBC office, with "Sunny Day Activity Center" written in the memo line.
- Give online at campcowen.org/sunny-day-center or by scanning the QR code. 
- Make a stock donation or give out of your Required Minimum Distribution.



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

Parchment Valley Celebrates 87 Salvations This Summer

This has been another incredible year at our **Parchment Valley Conference Center**. Thousands of people have walked our grounds, enjoying summer camps, church retreats, family reunions, conferences, seminary classes and more. So far this year, we have hosted well over 200 events.

However, the highlight of our summer has been the fact that 87 individuals have given their lives to Christ.

Three of those individuals made that decision during a community worship service in our new **Whippoorwill Covered Campfire**. Though the summer temperatures were high, several hundred people from the community packed into the covered campfire for an afternoon of worship. After a time of singing, the gospel was shared and these individuals gave their lives to the Lord.

That is exactly the vision we had when you helped us fundraise for and build this new facility earlier in the year. Our hope was this would be another tool for God to use as we live out our mission of being a place “where lives are changed.”

We also really enjoyed our summer staff, made up of both seasoned employees and young college leaders. One of those young leaders, Garrett Keen, came to us through the



A young girl is baptized in the Parchment Valley swimming pool.

WVBC Ministry Internship Program. A sophomore at Glenville State University, Garrett preached his first sermon during this year’s Brothers’ Keeper, which also took place in the Whippoorwill Covered Campfire. Five youth gave their lives to Christ during Brothers’ Keeper and two more indicated a desire to pursue ministry. We are grateful for your support so far this year, and we are looking forward to a full schedule of fall and winter events! Be sure to come and visit!

Blessings,

Frank Miller, Parchment Valley Director of Operations

Baptist Campus Ministry: Seeking to Reach Students for Jesus!

As the temperatures cool down and the leaves begin to change, that signals two important realities: college campuses around the state are once again full with over 60,000 students, and **Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM)** is active on many of those campuses seeking to reach those students for Jesus!

The mission of BCM is “changing lives that change the world.” Below are some updates from the various campuses and some ways you can pray for each specific campus.

At **Marshall University**, we have averaged over 175 students through the first couple of weeks. We have also had nearly 100 sign up to participate in I-Teams (our version of small groups). This semester, we are studying the book of Colossians. As you pray, please pray for our student leaders and for the various campus communities we seek to engage.

At **West Virginia University**, campus-wide changes and facility closures have forced us to adapt, but our student leaders have done a tremendous job of navigating through these changes. We are now meeting on Thursday nights at 7:07 in Towers Room G58. So far this year, we have averaged around 65 students and will be launching I-Teams in the next couple of weeks. Please pray for our students as we study the books of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John this semester.

At **Fairmont State University**, we are really focusing on partnering with local churches. During the first week, Bethesda Baptist Church provided a delicious meal for our students and Charlie Chipps, pastor of New Life Ministries in Fairmont, delivered a



Students gather for BCM at West Virginia University.

challenging sermon. Through the first couple of weeks, over 20 students have been involved. Pray for our students and the churches in our area as we seek to partner together.

At **Concord University** and the **University of Charleston**, we are actively looking for BCM Associates. These two campuses have a long history with BCM, and we look forward to re-launching those ministries as soon as we have associates in place. Please pray for God to raise up individuals for these two campuses.

As you pray for these campuses, also pray for BCM at **Glenville State, Potomac State, and WVU Tech**. Please also remember the students who were at **Alderson Broaddus**, as we seek to connect them with other local BCM groups.

To learn more about BCM, visit wvbcm.com.

Join us in Prayer for This Year's Youth Leader Core

Within Christian circles, there is a growing concern in the area of leadership. In a 2013 survey, Barna researchers found that 82% of Christian adults believe the United States is facing a leadership crisis. Why did they think so? Simply put, there are not enough leaders.

The WVBC values equipping and empowering current leaders while identifying and cultivating new leaders. **Youth Leader Core (YLC)** is a vital program partnering with our local churches to identify high school students in 10th and 11th grades exhibiting leadership skills and potential. Beginning in 1978, YLC has played an integral role in advancing the goal of discipleship and leadership development, starting with our student ministries.

YLC's mission is to empower youth called and commissioned by their local church to learn about themselves, grow in their faith and discover ways to live out their beliefs and ministries. The program begins with the new school year and includes five weekends focused on discipleship, personal development, faith principles, cultivating leadership foundations and ministry moments. Former YLC participants continue to grow and serve as parents, employees and church members in various roles, such as teachers, counselors, pastors, teachers, business owners and ministry leaders.

Identifying the most essential qualities of a good leader may be challenging. Still, in YLC, we are continually reminded that our most important role is to be faithful Christ-followers. Good leaders exemplify authenticity, passion, integrity, faithfulness, servant leadership, dedication, humility, competence and more! YLC is more than a classroom setting where these skills are taught. It is a community through which these ideals are exemplified. Through the community found during a year of YLC, we are encouraged to grow in our personal discipleship as we endeavor to discover and live out our beliefs and ministries as leaders.



A couple of this year's YLC members learning about leadership skills.

This year's YLC crew represents eight different churches from within the WVBC family. While the new school year has just begun, we are excited to begin with this new crew of students. Join us in faithful prayer support for this vital program. Here are some prayer prompts for our students and leaders: community development within the group, courage for each participant, God's wisdom, steadfastness and diligence, confidence, spiritual growth and authenticity.

JUNIOR HIGH CONVENTION

November 10-12 Crab Orchard Baptist

by God in God for God
CREATED

\$40 per person until November 3

RSVP at wvbc.org/ministries/youth

Northwest Area News

by Mark McCloy, Northwest Area Minister

The Blessings of Family

A few weeks ago, I was traveling from morning worship at a church in one association to the annual meeting of a different association, and I had allotted just enough time to make it to the potluck lunch. Then suddenly, my tire blew and I did not have any time at all.

As I stood there along the road in my church clothes trying to figure out the jack provided in my trunk, I did the only thing that made sense – I called for help. Within a few minutes, two car loads of people from Mill Creek Baptist Church arrived to help change my tire and get me back on track. I am thankful for these people!

I occasionally hear people say they don't need a church to be a Christian. Others express a similar sentiment in saying their church does not need an association or a convention in order to do church. They say they can do it alone. Maybe they can, but that is not the way God intended us to function.

We are told to *"forsake not the assembling of yourselves together"* for a reason – life works better with family. We do better...we do more...we accomplish more when we work together and help each other.



This year's Good Hope Association Meeting was hosted by Hopewell Baptist Church.

Eventually, I would have managed to get back on the road, but things went smoother with family. Association season is essentially a time of family reunions – spiritual family, church family. It culminates with our WVBC Annual Meeting of the bigger family in October.

Today, I am thankful for family. I am thankful for you. I hope to see you at the reunion! And I know, one day, I will see you at the best reunion of all – the one in heaven, where *"an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away"* awaits us.

Southwest Area News

by Evan Arkell, Southwest Area Minister

Two Pastors Ordained in the Teays Valley Association

The last few months have been a busy season for the Teays Valley Association Ordination Committee and Ordination Council. On July 9th, Nitro First Baptist Church celebrated the ordination of Rev. Michael Perry. After he had met a couple of times with the Ordination Committee, they recommended that the church move forward with the Ordination Council, which was held in early June at Nitro First Baptist Church. Following a unanimous vote from the Council, they recommended that the church move forward with the ordination. At the ordination service, Southeast Area Minister, Jon Villers, a long-time mentor to Michael, delivered the sermon, and several others participated in various roles.

Pastor Sam Gasaway, Judson Baptist Church, Winfield, met with the Teays Valley Association Ordination Committee a couple of times over the summer and they recommended that the church move forward with his Ordination Council meeting. The Ordination Council met at Judson Baptist Church on August 20th and voted unanimously to move forward with the ordination service, scheduled for October 8th.

Three New Pastors Called to the Southwest Area

Over recent months, there have been three new pastors called to the southwest area of the WVBC. Back in the spring, Huntington Baptist Temple called Jeff Overstreet to be their pastor (Guyandotte Association). This summer, Anthony Lucas was called to be the pastor Standard First Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley Association) and Zeke Stepp was called as the pastor to Connolly Memorial Baptist Church (Logan-Mingo Association).



Michael and Vanessa Perry enjoying the reception following Michael's ordination service.

Northeast Area News

by David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Brett Rinehart Ordained at Elkins FBC



Pastor Brett Rinehart and David Hulme, Northeast Area Minister

Pastor Brett Rinehart was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at Elkins First Baptist Church. Participating in the service from the church included Chuck Coffman, T.R. Eidell, Joe Wolfe, Joyce Hutton, Nancy Lewis and members of the church's music ministry. Guest participants included Dr. Lloyd Hamblin, Pastor Leon Brown and Pastor Lance Linden. I was also able to represent the WVBC. A dinner followed the service.

BCM Offers Opportunities

With the start of a new school year, area churches have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of college students. One of the best ways is to get involved in Baptist Campus Ministry at a campus near you.

Led by Karla and Stan Carr, Fairmont State University BCM recently kicked off their fall gatherings. Liz and Ted Glance and Bethany Sturm from Bethesda Baptist Church provided a delicious meal and desserts. Pastor Charlie Chipps, New Life Ministries, spoke on how to lead ourselves well by being a follower of Christ.

BCM at West Virginia University has also begun. Find out how you can support one, or both, of the BCM programs in our area.



Opening night of BCM at Fairmont State.

Southeast Area News

by Jon Villers, Southeast Area Minister

Raleigh/Rockcastle Camp Celebrates 60 Years at Camp Cowen

There was a celebration at this year's Raleigh/Rockcastle Youth Camp. Celebrating their 60th year at Camp Cowen, they instituted a "hall of faith" tribute, recognizing Dewey Lowe (50 years) and Doc Adkins (40 years) for their many years of leadership given to the camp. The current leadership, under the direction of Corey Brooks, Tim Mitchem and Brad Starcher, set up a special banquet on Thursday night of their camp! Next year, they are expanding to include the Hopewell Association Youth, as well. It was a wonderful week of connecting to Jesus and His Church!



Members of the Raleigh/Rockcastle "Hall of Faith"

Fayette Association's "A Day in the Son"



Scenes from "A Day in the Son" in Oak Hill.

On August 5th, the ten churches of the Fayette Association, under the direction of Mona Goodall (Oak Hill Baptist Church), gathered at the Lewis Community Football Stadium in Oak Hill to fill the area with an outreach event to the Fayette County community. Countless hours of preparation and volunteers made for an afternoon filled with activity. Most notably seen throughout the day were the different Bible-time actors who shared their accounts from Scripture. As I serve in this role, I am so looking forward to more events like these where we are truly doing Christ's work together!

REV. CHARLES DONALD BUTCHER, 78, of Buckhannon, died on August 20, 2023. He was a member of Sand Run Baptist Church, where he previously served as pastor.

PHYLLIS JEANETTE ROBERTSON, 90, of Campus died on July 21, 2023. She was a member of Man First Baptist Church, where she served for many years alongside her late husband Rev. Clyde B. Robertson.

PAMELA L. WILT, 63, of Kingwood, died on July 19, 2023. She was a member of Kingwood Baptist Church.

Leadership Updates

JEFF OVERSTEET to Huntington Baptist Temple as pastor 4/2/2023

EZEKIEL STEPP to Connolly Memorial as pastor 8/2/2023

MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor (Part-Time)

Location: Weston area

Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Grafton area

Associate Pastor of Youth (Full-Time)

Location: Bridgeport area

Youth Pastor/Leader (Part-Time)

Location: Beckley area

Accompanist (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Student Ministries Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

Senior Pastor (Part-Time)

Location: Huntington area

Family Ministry Position (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Church Pianist (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Music Director (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Children's Ministry Director (Part-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

To learn more about any of the above positions, visit:

www.wvbc.org

WHAT WILL BE YOUR

LEGACY

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, contact **Todd McClure** at todd@wvbc.org.

Todd Godby Steps Away from Camp Cowen



Todd Godby working on Camp Cowen's new Mahindra tractor.

Todd has decided to resign from serving as Maintenance Director at Camp Cowen. While serving part-time during the winter and full-time throughout the camping season, he accomplished a great deal to improve the camp. Compliments about the physical condition of camp have come often and been very positive, and the level of organization of the buildings, tools and records is excellent.

We wish to express our gratitude for all the hard work he has done over these many months. Todd has a true heart for ministry and a calling to preach and teach God's Word. Please join us in praying for Todd and Angela as they seek the Lord's direction for their next chapter of ministry.

Prayer Calendars

October 2023

OCTOBER 1 – Tracie Emerick, WVBC Discipleship, Outreach and Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies Administrative Assistant
OCTOBER 2 – The ministry of Stump Chapel Baptist Church; Teddy Legg, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
OCTOBER 3 – Deborah Myers, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 4 – The ministry of Racine First Baptist Church; Anthony Pratt, pastor (Coal River Association)
OCTOBER 5 – The ministry of Scarbro First Baptist Church; Kenny Smith, pastor (Fayette Association)
OCTOBER 6 – The ministry of Mount Jackson Baptist Church; Brad Starcher, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
OCTOBER 7 – The WVBC Executive Board/Commissions Meetings happening today at Parchment Valley
OCTOBER 8 – Patti Long, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 9 – The ministry of Big Tygart Baptist Church; Kent Lowther, interim pastor (Parkersburg Association)
OCTOBER 10 – The ministry of Sand Fork Baptist Church; Tony Conrad, pastor (Little Kanawha Association)
OCTOBER 11 – Darrell Mayfield, chair 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 BCM Retreat happening this weekend at Camp Cowen
OCTOBER 15 – Jon Good, International Ministries Global Servant to Hungary
OCTOBER 16 – The ministry of Marmet First Baptist Church; Tom Burnside, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
OCTOBER 17 – Nelson Fisher, Lead Maintenance at Parchment Valley Conference Center
OCTOBER 18 – The ministry of Forks of Cheat Baptist Church; Charles Bowers, pastor (Goshen Association)
OCTOBER 19 – The WVBC Annual Meeting beginning today at South Parkersburg Baptist Church
OCTOBER 20 – Greg Boso, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
OCTOBER 21 – The ministry of Weston First Baptist Church; Mark Evans, pastor (Broad Run Association)
OCTOBER 22 – The ministry of Mill Creek Baptist Church; Robert Keen, pastor (Good Hope Association)
OCTOBER 23 – The ministry of Lansing Baptist Church; Kenneth Hayes, pastor (Hopewell Association)
OCTOBER 24 – The ministry of Comunidad Luz Y Vida; Moises Saravia, pastor (Eastern Association)
OCTOBER 25 – Don Nestor, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
OCTOBER 26 – The ministry of Cairo Baptist Church; Waifford “Pudge” Wolfe, pastor (Harrisville Association)
OCTOBER 27 – Jonathan Villers, Southeast Area Minister, WVBC
OCTOBER 28 – The ministry of Everson Baptist Church; Robert Tennant, pastor (Fairmont Association)
OCTOBER 29 – The ministry of Beulah Ann Baptist Church; Gregory Lunsford, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
OCTOBER 30 – Roselee Copenhaver, 2nd Vice President and member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
OCTOBER 31 – The ministry of Bridgeport Baptist Church; Rodney Kittle, pastor (Judson Association)

November 2023

NOVEMBER 1 – Christy Lafferty, International Ministries Global Servant to Nicaragua
NOVEMBER 2 – Jeni Pedzinski, International Ministries Director of Mission Mobilization
NOVEMBER 3 – The ministry of Highland Avenue Baptist Church (Rockcastle Association)
NOVEMBER 4 – The Fall Children’s Rally happening today at Parchment Valley
NOVEMBER 5 – The ministry of Sabraton Hill Baptist Church; Stephen Dodrill, pastor (Goshen Association)
NOVEMBER 6 – The ministry of Petersburg First Baptist Church; Shannon Earle, pastor (Eastern Association)
NOVEMBER 7 – The ministry of Matewan Baptist Church; Carl Butler, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
NOVEMBER 8 – The ministry of Shinnston First Baptist Church; Kevin Nuzum, pastor (Judson Association)
NOVEMBER 9 – The ministry of Big Hurricane Missionary Baptist Church; Anthony Perry, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
NOVEMBER 10 – The ministry of Bethesda Baptist Church; David Cyphers, pastor (Fairmont Association)
NOVEMBER 11 – Remember our Veterans who have served our country so faithfully
NOVEMBER 12 – The ministry of Anchor Bible Church; Lance Linden, pastor (Little Kanawha Association)
NOVEMBER 13 – The ministry of Sand Run Baptist Church; Gregory Miller, pastor (Broad Run Association)
NOVEMBER 14 – The ministry of Barboursville Baptist Church; Monty Foster, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
NOVEMBER 15 – The ministry of Lubeck Community Baptist Church; Chad Mugrage, pastor (Parkersburg Association)
NOVEMBER 16 – Stan Slade, International Ministries Global Consultant
NOVEMBER 17 – The ministry of Grass Lick Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)
NOVEMBER 18 – The ministry of Hope Baptist Church; Rich Demastus, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 19 – The ministry of Gatewood Baptist Church; Harry Fuller, pastor (Fayette Association)
NOVEMBER 20 – The ministry of Flint Chapel Baptist Church; Jim Anderson, interim pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
NOVEMBER 21 – The ministry of Valley Bend Baptist Church; Joseph Bowen, pastor (Union Association)
NOVEMBER 22 – Jillene Narraway, WVBC Director of Camping and Youth
NOVEMBER 23 – The ministry of Clendenin First Baptist Church; Joe Seese, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 24 – Count your blessings...name them one by one!
NOVEMBER 25 – The ministry of Wellsburg First Baptist Church; Jared Jimenez, pastor (Panhandle Association)
NOVEMBER 26 – Alemla Ao, International Ministries Global Servant to India
NOVEMBER 27 – The ministry of Olive Branch Baptist Church; Stuart Stover, pastor (Hopewell Association)
NOVEMBER 28 – The ministry of Providence Baptist Church; Benjamin Simmons, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 29 – Christina Muteyo, International Ministries Global Servant to Zimbabwe
NOVEMBER 30 – Teresa Miller, 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 6**
WVBC Executive Committee
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- October 7**
WVBC Executive Board
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- October 13-15**
BCM Fall Retreat
Camp Cowen
- October 18**
AB Women's Ministries Board Meeting
South Parkersburg Baptist Church
- October 19-20**
WVBC Annual Meeting
South Parkersburg Baptist Church
- October 28**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Ministerial Ethics (Mod-02)
Parchment Valley Conference Center

NOVEMBER

- November 4**
Fall Children's Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- November 10-11**
AB Women's Ministries Board Meeting
Parchment Valley Conference Center
- November 10-12**
Junior High Convention
Crab Orchard Baptist Church
- November 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Teacher Training (M-03)
Online
- November 15**
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Baptism & Communion (E-06)
Online

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..

PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102;
304-422-6449, US Postage Paid at
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Executive Minister: Dr. Michael Sisson
Editor/Layout: Mr. Todd McClure
Assistant Editor: Mrs. Ginny Prunty

West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102-1019

Fall Children's Rally

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

Saturday, November 4, 2023

At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



Cost: \$14 (or \$26 after October 16th)

Register today at www.wvbc.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permitting No. 36
Parkersburg, WV