



# The Baptist Bridge

April 2015

By the grace of God, the Philippi Baptist Church shall **Embrace, Model, and Share** the love of God through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Philippi Baptist Church ♦ 69 Church St. ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206



## Inside this issue:

*Pastor's Message...2-3*

*Birthdays... 3*

*Anniversaries... 3*

*Prayer requests... 4*

*Getting to Know...5*

*Schedules... 3, 6*

*Announcements...6-7, 9-10*

*Upcoming Events...7*

*Membership Class Info...8*

*Candidates for Licensing...9*

E-mail: [office@pbcwv.net](mailto:office@pbcwv.net)

Website: [www.pbcwv.net](http://www.pbcwv.net)

69 Church Street ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304)457-3206

Jon Villers, Pastor    Jud Bracey, Choir Director    Eddy Poling, Youth Director

Jennifer Wheeler– Praise Team Leader  
Michele Moore, Accompanist

Emily Casto– Assistant Praise Team Leader  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Special thanks to Rev. Bruce Chittick, Seattle, Washington and the ABC/USA Minister's Council for providing this reminder for us all as we enter into Holy Week!



As Christians, Parents, Students, Community Leaders, Employers, Employees, Retirees we often are thinking and planning far ahead and can find it difficult to stay in the season that we are actually in. Many of us are likely already thinking and planning for the weeks following Easter Sunday.

However, my prayer for you as we prepare to enter into Holy Week is that you allow yourself to experience the full depth of the week and that allow yourself to move with Jesus through the week.

Creator and Creating God,

As we enter Holy Week, may we experience it anew, may we allow ourselves to walk with Jesus and the disciples through the heights of elation and the deep recesses of despair...

May we shout out "Hosannas!" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God!" with the crowds tossing palms and their cloaks to prepare the way for Jesus as he enters Jerusalem on a donkey. May we be swept up in the hope and joy of expectation that the Kingdom of God is indeed at hand...

May we watch dumbfounded and likely anxious as Jesus enters the temple courts and begins to overturn tables, scattering the coins of the money changers, releasing the doves, and driving out those who have turned the temple into a market place with a whip...

May we sit at supper with Jesus and the disciples, reveling in the solace of the comradery and savoring the delicious food as we enjoy this respite from the crowds...

May we feel the soothing water and caressing hands as Jesus kneels and washes our feet...

May we sit with Jesus in the garden, feeling the pull of slumber, even as we struggle to stay present with Jesus as he prays...

May we stand helpless and disbelieving as we watch the armed guard arrest and take away our teacher...

May we feel the anguish of denying that we ever knew this Jesus of Nazareth...

May we shudder at the sounds of the hammer driving the nails into the flesh of Jesus' hands and feet, as we reflexively clench our own knowing the pain must be excruciating...



May we watch with Jesus' mother and the other women as they stand at the foot of the cross, willing Jesus to keep breathing or perhaps praying that he stop breathing and end his suffering...

May we watch as they place Jesus in a tomb and toll the stone into place, feeling the despair and hopelessness of watching all that we had hoped and dreamed of die and fade in the darkness of that sealed death chamber...

May we sit huddled with the disciples in the locked upper room, now a place of mourning and fearful watching, wondering what comes next, wonder what life could possibly offer now...

And may we experience anew hope and joy, dim at first, but growing with the rising sun of Easter morning as we learn that resurrection happens. May we shout anew our "Alleluias!" as we spread the word that Jesus has indeed risen and that death no longer has the final word...

And may we carry that joy into a world that so desperately needs to experience it...

# Easter Sunday Schedule

7:00am– Sunrise Service at Burbick Hall  
 8:00am– Easter Sunrise Breakfast in the fellowship hall  
 9:15am– Sunday School  
 10:30am– Morning Worship Service  
 11:45am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

*Happy Birthday!*



2– Christian Stull	13– George Sommer
2– Jody Sperry	24– Lisa Rosier
2– Allison Villers	24– Mike Wells
4– Brenda Price	27– George Davis
12– Jacob Gray	28– Darlene Waddell

10– Glenn & Jan Sweet  
 16– Ken & Darlene Waddell  
 17– Randy & Michelle Moore  
 20– William & Shirley Jacobs  
 25– Jim & Wanda Steele



AB University, President Creehan,  
Faculty, staff, and students  
Barbour County Homless  
Stephanie Bassel  
Lee & Sue Beuckman  
Connie & Gary Booth  
Jean Bowles  
Jimmy Boyd  
Debbie Buntrock  
Emily Casto  
Celebrate Recovery  
Church van  
Code Blue  
Rowan Cottrill  
Ruby Cozad  
Elliot  
Shaquille Evans  
Rusty Freeman  
Virginia Hinkle  
Betty Hoffman  
Bill Keeney  
Local ministries  
Heather McBrayer family  
Bernard McKowen  
Detra McVey  
Men's Step Studies  
Rev. Ken Miller  
Audra Murphy family  
Myers missionary family in Mexico  
Michael Perry  
Michael Perry's uncle Kirby  
City of Philippi leadership  
Daniel Prussa  
Herman Robinson  
Jimmy Runion  
Margaret Salimi  
Ruston Seaman  
Elody Shrader  
Jacob Steele  
Janet Stephens  
Inez Stump  
Student teachers  
Roger Taylor  
TJ  
Caleb Villers  
Tom Ware

Prayer Requests continued...

Women's Step Studies

Unspoken requests for family members,  
unsaved people, community concerns, job and  
home loss, financial difficulties.

Also, in need of prayer: Our nation, state, and  
country leaders and officials. Please pray for  
victims of crime, war and violence throughout  
our country.



Pray for protection for military personnel and  
their families throughout the world and those  
serving our country:

Captain Aaron Cross

Tim Jenkins,

Brian Lundell

Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.

Major Kris Wood



Blair & Pearl Marks, Dr. Shearer, Mary Tamulitis  
Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place), Germaine &  
Austin Whitman



Dwight Brohard

Celebrate Recovery

Dennis Daugherty

George Davis

The Gospel Tide ministry  
project

Feed My Sheep

5 new licensed ministers at

PBC

Gary Price

Amber Riffle

Van fund

Weirton Christian Center

Christina Wood



### The Omnipresent Kelly

Kelly Bracey seems to be a permanent and prominent feature at Philippi Baptist Church, for she has served for many years, alternately, on the Board of Christian Education and the Diaconate. Not only that, she has been a long-term member of the chancel choir, and she has directed the children's Christmas program many times. Also a director of the Youth Choir, she has taught Junior Church, and she is a regular volunteer for a multitude of other tasks and ministries in the congregation.

Born in Huntington, Kelly was raised and went to public schools in Buckhannon. Her two older brothers, like Kelly, are educators—David a photographer and on the administrative staff at WVU, Rob a teacher in Ohio. Kelly is on the library staff here at Alderson Broaddus. She graduated from AB with a major in Music Education, her special instrument being the flute, but she was also a member of several performing groups including the Concert Choir.

Kelly and Jud, her husband, had known each other for several years before sharing in the AB family, for Jud and David Bess, Kelly's brother, were good friends. The Braceys' daughter, Lindsay, also graduated from the AB music program. She now teaches in the Barbour County schools, including Volga and Junior. Kelly's step-daughter, Lauren, is the mother of the Braceys' first grandchild.

Movie buffs, the Braceys also enjoy traveling and, with Lindsay, are Civil War reenactors. In spite of the fact that both ancestral families were loyal Unionists, the Braceys are members of the Confederate Barbour Grays.

Kelly Bracey is a perfect example of the key role played by laypeople in all Baptist churches. With her dedication, her hard work, and her delightful sense of humor, she is, in short, a blessing.

# Weekly Events

Sundays	Men's Step Studies	7:30am
	Sunday School	9:15am
	AM Worship	10:30am
	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice	6:30pm
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery	6:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	1pm
	Baptist Campus Ministry	8:38pm
Wednesdays	Women's Step Studies	5:30pm
	Midweek Service	6pm
	Chancel Choir Practice	7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

## Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for April

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda & Jim Steele	Janet Baughman	Zvezdana Vlastic	Cheryl Wolfe
<b>Wee Church</b>	Rebekah Hicks	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Wes & Crystal Gray
<b>Junior Church</b>	Kelly Bracey	Sara Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Angel McCullough

### COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 7th.

The topic will be "Code Blue"

Eddy Poling will be speaking

#### **Bible Book of the Month - Zephaniah**

**We will be collecting Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education throughout the year.**



Anyone who is considering volunteering with children/youth will need to have a background check completed. We can always use the help, so if you are interested please contact the church office to get the process started.

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
Sat., April 4th @  
7:30am  
At the Medallion

# Upcoming Events

- Saturday, April 4th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
Sunday, April 5th– 7:00am– Sunrise service at Burbick Hall  
8:00am- Easter Sunrise Breakfast  
10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
Tuesday, April 7th– 7:00pm– American Baptist Women meeting  
Sunday, April 12th– 10:30am– Celebration service for candidates in ministry  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal  
4:30pm– Diaconate meeting  
5:00pm– Board of Trustees  
7:30pm– Church Council  
Sunday, April 19th– 11:45am– Quarterly Business meeting  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal  
6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting  
Saturday, April 25th– 8:00am– Adopt-a-Highway cleanup  
OMEGA at Gassaway Baptist Church  
Sunday, April 26th– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal  
Thursday, April 30th– 6:30pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

*Save  
the  
Date!*

Vacation Bible School  
July 25th



Adopt-A-Highway cleanup schedule: Our next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 25, 2015. We will meet in the church basement at 8:30 AM, and should be finished by about 10:00 AM. We will be participating in the AAH Statewide Cleanup, and volunteers will receive a free gift. Those participating for the first time, please report at 8:00 AM to view the mandatory safety video. Youth, 12 years of age and older can participate. All youth, 18 years old or younger will be partnered with an adult. Please wear leather shoes or boots and long pants, and jackets and hats according to weather conditions. Blaze orange safety vests and garbage bags, and work gloves will be provided. Our assigned highway is 2.2 miles of Rt. 119, between the Covered Bridge and the Rt. 57 intersection. Please contact Craig Cobb at [304-457-3467](tel:304-457-3467) if you have any questions, or email him at [crc1950@frontier.com](mailto:crc1950@frontier.com). May the good Lord bless those who help to keep His world clean.



### Beginning Connections

I want to share some exciting news with you! We are starting a new Sunday School class elective entitled "Beginning Connections" this April 19th at 9:15a.m. They meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

I am very fond of the cartoon strip B.C., and you will probably see some of those incredible comic strips from time to time. For us, BC stands for Beginning Connections. During this course, we will use these times of gathering to welcome you to the family of God, more specifically, to the American Baptist Churches USA family and the Philippi Baptist family.

We will go over topics that include Disciplines of the Family, Beliefs of the Family, Distinctives of the Family, Celebrations of the Family, Commitment to the Family, and Outreach of the Family.

I like to think of it as an orientation to the Christian life as we understand it from a Baptist perspective. All questions are fair game and we really need your input throughout our time together. We will go over the privileges we have in serving Jesus, what it means to be a member of PBC and how to do that, as well as how we came to be American Baptists and how we operate and minister to others as a church.

You may be new to us at PBC or have attended for years. All are invited as we encounter this journey of faith together.

If you have any specific questions please contact me.

Shalom, Pastor Jon  
Cell – 304.531.2918  
Email – [orangemanforjesus@gmail.com](mailto:orangemanforjesus@gmail.com)



On April 12th PBC will be having a celebration for the candidates for ministry during the morning worship service. ABU's Hand Bells, ABU'S Men's Quartet and Dr. Victor Shields will be here to help us celebrate! A School of Mission fellowship luncheon will follow.

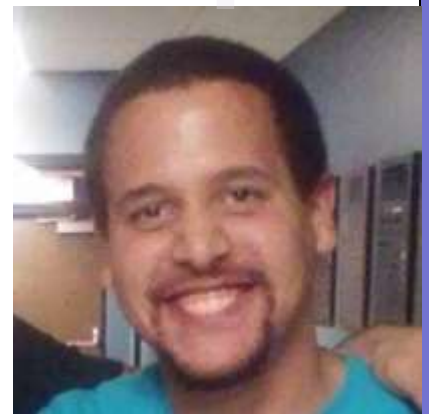


# Candidates for licensing into the Gospel Ministry



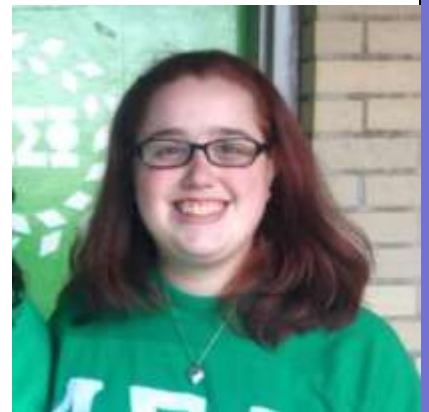
Emily Casto is the Ministry Leader of Celebrate Recovery Barbour County and currently lives in Philippi. She joined our church in 2014 and is pursuing avenues of ministry that include: Staff of Philippi Baptist Church as Assistant Praise Team Leader, Praise and Worship Leader, Pulpit Supply and Small Group Leader.

Michael Perry is an ABU Junior Christian Studies Major from Parkersburg WV. He joined our church in 2014 and is pursuing avenues of preaching and Christian Service that includes. A member of the ABU BCM leadership Team, Pulpit Supply, BCM Speaker and Ministry in Nicaragua.



Eddy Poling is the former Code Blue Program Director and currently lives in Moatsville. He joined our church in 2010 and is pursuing avenues of ministry and Christian service that includes: Staff of Philippi Baptist Church as Youth Director, Pulpit Supply, Youth Group Leadership, Bible Study Leader.

Madison Riffle is an ABU Senior Christian Studies Major from Fairview, WV. She Joined our church in 2014 and is pursuing avenues of ministry and Christian service that includes: A member of the ABU BCM Leadership Team, Youth Group Leadership, BCM speaker, Youth Group Volunteer, Code Blue Volunteer, Pulpit Supply.



Caleb Villers is a 2014 Christian Studies Graduate from ABU and currently lives in Philippi. He joined our church in 2010 and is pursuing avenues of ministry and Christian service that includes: Past member of the ABU BCM Leadership Team, Youth Group Leadership, BCM speaker, Praise and Worship Leader, Assistant Camp Cowen Director, Pulpit Supply and Code Blue Volunteer.



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416

Suggested Heart & Hand donation for  
March:

**Canned vegetables & fruit**

**Celebrate Recovery**  
**Barbour County**  
*A Christ-Centered Recovery Program*

**MONDAY NIGHTS**  
**6:30-8:30PM**

**The Landing (6th– 12th grade)**  
**Celebration Place (K-5th grade)**  
**Nursery Provided**

**Philippi Baptist Church**