



The Baptist Bridge

August 2014

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



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E-mail: office@pbcwv.net

Website: 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, Pianist

Emily Casto—Assistant Praise Team Leader
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlasic, Custodian



We are getting ready for an eight week series on Sunday Mornings called Life's Healing Choices. We thank Rev. Tom Holliday for giving us an introductory word of where we are heading!

“If you take a look at the ministry of Jesus Christ, how he healed people, you'll find out that he always did three things. Just take a look at all the people that he healed in the Bible and you'll find out that there's sort of a pattern. There's a way that he works. There's three things that he does.

First, he encourages people; he gives them a word of encouragement. Second, he helps them to see the real problem; not the problem on the surface but the real problem. Then third, he asks the person to take a step of faith. He does this again and again and again.

We're going to look at an example of how he did that - a man who had been paralyzed from birth. This man is in Matthew and Mark and Luke. Three of the good news gospels tell the story of this man because it's such an important story of how Jesus Christ can heal us. But it's not just about that man. It's about me. And it's about you. It's about what God wants to do in your life.

As we take a look at this story, we're going to take a look at it from the direction of the man who was healed and what God wants to do in my life to heal me personally.

What does Jesus do personally in my life when I need to be healed of some past hurt, some habit that's gotten a hold of my life, some hang up that's come into my life? What does he do? He does these three things. First of all he always does this first. First he calms my fears.

When you need to be healed of a wound, when you need to be healed of some past hurt, something hidden in your life, first he comes and he surprises you many times because he calms your fears.

There's a group of four men who have a friend who is paralyzed. They decided that day, "We're going to get our friend to Jesus because we know that he heals people. We're going to take our friend to Jesus." They put him on a mat and they take him to see Jesus at this house and when they get there there's so many people around the house there's no way they can get in. So they get very creative. They figure out: there's nobody on the roof. So they go up on the roof and they dig a hole in the roof through the tile and they actually lower the man through the tiles in the roof in front of Jesus.

I want you for just a moment to put yourself in the place of that paralyzed man. Here he is. His friends are saying "We're going to get you there. We're going to lower you through the roof." He can't stop them. He's sort of at their mercy in this moment. All of a sudden with this huge crowd of people he's being lowered down.

How would you feel? He had to feel little embarrassed. He had to feel like "I shouldn't be interrupting Jesus." And he had to certainly feel like every eye is on me, because every eye was on him in that moment.

Have you ever felt that way? Like I've got a hurt in my life and now every eye is on me. Everybody sees it. Jesus Christ knew exactly how this man felt. The natural reaction of a speaker in that situation - if that happened to me, that that started to happen - I'd go "Excuse me! What do you think you're doing? Can you see all these other people here? Why would you be interrupting all these other people?" The natural reaction would be a little irritation.



But not Jesus. Jesus knew this guy's heart. He knows your heart. He knows how we feel when we come to him and we say, I need healing in my life.

So the first thing that Jesus does is he encourages us. Matthew 9:2 "Some people brought to Jesus a man who was paralyzed and lying on a mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralyzed man, 'Be encouraged, son.'"

That's the way it starts. Be encouraged. He didn't ignore the man. He didn't pity the man. He didn't get angry at him. He saw him. And because he saw him he was considerate and sympathetic and he encouraged him.

That's the point in my life and in your life. The point is if I bring my hurt to Jesus Christ the first thing he's going to do is he's going to encourage me. Even if that hurt was my own fault somehow. It wasn't for this man. But even if it was my own fault he's going to encourage me.

The second thing he did to heal his hurt is the second thing he does to heal our hurt. The second thing he does is he confronts my faults and failures.

He doesn't beat around the bush. He goes straight to the heart of the problem. He gets to the point. In this man's case the problem he was facing was not just his paralysis. He needed to also deal with his guilt. And Jesus knew that. Luke 5:20 "Then Jesus said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven.'" If you read the story in the Bible you wonder, why did Jesus say that? The guy didn't ask for his sins to be forgiven. He just wanted to be healed of his paralysis. Why did Jesus say that?

When you have an addiction that you're struggling with in your life, a habit that seems to have a hold of you, you just want to get rid of that habit. But Jesus Christ knows that there's something behind that in your heart and he's going to deal with that. Because if he doesn't deal with that you're never going to get rid of the habit.

When you're stuck in the past, some bitterness, some memory, and you think, I'd just like to forget it and never think about it again, I don't like it that it goes through my mind every day and seems to control my actions. I just want to forget it. Jesus Christ comes into our hearts and says, I want to show you how to heal. I want to deal with the cause that's behind that. That's what he does in this man's life when he says, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

The world is dying to hear those three words: you are forgiven. And Jesus Christ forgave that man that day, because he knew the cause behind what he was facing.

There's a third thing that Jesus does when he heals us, when he heals you of a hurt. The third thing he does is he challenges my faith. He calms my fears, he confronts my faults, then he challenges my faith.

He challenges my faith and he has a specific way that he does this. The way he challenges my faith and he does this again and again in the Bible, he's done it again and again in people's lives. He asks me to do something that seems to me to be impossible.

That's what he did for this man. The Bible says in Matthew 9 "Jesus said to the paralytic, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.'"



Just pause there for a minute. The man had to be thinking, That's what I want to do! What are you saying, Jesus? Get up? Can't you help me up? If I could have gotten up I wouldn't be here. What do you mean 'Get up'? That's impossible. I've tried so many times. Why are you asking me to do this?"

Listen to what happened instead. "The man got up and he went home. And when the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe..." of what God could do in a person's life. He challenges my faith.

Jesus asks this man to do something he had never done before. And he does the same thing in our lives, every man and woman. He asks us to do something we've never done before. A lifetime invalid, a shut in. No wheelchairs in that day. That meant he had to be carried, physically, everywhere that he went. And Jesus says, "I want you to get up." And he demonstrated his faith.

The Bible says, "According to your faith it will be done to you." The Bible says that many times. Jesus says many times to people, "It is your faith that has healed you." And faith is something that you do. It's not just something that you think. It starts with a thought but then it's something that you do. When Jesus challenges my faith he asks me to do something that I've never done before.

But there's good news in this. Here's the great news in this. When God asks you to do something that's impossible, he then gives you the strength to do it. This man was able to stand up that day, not just because he thought better thoughts, but because Jesus Christ gave him the strength to do it.

There's a lesson about faith in this that I had to learn many, many times in my life. It seems like I have to learn it on a weekly or daily basis sometimes. It seems like I should have gotten this one a long time ago but I've got to learn it again and again and again. The lesson is this: God gives you the strength to do it when you make the decision to do it, as you take the step to do it.

I know as we talk about Life's Healing Choices that some of you are hurting. I know that as I talked a moment ago about fear and guilt and shame, past hurts, regrets, that you look at yourself and think, I look ok on the outside but inside spiritually I really am paralyzed. The question is what are your hidden wounds and how can Jesus Christ heal those? What are the painful memories that still hurt? And how can he bind up that wound?

Regardless of who you are, regardless of what's been done to you or regardless of what you have done, Jesus Christ can heal you. That's why he came into this world."

Shalom – Pastor Jon



Dear Pastor and Friends,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for allowing Teen Challenge the opportunity to participate in your service on June 29th. We received such a wonderful welcome and it was a blessing to be able to share with your congregation. Thank you for the generous donation that you made to Northern Appalachian Teen Challenge.

We are bringing hope to those who have no hope. Through your prayers and generosity we are making a difference in the lives of young men and women, and it is my hope that God will pour out His blessings in the lives of you, your family and all of your church members.

Thank you for caring.

In His Service,

Michael S. Stewart

Executive Director



AB University, President Creehan,
Faculty, staff, and students

Katie Arnold family
Code Blue
Dennis Bolyard
Connie & Gary Booth
Jean Bowles
Linda Burton
Bill & Julia Corder
Eric Corder
Gerald Cottrill
Camp Cowen
Jim Daddysman
Energy Express
Vicky, William & Ruth Gregg
Bryan Headley
Stephanie Hinkle
Betty Hoffman
Jeanna Mayle
Kim & Keaton Moats
Donna Moore
Myers missionary family in Mexico
Parkersburg South High School
Michael Perry
Duane Poling
Gary Price
Jerry & Sandy Ross
Margaret Salimi
Chris & Jamie Shahan and family
Elody Shrader
Sonya Stahl
Dwayne Villers
Linda Wiseman
James Yocum family



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



4- Debbie Mulneix
4- Michele Moore
8- Jennifer Kines
9- Filip Vlastic
11- James Steele
12- Caitlin Davis
12- Carol Yount
14- John Cain
17- Shirley Jacobs
19- Clarence Wright
22- Dawn Scheick
22- Germaine Whitman
24- Dean Mulneix



5- Jeff & Christie Allen
7- Chuck & Dawn Scheick
11- Gerald Fogg & Beth Longo
26- Everett & Jody Sperry
28- Skip & Carol Ervin

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.



Praise Team Backer-upper

Her orange t-shirt fresh from participation in Vacation Bible School, Emily Casto, recently appointed Assistant Praise Team Leader, sings *a capella* her rendition of “What Can Wash Away My Sins?” Hand gestures and facial expressions testify to her belief in the answer to that musical question—“Nothing but the blood of Jesus.”

Born in Doddridge County, Emily grew up in Point Pleasant and attended an American Baptist church there. “I’ve always been American Baptist, and I have relatives in churches all over the state. Pastor Villers was the youth minister for several of my cousins.” As an adult, Emily taught Sunday School and served in the music ministry of various congregations. During her high school years, she became certified as a clown, another channel for ministry. She graduated from Glenville State College with a major in tuba and voice.

Married for fourteen years but now divorced, Emily has a son, Noah, who turned five years old in July. “We live in Volga,” she reports, “near the river where we can fish for tadpoles and swim. We sing a lot, too. Our house is full of song and dance. Noah knows the words for the entire soundtrack of his favorite movie—“Frozen.”

Freely admitting that she is herself a recovering addict, Emily has for four years been connected with the organization known as Celebrate Recovery. “I’m working with the West Virginia Baptist Convention and representatives of Celebrate Recovery to form a team here at Philippi Baptist. Our goal is to deal with the three h’s—hurts, habits, and hang-ups and with all of life’s struggles. Addiction is just one of those. I’ll be talking a lot about this excellent organization in the coming weeks, and I’ll be looking for anyone who is interested in becoming trained as a helper or leader.”

When asked how she herself overcame her addiction, she says, “I didn’t. It was the mercy and grace of God that did it. The Lord led me out of that world and into His. I intend to spend the rest of my life helping others to experience the same blessing.”

Emily has indicated her intent to become a member of Philippi Baptist Church. There is little question that their presence and contributions will be welcome.



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES, USA 2013

MISSION GIVING CERTIFICATE

presented to:

**Philippi Baptist Church
Philippi, WV**

**#32 Total United Mission Support
\$5,934**

**#41 United Mission Love Gift
\$934**

**#26 America for Christ Offering
\$1,305**

**#29 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
\$1,706**

**#31 Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering
\$944**

Leo S. Thorne
Associate General Secretary
Mission Resource Development



David L. Carrico
Regional Executive Minister
West Virginia Baptist Convention

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS

American Baptist Churches USA, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship PBC Mosaic	9:15am 10:30am 5:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	1pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service	6pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for August

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Nursery	Wanda Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe	Rebekah Hicks
Wee Church	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Rebekah Hicks	Jody Sperry
Junior Church	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly Bracey	Jody Sperry

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for September

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Nursery	Wanda Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe
Wee Church	Rebekah Hicks	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Rebekah Hicks
Junior Church	Kelly Bracey	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly Bracey

COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

Who: Women of the Church

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 9:30am

Program: Planning Session for 2014-15

Bible Book of the Month - 2 Chronicles



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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 3rd– Wednesday, August 6th– Older Midler Camp at Camp Cowen

Sunday August 3rd– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

7:00pm– Union Association Cluster Service at Summit Park Baptist Church

7:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Monday, August 4th– 6:30pm– Heart & Hand Volunteer Night

Friday, August 8th– Sunday, August 10th– American Baptist Men’s Camp at Camp Cowen

Saturday, August 9th– Chelsea Long/ Derek McDowell wedding

Sunday, August 10th– 2:00pm– Church Reserved

5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting

6:00pm– Board of Christian Education meeting

7:30pm– Church Council meeting

Thursday, August 14th– 6:30pm– Christian Men’s group meets at Farmer’s Market

Sunday, August 17th– 10:30am– Promotion Sunday

4:00pm– Chapel Service at Mansfield Place

6:00pm– Board of Missions and Outreach meeting

Saturday, August 23rd– Church reserved

11:00am– Battler Fair

Monday, August 25th– Newsletter Deadline

Friday, August 29th– Sunday, August 31st– Camp Global at Camp Cowen

The Board of Trustees is compiling a list of those individuals who would like to be considered as a substitute when the Church Secretary or Custodian is absent. Please contact the Church office if you would like to be considered.



The Board of Trustees is currently planning to replace our aging Church van in 2016. A restricted account has been set-up by the financial secretary to accept donations toward this vital Church activity. We encourage everyone to donate toward this worthy project when possible. Just a few dollars a week will help us achieve our goal.



Philippi Baptist Church
69 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416



Men's Ministry

Special Thanks to Olin Campbell for organizing at least 22 of our men to gather in pairs of the summer in lieu of our monthly prayer breakfast. Please contact Olin if you would like a prayer partner.



September's newsletter deadline is August 25th



--Heart & Hand Thrift Store--
VOLUNTEER NIGHT--
Monday, August
4th--6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
COME JOIN THE FUN!