

The West Virginia Baptist Newsletter


October—November 2024

Wow, You Won't Want to Miss This!


**159TH
ANNUAL
MEETING
OF OUR WVBC FAMILY**

October 17-18 Calvary Baptist Church





**Register
Online
Now**



Keynote Speaker: Bill Mowry

Fall is upon us and the leaves are changing. That must mean it is that time of year again – the **Annual Meeting of our wonderful Convention Family!**

This year comes with a bonus as the Annual Meeting will be held at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Hill, WV, on October 17-18. The church is located in one of the most beautiful spots in WV to enjoy the fall colors, including the overlooks at the New River Gorge Bridge just minutes away.

I would love for you to join us this year as we worship, sing, fellowship, learn and celebrate the amazing things God is doing in and through our Convention family!

Since our last gathering, we have collectively prayed about and explored ways to better engage our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These new ways of sharing Jesus have included churches following the example of Jesus who ate with sinners as an effective way of reaching them. Matthew recounts:

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 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 9:10-13).

Churches often call this new approach simply, "The Table." One church that has been offering The Table to those outside the church is Spencer First Baptist. Every Monday evening, the doors open to a crowd that comes hungry to hear about Jesus, experience the power of prayer, enjoy rich fellowship within their

newfound Christian community and feast on a delicious meal. Pastor Mark Wood shared, "Dinner Church has provided us with an opportunity to feed (spiritually and physically) individuals in our community we have previously been unable to reach. It has also provided an avenue of meaningful service for our congregations."

Cook Memorial Baptist in Pineville has also been following this model of ministry. "I see several things happening through The Table," said Chuck Cook, pastor at Cook Memorial. "First, people who won't come to a traditional church are coming and connecting. They are finding a family and a sense of belonging. Second, people are finding opportunities to serve without having to be 'up front' leading or teaching. Third, there are people who don't have enough food who are getting fed. Lastly, all who attend are spiritually being fed; both by the Jesus stories and by the people who are sharing and showing His love."

This year's theme will be **Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ** with an emphasis on "for Christ." We are excited to have keynote speaker Bill Mowry with us this year. Recently, Bill has spent much of the summer in Kenya teaching on leadership and discipleship. Many of our Convention folk are familiar with the excellent resources Bill has written on successful ways of being and making disciples of Jesus Christ! A few include *The Ways of the Leader*, *Walk With Me*, *The Ways of the Alongsider* and *Crockpot Disciplemaking*. Along with the keynote addresses, Bill will be speaking at the Pastors4Pastors event on Thursday and offering a workshop between his keynotes on Friday.

These are just a sampling of the exciting things in this year's gathering! Please plan to join us!

**Blessings,
Mike Sisson, Executive Minister**

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!



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



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All Pre-Convention Activities are on Thursday, October 17th with registration taking place at 9:00 AM. You can register for these activities on the WVBC Annual Meeting registration form.

Women's Day—\$10

Organized by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV, this year's theme is "Bridge to Joyous Living" and the keynote speakers are the ABWM Mexico Mission Team. Worship will be led by Ginny Prunty 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.

Men's Day—\$35

Organized by the American Baptist Men of WV, the Men's Day activity will involve a New River Jet Boat Tour at Hawks Nest State Park. During this two-hour tour, you will travel upstream where you will take in spectacular views of the New River Gorge and the New River Gorge Bridge.

Registration is at 9:00 AM and departure is scheduled for 9:30 AM. Lunch at Hawks Nest State Park Lodge is included and the event will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.

Pastors4Pastors Event—\$25

Organized by Pastors4Pastors, all pastors from across the WVBC family are invited to join at Oak Hill Baptist Church for this special event. The keynote speaker will be Bill Mowry (also the keynote for our WVBC Annual Meeting), and the two topics will be "Living as a Disciple-Making Pastor" and "Building a Disciple-Making Culture."

Registration is at 9:00 AM, followed by the start of the program at Oak Hill Baptist at 9:30 AM. Shuttles will be available from Calvary Baptist. Lunch is included and the program 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 7. Online registration will be open on wvbc.org until October 13.

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 (\$35)

_____ American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV (\$10)

_____ 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: _____

CICEM Churches Gather for their Tri-Annual National Assembly in Mexico

*Written by Keith Myers, Global Servant,
International Ministries*

In the tapestry of our lives, the threads of yesterday, today and tomorrow are intricately woven together by the hand of God. Our journey of faith is enriched when we take time to reflect on God's past faithfulness, recognize His presence in our current circumstances and trust Him for the future. A promise that we can rest in is that our savior, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). This was the posture of worship taken during the final weekend of August, when the 35 churches of CICEM gathered for their Tri-Annual National Assembly in the Sierra Norte de Puebla, Mexico. CICEM is the organization that Deb and I have partnered with in Mexico for the past 11 years.

The theme verse was Romans 12:2. The first evening was a sweet time of fellowship, where we celebrated the past and gathered for worship, hearing the Word of God preached by a CICEM founder Lázaro González Domínguez. Looking back, we were reminded of God's faithfulness. In moments of triumph and trials alike, He has been our steady guide and protector. We recalled the times when He answered prayers, provided comfort and gave us strength. We were encouraged to continue to tell the stories of God's past faithfulness.

The second day was spent in workshops focused on the present movement of the Holy Spirit in spiritual formation, our cultural recognition and understanding the Word of God. The intention was to reveal how presently God is actively working in our lives. Participants were challenged to see God in the everyday



Church representatives at CICEM's Tri-Annual National Assembly

moments, such as through the kindness of a friend, the beauty of creation or the quiet whisper of encouragement. We were reminded in current experiences that He is with us, guiding and sustaining us.

The last two days were a time of looking to the future for CICEM. As we looked forward, we were reminded to face the future with hope and confidence, knowing that the same God who was faithful yesterday and is present today will also be with us tomorrow.

Deb and I are truly blessed to be part of this organization here in Mexico. We are also grateful for our partnership with the churches of the WVBC. You have been an intricate part of the ministry here in Mexico in the past and the present. As we anticipate the future, may our hearts forever be anchored in the promises and spirit of God.

Pray for the Depth and Width of Christ to Overflow in Japan

*Written by Sarah McCloy, Global Servant,
International Ministries*

During Shokei Church's bilingual children's ministry, I sometimes teach the kids new worship songs in English. Their recent favorite has been the children's song "Deep and Wide." The kids love to sing the simple Japanese translation of the lyrics — "fukai, hiroi, fukai, hiroi" — with a silly smile and a giggle. Then I usually ask if they remember the English version, and we'll sing "Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide."

It's a song with easy words and fun motions. But more than that, it is a song about God's love. God is an infinite fountain of love — deep and wide enough to cover the entire world. The work of the Shokei Kids' Ministry is to share a small piece of that overflowing and all-encompassing love with children here in Sendai so that they will grow up knowing that Jesus loves them.

Everything I do here in Japan I do with the conviction that, as a missionary, I am called to share the love of Jesus Christ. It permeates everything I do, not just the work with Shokei Kids. When I tutor young adults in English conversation, it's about the love of Christ. When I encourage a fellow Christian in their difficult faith journey, it's about the love of Christ. When I offer counsel to a friend, it's about the love of Christ. When I pray or preach at local

churches, it's about the love of Christ. Even when I study for my Japanese class, it's about the love of Christ because I want to speak to people about Jesus in the language of their hearts.

Please pray with me for the people of Japan. In a country where very few people have experienced the love of Jesus Christ (only 1.5% of Japanese are Christian), pray that the depth and width of Christ's overflowing love will be felt.



Some of the congregation outside Shokei Church

Prayer Updates from J.D. and Rhonda Reed

*Written by Rhonda Reed, Global Servant,
International Ministries*

I have been continuously reminded of how God has made us to live in relationship with Him and those around us. Community is important. The relationships we make throughout our lives are woven into threads that make a tapestry larger and more beautiful than we can imagine. I feel like these threads have made a large, comfortable, sit by the fire, blanket for us. We have been “wrapped up” and cared for by our community of faith. I could fill up the WVBC newsletter with the many ways God has provided for us during this difficult time.

For those who have not heard, JD was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) at the end of May. He had stopped teaching in the Master’s in Theological Studies program at the end of April. He officially went on long-term disability from IM on September 1st. His health has deteriorated quickly. We ask that you continue to pray for him and our family. ALS is a cruel disease.

I continue to work with the member care team at IM to care for our colleagues while they serve around the world. David and Joyce Reed are also part of the member care team. They will be joining us at the WVBC Annual Meeting next month and staying with us for a few weeks afterward to work on plans/goals for IM’s member care and to provide emotional support for JD.

The House of Hope continues with their medical and dental clinics. I would ask that you pray for one of our physicians, Maria. She has been a part of the mobile medical teams for over ten



The House of Hope hosting a medical clinic

years. She had cancer surgery last week and is recovering. We are praying the surgery was able to remove the cancer, and that she will not need further treatment.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We have felt loved by the WVBC family. Words are not adequate to express our appreciation.

Iraq: Endurance of a Church Across Generations

*Written by Dan Chetti, Global Servant,
International Ministries*



Pastor Ara is one of 29 servants supported through Enduring Love.

The prayer one often hears by the beleaguered and hard-pressed followers of Jesus in the Middle East is: “How long do we have to endure such suffering, Lord?” Christianity existed in Iraq uninterrupted for the past 2,000 years! At one time, there were 1.5 million Christians living in Iraq, out of a total population of 40 million. But with wars and brutal persecutions by Al Qaeda and ISIS, the Christian population in Iraq has been reduced to just 225,000 people.

The continual existence of the Church in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq, is a topic of great concern for many. We may have our own thoughts and perspectives on it, but at the end of the day, it comes down to those courageous champions of faith who are choosing to remain in their countries to make an impact.

Ara and his congregation from the First Baptist Church in Baghdad are praying for the light of the gospel to shine, and the power of Jesus to transform their communities. Ara encourages his members to stay focused on Jesus, witness of His power without fear and remain in Iraq.

While Ara serves as the pastor, his wife Noura has a very successful ministry among the young people. She is a leader of the Awana ministry not just in her own church, but all across Iraq.

The year 2024 is a very significant year for Ara and his congregation, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishing of the First Baptist Church in Baghdad. Although his church is not yet officially recognized by the Iraqi government, Ara feels that the path toward recognition is continuing to move forward. He is hopeful that legally recognizing the evangelical churches as part of the body of Christ in Iraq will eventually happen! This should also be our prayers for the beleaguered believers of the First Baptist Church in Iraq!

Among the other things to celebrate this year, we celebrate a new church that was planted by Pastor Ara in Dahouk, north of Baghdad, in the region of Kurdistan. Once again, it is also the first Baptist church in Kurdistan.

Ara is one of 29 Arab servants who are supported through Enduring Love, a ministry that focuses on church planting and discipleship across the Middle East and North Africa. Dan Chetti is the founder and director, and Todd McClure serves as the associate director. To learn how you or your church can get involved, contact Todd at todd@wvbc.org.

Baptist Campus Ministry is Thriving on Nine Campuses Across the State



Students gather for worship at Marshall's BCM.

Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) is thriving across nine campuses with a renewed sense of excitement for the new academic year.

Each campus works to embody the mission of "*changing lives...*" where students are encouraged to discover, desire and pursue a personal relationship with Jesus. The second part of BCM's mission ("*...that change the world*") is to help students use their God-given talents and skills to impact the world around them.

"All of our campuses are growing in numbers," says Kevin Sions, Northern Director of BCM. "We believe this is a direct result of the students building relationships and creating community through the love of Christ."

At Concord University, new associate Laurie Starcher says, "Our first two meetings have been wonderful. We have had around 12 students, and they have been excited and attentive."

"We have grown both in number and in the depth of our faith!" says Karla Carr, associate at Fairmont State. "We have seven committed leaders providing Bible study in small groups this semester. Three are also going to teach on a Bible character in our weekly devotion."

BCM at the University of Charleston recently started meeting again. "We gained another student, so we are up to ten!" says Lori James, the new associate at UC. "I asked them for a take-away. They offered that we need to trust God at all times and that we need to follow Him no matter what."

To see the full list of meeting times and locations, or to learn how you can support the ministry of BCM, visit wvbcm.com.

Parchment Valley Continues to Be a Place "Where Lives are Changed"

The mission of **Parchment Valley Conference Center** is to be a place "where lives are changed." So far this year, we are celebrating the fact that 102 lives have been forever changed! Praise be to the Lord!

Our weekdays may now be a little quieter with students back in school, but we are still blessed to be hosting various retreats, prayer summits and numerous other events. In total, Parchment Valley is on track to host more than 300 events this year.

We are currently making updates to the foyer of our Santrock Education Building. The next time you visit, you will notice a new coat of paint. We are also anticipating the arrival of new window treatments and beautiful furniture in the weeks ahead.

New benches are under construction at the Grapevine Chapel. If you haven't taken a walk to that location, I encourage you to do so this fall. It is a very beautiful and easy walk, and it is a great time of reflection and prayer. Recently, upgrades were made with new post and wind chimes, which are there in memory of the missionaries martyred in the Philippines. The chapel is a replica of Hopevail Chapel, the same chapel these missionaries were serving during the time of their death.

This fall and winter, we will continue with the upgrades to the lodges. We recently installed motion-activated porch lights for our guests who arrive later in the evening. Our next plan is to paint the bedrooms and add LED lighting. Upgrades will also continue into the lower lodge rooms as time goes on. Many thanks to an anonymous donor who has graciously sponsored this project!

The Whippoorwill Covered Campfire is in the final stages of completing the last section of concrete, which will make this



Parchment Valley hosted the Fall Golden'eers Retreat September 9-11.

facility fully handicap accessible. Again, thank you to another donor for the funds to complete this concrete project! Many dedicated volunteers have blessed Parchment Valley for decades. At this time, we would like to say a special thank you to a few of our local volunteers who have recently had to step away from their roles:

- Tom and Carol Dale from Spencer Baptist Church have faithfully volunteered on Fridays and with Brothers' Keeper for many years.
- Sue Hamric has faithfully volunteered on Wednesdays and has also helped with several hours of computer work at her home.

Parchment Valley could not be where we are today without the incredible dedication of many faithful servants. They are the reason why we are able to be a place "where lives are changed."

SUNNY DAY ACTIVITY CENTER — at Cowen —

We are in the final stages of our campaign to build the **Sunny Day Activity Center**.
With the project set to finish in November, we only have \$85,000 left to raise!

Join us in fulfilling the dream to add a new tool for Camp Cowen—
"where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith."

Construction Updates



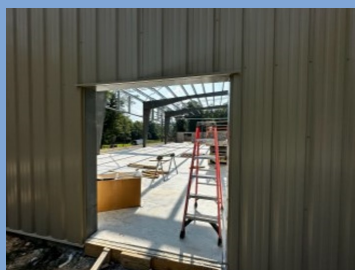
Aug 9: Construction resumes



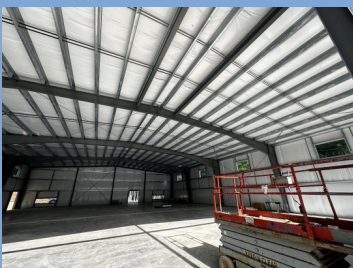
Aug 16: Building structure erected



Aug 23: Masonry walls started



Aug 30: Wall panels installed



Sept 6: Roof and walls installed



Sept 13: Interior work has begun





1,710 camps
384 summer
97 salvation
150 rede
17 calls to



*Where people meet
His disciples in a co*

wen 2024



*"Be on your guard;
stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be
strong. Do everything
in love."*

-1 Corinthians 16: 13-14



campers
r volunteers
vations
dications
o ministry



*Jesus and grow as
community of faith*



Charles Hinzman Completes His Ministry Internship

*Written by Casey Dawson, Senior Pastor,
Sunrise Baptist Church*

Sunrise Baptist Church was blessed to have Charles Hinzman as our 2024 Ministry Intern this summer. As this was our first year hosting an intern, we were not sure what to expect. However, Charles proved quickly to be an asset. SBC was able to provide Charles with the following opportunities:

- Preach on numerous occasions
- Sit in on leadership planning meetings
- Work with the youth
- Participate in hospital visitations
- Assist with outreach events

When asked about his experience, Charles said, “The church provided me with several unique experiences, including doing outreaches in the city park and also walking the neighborhood around the church to invite people to church.”

Sunrise valued not only Charles and his time with us, but also the wisdom this young man brought with an “outside” perspective and experience. I would like to encourage other churches and pastors to seize the opportunity to host a Ministry Intern in the coming years. You may not believe you have much to offer, but I guarantee that with an open and willing heart, the Lord will help

shape our future leaders. Lean in to helping our upcoming pastors and church leaders.



Charles speaking at the Little Kanawha Association's annual meeting.

Pastor Charles has experienced four summers in our internship program, each at a different church. He is a graduate of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies and is currently enrolled in the M.Div. program of Palmer Theological Seminary. Charles was recently called as the pastor of Leading Creek Baptist Church and is working through the ordination process.

Ministry Internship Program

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 a mentor for a summer-long internship. Internships are customizable to the interests of the applicant, but include pastoral ministry, youth ministry, worship ministry, communications or intercultural ministry.



To apply for next year's program—or to request an intern for your church—visit wvbc.org or scan the QR code above.

Fourteen Students Participating in This Year's YLC

The purpose of the WVBC's **Youth Leader Core (YLC)** 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."

Since its establishment in 1978, YLC has been a trusted and reliable staple of WVBC life. This training program is focused on discipleship, personal awareness, faith principles, leadership development and ministry skills.

YLC is vital to growing strong leaders within the WVBC. Together, we equip 10th and 11th graders to learn, grow and discover more about the Lord, who He created them to be and their role in the

local church. In a world filled with competing voices, YLC approaches an understanding of identity, personality, talents and calling from a God-centered, Biblically-based perspective.

Training occurs during five weekends from August through March. Sessions include instruction, experiential learning and team building. But the power of YLC comes in the work students do between sessions, as they work with an advocate in their local church to process, practice and apply the teachings in real-life ministry settings.

This school year, YLC has 14 students participating from nine WVBC churches. Please join us by praying for these students.



The first YLC weekend was hosted at Camp Cowen.



YLC students participating in a Bible study.

SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION



TEACH ME YOUR
Paths
PSALM 25: 4-5

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston

November 8-10

Grades 9-12

\$40 per person until October 25th

Join us for a weekend of worship,
Bible study, fellowship, and fun!

Register at
wvbc.org/ministries/youth

Northwest Area News

by **Mark McCloy**, Northwest Area Minister

Opportunities Abound!

“...understand what the will of the Lord is.”

- Ephesians 5:17b

Knowing what God wants is important. Certainly part of what he wants is for his children to both work and gather together, and that is what this season is all about. Homecomings, family reunions and association meetings are happening all over the state. It is a time for renewing old friendships and to be “encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” The WVBC Annual Meeting is soon upon us, and I hope to see you then!

In the meantime, I would like to congratulate Leading Creek Baptist Church (Little Kanawha) on calling their new pastor, Charles Hinzman. I also congratulate New Hope Baptist (Parkersburg) on the ordination of their pastor, Troy Nesselrode. Several other candidates are making their way through the ordination process in both the Parkersburg and Little Kanawha associations. We will keep you updated on those.

Each of my associations – Harrisville, Little Kanawha, Good Hope, Parkersburg and Panhandle – have successfully held their annual



Troy Nesselrode and family at his ordination council.

meetings. The *Leading People* class of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies is currently being offered in Harrisville and Glenville, and it will also be offered later this fall in Parkersburg. The Good Hope Association is taking a mission trip to Kentucky next month. Opportunities for learning, fellowship, working and renewing relationships abound.

Southwest Area News

by **Evan Arkell**, Southwest Area Minister

Coal River Association Annual Picnic

On Sunday, August 11, 2024, the Coal River Association held their annual picnic at Danville First Baptist Church's outdoor pavilion. This gathering on a bright, sunny Lord's Day turned out to be a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and, of course, great home-cooked food! (Except for the delicious fried chicken that came from Kroger.) The varying genres of lively worship music were led by several different folks from churches around the association as we worshiped our Lord Jesus in song. Pastor Josh Clay, Olive Missionary Baptist Church, delivered a powerful sermon to a crowd that was larger than the association picnic had seen in quite some time. The music and sermon were then followed by a time of food and catching up around the table. A total of five Coal River churches were represented at the picnic.



A group picture during the annual picnic.

Emmanuel Baptist Church Celebrates Pastor Don Biram and Family

On Sunday, August 18, 2024, Emmanuel Baptist Church (Kanawha Valley Association), located on the west side of Charleston, celebrated the five-year anniversary of Don Biram as their pastor. The church demonstrated their understanding that ministry is a family commitment as they called Don, his wife Cindy and their children to the stage to be recognized and shown appreciation for their service and dedication. The time of worship was a nice arrangement of blended music, all leading to the worship and praise of Christ our King. Pastor Don delivered an engaging sermon and, even though it was his anniversary celebration, he gave each person in the congregation the gift of a bookmark to remind each one that “God Loves You.” Following the worship service, a delicious meal was served to continue the day's celebration around the table.



Pastor Don with some of his family at the reception.

Northeast Area News

by Kevin Sions, Northeast Area Minister

North Shinnston Baptist Celebrates Their 100th Anniversary

During the weekend, August 2nd-4th, North Shinnston Baptist Church (Judson) celebrated 100 years of ministry. Through worship, fellowship and story-telling, the church reflected on their past while also being mindful of the present. Building upon their past foundation, the church continues to serve God and their community. Pastor Mathew Keith and the congregation at North Shinnston are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this historic anniversary.



Mike Sisson presenting a certificate to Pastor Mathew Keith.

Ordination of Pastor Moises Saravia

An ordination service for Pastor Moises Saravia at Comunidad Luz Y Vida (Eastern) in Moorefield, WV, was held on August 4th. Pastor Moises has been serving as pastor at Comunidad Luz Y Vida for five years. Several area pastors, along with retired area minister David Hulme, participated in the service. The church continues to minister in the community as Pastor Moises serves and leads.

Belington FBC Starts a Dinner Church

Belington First Baptist Church (Union) started their dinner church on July 9th and have continued every Tuesday at 6pm in the community civic center. Pastor Julie Miller and the congregation have come together to serve the community of Belington. Serving alongside one another through hosting a dinner church has brought the congregation closer together.



Dinner celebration at North Shinnston Baptist Church.

Southeast Area News

by Jon Villers, Southeast Area Minister

Little Laurel's Backpack Ministry

We bring you greetings from the Southeast Region of the West Virginia Baptist Convention! Come take a journey with me to Richwood, WV. Pastor Ricky Bragg and the congregation of Little Laurel Baptist Church are doing a God-sized Mission!



One of the bags provided by Little Laurel Baptist Church.

Let me introduce you to the Backpack Ministry at Little Laurel Baptist Church, which focuses on providing elementary children with easy-to-prepare meals for the weekend. Approximately 265 backpacks are packed each Thursday (sometimes Wednesday) for around 25 weeks of the year and are delivered to three area schools: Cherry River Elementary, Gauley River Elementary and Panther Creek Elementary. The backpacks contain a variety of food items, including breakfast items like cereal and oatmeal packs, lunch items such as ramen noodles and tuna packs, dinner options like tomato soup and ravioli, snacks like fruit cups and cheese sticks, and a drink. Each backpack costs around \$5 to produce, totaling \$1,325 per week and \$39,750 per year.

The ministry's goal is to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals even when not in school. This is accomplished with tremendous community support and generous donors in sustaining this initiative. By providing these meals, the ministry aims to make a positive impact on the lives of children in the area. Through the support of donors and the blessings of the Good Lord, the ministry can continue its mission of addressing food insecurity among elementary school children. This is one of many stories of how our churches live out their dedication in its efforts to serve in the community God has placed them.

EDWARD EARL GARRETT, 76, of Weston, died on July 31, 2024. He was a member of Freeman's Creek Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and Sunday School superintendent.

ROBERT THEODORE "TED" ROGERS, 90, of Hinton, died on August 1, 2024. He was a member of Fairview Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon, treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

JOSEPHINE ALESA SCOTT, 90, of Weirton, died on July 8, 2024. She was a member of Weirton Heights Memorial Baptist Church, where she sang in the choir, served as a Sunday School teacher and took part in the Pairs and Spares class.

MYRON JACK SEESE, II, 73, of Hundred, died on July 17, 2024. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday School teacher and trustee.

HELEN A. SMITH, 80, of Mineral Wells, died on August 22, 2024. She was a member of Big Tygart Baptist Church, where she served as a clerk and Sunday School teacher.

WILMA JEAN "JEANIE" DOTSON TAYLOR, 78, of Center Point, died on July 27, 2024. She was a member of Welcome Baptist Church, where she served as treasurer for 42 years.

JOANN STRATTON WANAMAKER, 93, of Fairmont, died on July 12, 2024. She was the widow of Dr. John Wanamaker, former WVBC Area Minister. In the churches they served, she served as a Sunday School teacher, ABWM officer and sang in the choir.

Leadership Updates

PATRICK HUFFMAN to Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association) as co-youth pastor 1/1/2024

SHANE PICHA to Crab Orchard Baptist Church (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association) as co-youth pastor 1/1/2024

GARY MCCLUNG to Springdale First Baptist Church (Hopewell Association) as pastor 5/5/2024

TIMOTHY REDDEN to Welch First Baptist Church (Rockcastle Association) as pastor 7/14/2024

MINISTRY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the work our Area Ministers do to help churches fill ministry positions, we also created a job posting page on our website to help further advertise those positions. All postings are generic in location to allow our staff to properly vet applicants before referring them to our churches.

Minister to Youth (Part-Time)

Location: Milton area

Lead Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Rainelle area

Director of Music (Part-Time)

Location: Beckley area

Pastor of Student Ministries (Full-Time)

Location: Hurricane area

Youth Director (Part-Time)

Location: Marion County

Senior Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Senior Pastor (Part-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

Pastor to Youth (Part-Time)

Location: Jackson County

Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Barbour County

Student Ministries Pastor (Full-Time)

Location: Parkersburg area

Senior Pastor (Part-Time)

Location: Huntington area

Church Pianist (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area

Music Director (Part-Time)

Location: Charleston area



Are you interested in exploring a long-term calling to missions?

The Missionary Internship Program is a customizable 3-6 week internship that allows you to come alongside one of our global mission partners. In addition to international experience, you will also participate in several training events on the topics of mission theology, culture, conflict resolution and much, much more.

Learn more at wvbc.org

To learn more about any of the above positions, or to have your church's position advertised, visit:

wvbc.org

October 2024

OCTOBER 1 – Tracie Emerick, WVBC Outreach and Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies administrative assistant
OCTOBER 2 – The ministry of Hope Baptist Church; Richard Demastus, pastor (Elk Valley Association)
OCTOBER 3 – Debbie Myers, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 4 – The ministry of Olive Baptist Church; Joshua Clay, pastor (Coal River Association)
OCTOBER 5 – The WVBC Executive Board/Commissions Meetings happening today at Parchment Valley
OCTOBER 6 – The ministry of Old Greenbrier Baptist Church; Derek Hall, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
OCTOBER 7 – The ministry of Matewan Baptist Church; Carl Butler, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
OCTOBER 8 – Patti Long, International Ministries Global Servant to Mexico
OCTOBER 9 – The ministry of Zion Baptist Church; Lisa Grays, pastor (Parkersburg Association)
OCTOBER 10 – The ministry of Leading Creek Baptist Church (Little Kanawha Association)
OCTOBER 11 – Karla Carr, vice chair of the WVBC Leadership Commission and BCM Associate at Fairmont State
OCTOBER 12 – Jonathan Nambu, International Ministries Global Servant to the Philippines
OCTOBER 13 – Kihomi Ngwemi, International Ministries Global Servant to the Dominican Republic and Haiti
OCTOBER 14 – The ministry of Mount Hope Baptist Temple; Delmas Wolfe, pastor (Fayette Association)
OCTOBER 15 – Jon Good, International Ministries Global Servant to Hungary
OCTOBER 16 – The ministry of Genesis Fellowship; Rick Pursley, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
OCTOBER 17 – Nelson Fisher, Maintenance Director at Parchment Valley Conference Center
OCTOBER 18 – The WVBC Annual Meeting happening today at Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill
OCTOBER 19 – The ministry of Forks of Cheat Baptist Church; Charles Bowers, pastor (Goshen Association)
OCTOBER 20 – Caleb Villers, Camp Cowen Board chair and member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
OCTOBER 21 – The ministry of Point Pleasant Baptist Church; Carl Radcliff, pastor (Broad Run Association)
OCTOBER 22 – The ministry of Parchment Valley Baptist Church; Matt Ash, pastor (Good Hope Association)
OCTOBER 23 – The ministry of Dixie First Baptist Church (Hopewell Association)
OCTOBER 24 – The ministry of Jordan Run Baptist Church; Rick Bergdoll, pastor (Eastern Association)
OCTOBER 25 – Mark Shaffer, AB Men President and member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
OCTOBER 26 – The ministry of North Fork Baptist Church; Darrell Farley, pastor (Harrisville Association)
OCTOBER 27 – Jonathan Villers, Southeast Area Minister, WVBC
OCTOBER 28 – The ministry of Worthington Baptist Church; Everett Palmer, pastor (Fairmont Association)
OCTOBER 29 – The ministry of New Baptist Church; Trent Eastman, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
OCTOBER 30 – Roger Sites, member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
OCTOBER 31 – The ministry of Vermont Baptist Church; Chad Ash, pastor (Judson Association)

November 2024

NOVEMBER 1 – Mark Pham, International Ministries Global Servant to Vietnam
NOVEMBER 2 – The Fall Children's Rally happening today at Parchment Valley
NOVEMBER 3 – The ministry of Crany Baptist Church; James Walker, pastor (Rockcastle Association)
NOVEMBER 4 – Bob Keen, member of the WVBC Discipleship Commission
NOVEMBER 5 – The ministry of Bethel Baptist Church; Ed Moats, pastor (Goshen Association)
NOVEMBER 6 – Brett Rinehart, member of the WVBC Outreach Commission
NOVEMBER 7 – The ministry of Connolly Memorial Baptist Church; Ezekiel Stepp, pastor (Logan-Mingo Association)
NOVEMBER 8 – Senior High Convention beginning today at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston
NOVEMBER 9 – The ministry of Kenova First Baptist Church; Chris Baker, pastor (Twelve Pole Association)
NOVEMBER 10 – The ministry of Saint Paul Baptist Church; Larry Harker, pastor (Fairmont Association)
NOVEMBER 11 – Remember our Veterans who have served our country so faithfully
NOVEMBER 12 – Clark Swepston, member of the WVBC Stewardship Commission
NOVEMBER 13 – The ministry of Enon Baptist Church; Larry McKim, pastor (Broad Run Association)
NOVEMBER 14 – The ministry of Portersville Baptist Church; Harry Moore, pastor (Guyandotte Association)
NOVEMBER 15 – The ministry of Big Tygart Baptist Church; Kent Lowther, interim pastor (Parkersburg Association)
NOVEMBER 16 – Eric Kendall, president of the WVBC Education Society and member of the WVBC Leadership Commission
NOVEMBER 17 – The ministry of Two Runs Baptist Church (Good Hope Association)
NOVEMBER 18 – The ministry of Mount Zion Baptist Church; Charles Elkins, pastor (Teays Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 19 – The ministry of Scarbro First Baptist Church; Kenny Smith, pastor (Fayette Association)
NOVEMBER 20 – The ministry of Clearview Fellowship; Roger Adams, pastor (Greenbrier-Raleigh Association)
NOVEMBER 21 – The ministry of East Clarksburg Baptist Church; Timothy Gunter, pastor (Union Association)
NOVEMBER 22 – Jill Narraway, WVBC Director of Camping and Youth
NOVEMBER 23 – The ministry of Judson Baptist Church; Charles Bolen, pastor (Kanawha Valley Association)
NOVEMBER 24 – Joel Hoefle-Magal, International Ministries Global Servant to Thailand
NOVEMBER 25 – The ministry of Wheeling First Baptist Church; Darrin Wright, pastor (Panhandle Association)
NOVEMBER 26 – Alemla Ao, International Ministries Global Servant to India
NOVEMBER 27 – The ministry of Newton Memorial Baptist Church; Curtis Harris, pastor (Hopewell Association)
NOVEMBER 28 – Count your blessings...name them one by one!
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 4
WVBC Executive Committee
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

October 5
WVBC Executive Board
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

October 17-18
WVBC Annual Meeting
 Calvary Baptist Church, Oak Hill

October 25
Pastors4Pastors Book Study
 Oakwood Baptist Church

October 26
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Intro to Missions (Mod-3)
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

NOVEMBER

November 2
Fall Children's Rally
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 8-9
AB Women's Ministries Board Meeting
 Parchment Valley Conference Center

November 8-10
Senior High Convention
 Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston

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

November 15
Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies: Spiritual Formation (Mod-01)
 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..

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Editor/Layout: Mr. Todd McClure

Assistant Editor: Mrs. Ginny Prunty

UPCOMING BWSCS COURSES:

Intro to Missions (Mod-3)
Date: October 26, 2024
Location: Parchment Valley

New Testament I (B-03)
Date: January 7, 2025
Location: Various locations

Church History (H-01)
Date: January 15, 2025
Location: Online

Hospital Ministry (E-04)
Date: January 15, 2025
Location: Online

New Testament II (B-04)
Date: February 25, 2025
Location: Various Locations

Worship and Music (E-03)
Date: April 26, 2025
Location: Parchment Valley

Learn more or register for courses at wvbc.org

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

Fall Children's Rally
 For children in grades K-5, 6 is optional
Saturday, November 2, 2024
 Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activity Center



Cost: \$14 (or \$26 after October 15th)
Register today at www.wvbc.org

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