



The Baptist Bridge

December 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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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 Vlastic, Custodian



Hello Orange Rhyming Readers of Barbour County and Beyond!

I find myself more times than not, finding a “guest columnist” to share with you all. Well today, you’re stuck with me! Here we are at the beginning of the Holiday season and I am in utter disbelief that Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent! I haven’t even had my first thanksgiving turkey and we are putting up the Christmas decorations at the church on Saturday! Time seems to go by so quickly!

I always want to express my gratitude to the Barbour Democrat Staff for allowing me to ramble on week after week. I always want to bring God glory in every word that is shared throughout this column.

In twenty-five years of marriage, Koreen and I have served in five different ministry locations. The early nineties found us in Mercer County. We led the Concord College Baptist Campus Ministry and served at Midway Baptist and Flat Mountain Missionary Baptist Churches. The late nineties took us to East Bank, WV and served at Hampton and Handley Baptist Churches along with leading the Baptist Campus Ministries at West Virginia State College. The early 2000’s saw Koreen and me with dual leadership associate positions at Charleston Baptist Temple along with leading the University of Charleston Baptist Campus Ministries. From 2005 to 2010 we lived at Parchment Valley Conference Center as Koreen served as on-site coordinator while I pastored in Ravenswood at First Baptist. Then February 16th, 2010 found me bringing a 20 foot U-haul to Barbour County and unloading it at 107 Church St, Philippi Baptist Church! I might also note at this point, that it snowed for ten straight days!! Koreen and I also began leading the Baptist Campus Ministries at Alderson Broaddus University.

Now here is the comparison that sparked this journey down memory lane. I have switched vehicles almost as often as location changes. a new Ford Escort Standard Transmission 1990 model, a new 1995 standard transmission Chevy S10, a used standard transmission Dodge extended cab truck, a new 2005 standard transmission Chevy Aveo and a new 2010 Dodge Caliber, yep, standard transmission!

It is with these two trends that I now stand at a crossroads. I have taught many a person on a standard transmission down through the years. The Caliber has recently included the most pupils. My daughter, and two of my three sons have had their time in learning a stick shift behind its wheel along with a few more ABU college students over the last four years. As I took a road trip to Pipestem State Park a few weeks ago, the clutch started talking to me and became a real wonder if the clutch would go out on me even before I got home. I took it in to the dealership the following Monday. They told me the clutch plate needed replaced and we might as well put in a new clutch while we were at it. The call the second day after they had it gave us even more to contemplate. The transmission was shot as well!

I have been told several times recently that if you keep doing things in the same way, you will continue to get the same results. My past history in vehicles says it is time to trade! (And many close to me even say past time!) My past history in ministry says it is time to change! (And some may even say past time!)

I am also learning that it is high time I re-evaluate the steps in decision making. I just finished leading a small group session on Biblical Perspectives in Financial Freedom. The authors, Dick Towner and John Townsend give great advice on when it is time to change your car for the best financial advantage. They ask two questions in their financial workbook in this regard: What is the best value (least expensive) of a car for a person to have? What’s the proper mileage at which it’s best to unload the old car? They answer the first question by saying the one you already own. The second question is answered by saying, “Actually there’s no specific answer to this question. The answer is, when it approaches the point that maintenance expenses exceed the value of the car. Generally, this happens at a much higher mileage level than most people expect.” They go on to share other recent research. “The average reliable life of a new car is 10.2 years and 120,000 plus miles. The average time at which a new car is traded in is less than four years and under 50,000 miles.” So, with my new found knowledge, I am breaking the trend on our car history! I told them to fix the clutch and transmission! With only four years and 68k miles on the Caliber, it has a market value that far exceeds the cost of the repair – especially since the transmission is still under warranty!



So I wonder how well those two questions translate over into ministry? What is the most effective ministry for a person to lead? What's the proper mileage at which it's best to unload the old ministry? Could the answer to the first question be, "The ministry you already are leading." And could the second question be answered by saying, "Actually there's no specific answer to this question. The answer is, when it approaches the point that energy and knowledge needed exceeds the ability you have to lead in the current ministry you serve. Generally, this happens at a much higher time duration than most people expect." In fact most statistics say effective sustainable ministry takes place in ministries that have 20 plus years of continuous service. This comes at a time when the average stay of a pastor is between 3-5 years.

So where does that leave me with the knowledge of my trends both in vehicles and ministry? My plan is to hold on to the Caliber for several more years to come (recognizing I need to take better care of the vehicle I currently have)! My plan in ministry is to not only hold on but to thrive for several more years to come right here where God has placed me (recognizing I need to take better care of the ministries I currently serve)!

What I do know, beyond all other analysis or comparison, is the promise God gives me and you from His prophet Isaiah: "Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed. For I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (ESV Isaiah 41:10)
May it be so in all the ministries he calls us to throughout all the stages of our life!

Shalom – Pastor Jon



The Holiday Season has arrived, so I would like to pose a question.... Have you ever felt overwhelmed or spiritually stuck? We serve Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, yet we so easily let Life steal the peace that transcends all understanding. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ- Centered Recovery program for EVERYONE that not only helps us to find peace, but to live life with Joy on life's terms. Another question, have you ever struggled to surrender any area of your life and will to Jesus?

On New Years Eve, the new Celebrate Recovery Ministry will hold a New Years Eve Bash for the entire family! There will be games, prizes, and tons of food! At Midnight we hold a surrender ceremony for the adults. It is just an opportunity to surrender our wills to Christ in the coming year.

We encourage and invite the entire congregation to join us and bring a friend! Come fellowship, worship, laugh, and ring in the New Year at 9pm on New Years Eve! Any questions contact Emily Casto at 304-675-0709.



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

Steve Baker

BCM

Stephanie Bassel

Mark Benjamin

Lee & Sue Beuckman

Connie & Gary Booth

Tom Borne family

Jean Bowles

Lillard Brown

Martin Brown

Emily Casto

Celebrate Recovery

Church van

Code Blue

Rev. Jim Crouch

Anthony Hinkle

Noah Hinkle

Stephanie Hinkle

Betty Hoffman

Cameron Kelley

Detra McVey

David Mellquist

Aaron Miller

Debbie Mulneix

Myers missionary family in Mexico

Pearl Nelson family

Ben Noffsinger

Michael Perry's family

City of Philippi leadership

Eddy Poling

Anaka Richter

Margaret Salimi

Marilyn Shear's family

Elody Shrader

Jim Smith

Jacob Steele

Pastor Gina Stewart

Jennifer Wheeler's family

Dianna Wright

Louise Villers

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

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

Praises

Dylan Carpenter

Emily Casto

Operation Christmas Child

Margaret Salimi

Jan Sweet

Darlene Waddell



1- Eric & Ashley Cutright

21-Olin and Marj Campbell

27-Clarence and Dianna Wright

28-Don and Barbara Smith

31-Fred and Amy Funk



King Who???

Oh, yes—you've heard of him, that guy you've sung a Christmas carol about, even though you've never been able to pronounce—or spell—his name.

Yes, you've sung about him—that guy who made footprints—or horseprints—in the snow sometime around Christmas.

Yes, it's Good King Wenceslas, who ventured out into the snow and ice to deliver firewood and other necessities to poor people. That is supposed to have happened around St. Stephen's Day or "Boxing Day," the day after Christmas. Originally intended as a time to give generously to the poor, it has, unfortunately, become the European version of Black Friday (the massive shopping day following Thanksgiving in the United States).

And yes, Wenceslas was a real person.

Born about 907, he died—was assassinated by his evil brother—in 935. He was born and raised in a Christian family, spending most of his young life in the home of his grandmother, known as Saint Ludmila. Historians describe him as being very well educated and highly intelligent, especially for the time. Although he never actually rose above being Duke of Bohemia, (921 until 935), he was declared king after his death and became the patron saint of Czechoslovakia. His remains are in St. Vitus's Cathedral in Prague, and a statue of him on his horse still stands in Wenceslas Square. Catholics observe his feast day on September 28, which is a public holiday celebrating Czech statehood.

As for the song, it is one of the oldest known Czech songs, the tune being originally Scandinavian. The words to "Good King Wenceslas" were written by an Englishman, John Mason Neale, who first published them in 1853. However, the words, which run at least nine stanzas, may actually have been written by a Czech poet, Vaclav Svoboda.

A movie about King Wenceslas was made in 1994, and the Beatles made the song famous in several versions, including a parody. Regardless of how you have experienced the story and song of Wenceslas, try to remember this saintly man as a Christian monarch whose life was spent in piety and, especially, charity.

PHILIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH

OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – 2015

MODERATOR	Dianna Wright (2015)
VICE MODERATOR	Charles Scheick (2015)
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Olin Campbell (2016)
ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Clarence Wright (2016)
TREASURER	Jeff Allen (2016)
ASSISTANT TREASURER	Craig Cobb (2016)
CLERK	Carolyn Davis (2015)

TERM EXPIRING 2015	TERM EXPIRING 2016	TERM EXPIRING 2017
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DIACONATE (NINE TOTAL MEMBERS)		
Ken Waddell Cheryl Wolfe Gary Price	Eddy Poling John Hicks Barbara Smith	Gerald Fogg Jovan Vlastic Christie Allen

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (SIX TOTAL MEMBERS)		
Greg Mouser Marj Campbell	Scott Springer Bob Boyer	Wes Gray Jimmy Runion

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (SIX TOTAL MEMBERS)		
Rebekah Hicks Wanda Steele	Kelly Bracey Sarah Poling	Carolyn Davis- SS Superintendent Hayley Dadisman Chuck Scheick

BOARD OF OUTREACH & MISSIONS (SIX TOTAL MEMBERS)		
Dawn Scheick Dianna Wright	Sarah Ferguson Madison Riffle/ Michael Perry (unexpired term)	Emily Casto Koreen Villers

BOARD OF WORSHIP (SIX TOTAL MEMBERS)		
Brenda Price (Unexpired term) Jud Bracey	Glenn Sweet Margaret Salimi	Drew Noffsinger Sue Lobello

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (FIVE TOTAL: THREE ELECTED AND TWO APPOINTED BY THE PASTOR)		
Dawn Scheick Pastoral Appointments (2):	Jan Sweet 1. Mary Boyer	Judi Funk 2. Lauren Lindsey

FINANCE COMMITTEE (FIVE MEMBERS NOT COUNTING THE TWO EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS)		
1.Olin Campbell (Financial Secretary) 2.Jeff Allen (Treasurer) 3.Gary Price 4.Bruce Blankenship Ex-officio – 1.Clarence Wright (Assistant Financial Secretary) 2.Craig Cobb (Assistant Treasurer)		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (FIVE MEMBERS)		
1.Chuck Scheick 2. Rebekah Hicks 3.Barbara Smith 4.Crystal Gray 5.Bob Boyer		

Weekly Events

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

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for December

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

COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 4th. Carolyn Davis will be presenting. Bring your favorite cookie or candy.

Bible Book of the Month - Luke

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



Happy Birthday!

2-Martha Rose Roy	19-Kelly Runion
2-Beth Longo	21-Danny Franke
4- Crystal Gray	21-Herb Smith
5-Melissa Franke	24-Chris Mulneix
5-Glenn Sweet	24- Christina Wentz
6-Jonathan Franke	27-Koreen Villers
13-Ken Yount	27- Olivia Gray
15-Carla Springer	29-Carolyn Davis
17-Marsha Smith	30-Richard Shearer
18-Dianna Wright	31-Ken Waddell

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 6th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, December 7th– Second Sunday of Advent– Love the Rose Is on the Way

11:45am– Christmas dinner

3:00pm– Grafton High School Christmas concert (\$5 Admission)

5:30pm– Union Association Cluster Service at Philippi Baptist

Thursday, December 11th– 6:30pm– Christian Men’s group meets at the Market Place

Sunday, December 14th– Third Sunday of Advent– Love the Bird Is on the Way

11:45am– Choir Christmas Program

5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting

7:00pm– Children’s Christmas Program

Saturday, December 20th– Church Reserved

Sunday, December 21st– Fourth Sunday of Advent– Love the Star Is on the Way

6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

Wednesday, December 24th– 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service– Love the Lord Is on the Way

8:00pm– Communion Service (We invite you to drop in with your family

anytime during this hour)

Thursday, December 25th– **Merry Christmas!**– Church office closed

Wednesday, December 31st– 9:00pm- New Year’s Eve– party sponsored by Celebrate Recovery

The Children’s Program will be Sunday, December 14th at 7pm.
“Beneath the Shining Star” program will be followed by congregational carol singing and cookie exchange. Children will begin practicing Sundays during Wee Church and Junior Church. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 13th 11am-1pm and includes lunch.



Advent Readings

Love the Guest is on the Way– First Sunday of Advent



This time of year we talk about the coming of Jesus. We go so far as to call this the “Advent season.” Based on the decorations (and our grocery bills!), it appears we really are expecting him to come into our homes. The warm colors and savory aromas we create are designed to be inviting to our guests. But they are more than inviting; they are enticing.

Guests come into our homes during this season more often than at any other time of the year. And, of course, Jesus comes, too. For most of our guests, the enticement is no trap; they go home well fed and well pleased with our hospitality. But Jesus stays long after He has worn out His welcome. Eventually, we treat Him shabbily. In the end we crucify Him.

In the Talmud, Rabbi Jacob says, “A person on whose account God has to inflict punishment on another, will not be admitted into the presence of God” (*Shabbat* 149b). To explain this difficult teaching, Rabbi Louis Finkelstein says, “The underlying principle... is the doctrine that a victim of injustice falls short of the idea of Judaism to the extent that he fails to obtain divine forgiveness for the person who acted unjustly toward him” Behold the King of the Jews!

- John Meadors

Love the Rose Is on the Way– Second Sunday of Advent



From the Hymn “People, Look East,” I learned about the Advent rose, a small rose that grows in Palestine. Its circlets are deep yellow; the petal tips are white; the rays at the center of the petals are red; and the insets between the petals are green.

Whenever I see a rose, it demands my attention. Its beauty and message will not go unnoticed. I see the roses a volunteer places in the intensive care waiting room at the hospital. I see the single rose that welcomes a new baby into the church family. I see the roses a family grew and often share with me.

The advent of Christ into the world and into our lives as individuals is like noticing a beautiful wild rose. It demands our attention and reminds us of God’s abiding presence, sometimes growing in darkness, sometimes blooming in grace and beauty for all to see. We recognize our blessedness and choose to notice the rose. During the Advent season, notice the rose.

- Linda Snell McComb

Love the Bird Is on the Way– Third Sunday of Advent



Humans have long been fascinated with birds and have used them to express concepts and emotions, for example, “birds of a feather,” “the wise old owl,” and “a bird in the hand.”

We use the eagle to represent political and military might. We consider the dove to be a symbol of peace and love. And just as the dove came to be used in the temple sacrifices because of its gentleness and purity, Jesus was born to become our sacrifice and the personification of peace and love.

“And the dove was sent out...”

- Jerrell Hutson

Love the Star Is on the Way– Fourth Sunday of Advent



There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle.

These words, found in the epilogue of Arthur Gordon’s book *A Touch of Wonder*, are not so moving for their poetry and imagery, but they contain a wonderful truth. In moments of dark discouragement we can always cling to the candle of certain memories, particularly associations with those by whom we are deeply loved– our friends, family and children.

Such is the light of the star that shone so bright long ago over the Palestinian countryside and led the magi to the Christ child. The consciousness of this star can still lead to God’s ultimate expression of love.

-Duewayne Tullos



Philippi Baptist Church
69 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416



**Men's Prayer
Breakfast**

Sat., December 6th @
7:30am
At the Medallion



We will be hosting the Union
Association meeting December 7th
at 5:30pm. Come share in worship
with your sister churches.