



# The Baptist Bridge

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.

February 2015

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



## Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Message... 2-3</i>	<i>Getting to Know... 5</i>	<i>Upcoming Events... 7</i>
<i>Birthdays... 4</i>	<i>Schedules... 6</i>	<i>America For Christ... 8</i>
<i>Prayer requests... 4</i>	<i>Announcements... 3,6-8</i>	<i>Union Lenten Schedule... 9</i>

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, Pianist

Emily Casto— Assistant Praise Team Leader  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Back in August of 2013, I submitted the following column for the section in the Barbour Democrat they let call “Orange Rhymes with Everything”! The praise and update to using this column is that we do have Celebrate Recovery Barbour County up and running! The neat thing about this particular lesson is that I got to teach it this week here in Philippi! Even on a snowy, icy Monday night at 6:30pm, we had 50 folks join us as we met together! Come check us out!!! Every Monday! I will now let my article almost a full year and a half ago speak for itself!

“I got to attend a Celebrate Recovery meeting in Elkins a couple of weeks ago. Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. It is based on the actual words of Jesus rather than psychological theory. Twenty years ago Saddleback Church in Orange County, California, launched Celebrate Recovery with 43 people. It was designed as a program to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. Celebrate Recovery is now in over 19,000 churches worldwide.

We are looking at possibly starting a CR group here in Barbour County! We were well received as we attended the meeting held at the Summit Church. I wanted to share with you the second devotional in a series of 30 provided in the Celebrate Recovery Bible. This lesson is on Powerlessness and it happened to be the topic being discussed at the meeting we attended. May these words speak to your heart as well!”

The following acrostic demonstrates what happens when we admit we’re POWERLESS. We begin to let go of the following “serenity robbers”: As I listened to this very insightful presentation, I began thinking of how to turn what robs us into what needs to give us peace – You will see my response to the “robbers” in () after the scripture:

P ride — Proverbs 29:23 (PURPOSE)

O nly ifs — Luke 12:2-3 (OWNING UP)

W orrying — Matthew 6:34 (WORSHIP)

E scape — Ephesians 5:13-14 (EXPOSURE IN GOD’S LIGHT)

R esentment — Ephesians 4:26-27 (RELEASE TO FORGIVE)

L oneliness — Hebrews 13:1-2 (LIVING WITH OTHERS AND GOD)

E mptiness — John 10:10 (ENTERING GOD’S STOREHOUSE)

S elfishness — Luke 17:33 (SELFLESSNESS)

S eparation — Romans 8:38-39 (STICED TOGETHER BY GOD’S LOVE)

“The routine of our daily lives often reminds us of our lack of control. We stand in a slow line at the grocery store waiting for a cashier-in-training. Our car breaks down on the way to work. We wait over a weekend to learn the results of a medical test. Our coworker gets promoted, while we continue to wait for recognition. In our attempts to deal with our lack of control, we worry about the details in our lives, pretend that it just doesn’t matter, or we become angry and resentful. We may isolate ourselves from other people to keep the pain at a distance. Many of us try in one way or another to control our circumstances and the people around us.

Some of us are too proud to admit that certain areas of our lives have become unmanageable. This pride can undermine our faith, cut us off from God and prevent us from recognizing our own powerlessness. In this mode we refuse to allow ourselves to reach out for help. Stories we encounter in the news distress us. We hear about a man who left his three-year-old son in a car when it was 35 degrees outside. The man was visiting a strip club! Outraged, we ask ourselves, “Why doesn’t this father get help for his struggle with sexual addiction?” Meanwhile, we’re attempting to escape our own pain through the repeated cycle of over-eating and dieting. Like the father visiting the strip club, we refuse to admit our own struggle or reach out for help.



By facing our powerlessness and admitting our weaknesses, we invite God to step in to change our lives. After hearing a testimony at a Celebrate Recovery conference, a pastor approached the speakers, saying, “I want to tell you some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that I’ve been struggling with my pride. Your testimony made it clear to me that I’m a codependent who is powerless over my issues and that I need recovery. The good news is that I’m going back to my church to start a celebrate Recovery program. My prayer is that our church can reach out and help people deal with their hurts, hang-ups and habits.”

We need to take four actions in order to complete Principle One:

1. Stop denying the pain. Psalm 6:2-3 describes a time in David’s life when he came to the end of his emotional and physical resources: “Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long?” When David’s pain finally surpassed his fear, he was able to face his denial and feel the reality of his agony. In the same way, if we want to be rid of our pain, we need to face it and work our way through it.
2. Stop playing God. The simple truth is that we’re either going to serve God or ourselves. We can’t do both. In the words of Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” When our “self” is out of control, all our attempts at control—of ourselves or others—will fail. We need to admit that we’re not God and that we’re powerless without him. Then, when we’ve finally emptied ourselves, God will have room to come in and begin his healing work.
3. Start admitting our powerlessness. Our lust for power isn’t rooted in our strengths but in our weaknesses. We need to recognize our human limitations and quit trying to resolve the issues by ourselves. We need to admit that we’re powerless and be willing to turn over our lives to God. Jesus knew how difficult this would be for us to do. Matthew 19:26 sums up the situation for us, recording Jesus’ own words: “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Start admitting that our lives have become unmanageable. With this admission we finally acknowledge that we’re out of control and powerless to change on our own. David shared his feelings in Psalm 40:12: “Troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.”

#### **TAKE A LOOK:**

1. Of what are you still in denial, or what are you still trying to control in your own power?
2. Are there any other “masters” besides God in your life that you’re still trying to serve?
3. What are some of the things you keep doing that you really don’t want to do?
4. Can you relate to Psalms 40:12? How?”

Shalom – Pastor Jon



There will be a training for all church officers at Parchment Valley on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Registration information is on the

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.





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

Stephanie Bassel  
Lee & Sue Beuckman  
Connie & Gary Booth  
Jean Bowles  
Celebrate Recovery  
Children's Rally  
Church van  
Code Blue

Rowan Cottrill  
Rev. Jim Crouch family  
Noah Graham  
Wes Gray  
Stephanie Hinkle  
Betty Hoffman  
Bill Klaus  
Detra McVey  
David Mellquist  
Aaron Miller  
Debbie Mulneix

Myers missionary family in Mexico

Noffsinger family  
Michael Perry's family  
City of Philippi leadership  
Daniel Prussa  
Madison Riffle's sister  
Margaret Salimi  
Margaret Salimi's brother  
Patty Short  
Elody Shrader  
Connie Skarya family  
Jaxon Smiley  
Allison Villers  
Student teachers

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

## Praises

Celebrate Recovery  
George Davis  
Cameron Kelly  
Heather Liggett  
Jason Meader's mother  
Margaret Salimi's daughter



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



1- Jovan Vlastic  
2- Tom Dadisman  
5- Evalene Bartram  
5- Margaret Salimi  
15- Rosa Kines  
17- Janis Sweet



## **Lent? What's That?**

You've heard of it, and you've even observed it one way or another, but do you really know what Lent is all about?

Lent is a holy or religious season that takes place for approximately six weeks before Easter Sunday. It begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year will fall on February 18, with Easter being April 5. Traditionally, the Lenten period is set aside by Christians to prepare for the observance of Easter and the remembrance of the betrayal, the trial, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus, the Christ.

The term "Lent" is actually expressed in different ways in various languages. In English, "Lent" derives from the German and Dutch words for "spring."

Why forty days? That length of time corresponds to Moses' time with God on Mt. Sinai, with Elijah's 40-day walk to Mount Horeb, and, most importantly, Jesus' forty days in the wilderness, during which he overcame Satan's temptations and began his ministry.

Common acts of preparation during Lent include prayer, penance, sacrifice, and self-denial. Many Christians, in order to be fully aware of the meaning of Lent, will deny themselves some type of pleasure or luxury, perhaps a minor necessity. Devout Catholics have, for instance, traditionally given up eating meat on Fridays. Other Christians highlight their intentions by increasing the time spent in devotions or in service to others or by sacrificing other types of food or recreation--ice cream or television, for instance. In many cultures, the season includes processions, pilgrimages, and visits from "the Easter bunny," which is still a symbol of fertility and abundant life, as are Easter eggs. The lily, another object closely associated with Easter, is a traditional symbol of resurrection and everlasting life.

Ash Wednesday is observed in many churches by prayer and with their priest or pastor rubbing ashes on the foreheads of congregants as a symbol of repentance. Maundy Thursday often includes a service in remembrance or even imitation of the Last Supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion.

The final week of Lent is called Holy Week, commemorating Christ's greatest sufferings. The week begins with what the Catholics call the Friday of Sorrow, moving on through the week to Maundy Thursday, in remembrance of Christ's betrayal and the Last Supper and his trial, Good Friday, remembered as the day of the crucifixion, and Holy Saturday, the period while Christ lay in the tomb. The week culminates with the Easter Sunday celebration of Christ's resurrection. The most common traditional words on that special holy day, every year, are "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

# Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice	9:15am 10:30am 6:30pm
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery	6:30pm
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 February

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda & Jim Steele	Janet Baughman	Zvezdana Vlasic	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 9:30am on Tuesday, February 3rd.

The topic will be "Proverbs 31 Women"

Carolyn Davis and Martha Rose Roy will be hosting

**Bible Book of the Month - Ruth**

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

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

Come Join Us! Couples Date Night is scheduled for February 21st at CJ Maggie's in Buckhannon please RSVP by February 15th to the church office or Rebekah Hicks.



We will be collecting items for the Valentine Day boxes for our 22 College Kids. Please bring in items by February 8th. Individually packed snacks work great. Thanks for your help with this outreach to our young people.

# Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 1st- 10:30am– Communion & Deacon relief Offering

11:45am– Board of Worship meeting

6:00pm– Super Bowl Party

Saturday, February 7th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion

WVBC Church Officer’s Training

Sunday, February 8th– 11:45am– Board of Christian Education meeting/ Stuffing Valentine boxes

4:30pm– Diaconate meeting

5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting

7:30pm– Church Council meeting

Sunday, February 15th– 6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meetings

Wednesday, February 18th– 12:00pm– Ash Wednesday Lenten service at Crim Memorial

Saturday, February 21st– 8:00am– Union Association Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Hepzibah Baptist Church

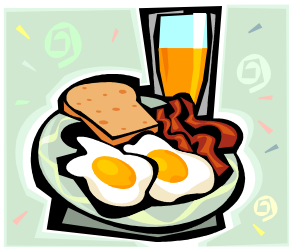
6:30pm– Couple’s Date Night at CJ Maggie in Buckhannon

Sunday, February 22nd– 11:45am– Fellowship Luncheon

4:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at Summit Park Baptist Church

Wednesday, February 25th– 12:00pm– Lenten service at Philippi Baptist

Friday, February 27th– Sunday March 1st– Junior High Convention at Parchment Valley



## Men’s Prayer Breakfast

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



Come Join Us on Feb 1st at 6 pm for our Super Bowl Party. Bring your favorite snack to share. Hope to see you there!

For God so loVed the world  
that He gAve  
His onLy  
begottEn  
So N,  
That whosoever  
believeth In Him  
should Not perish,  
but have Everlasting life.

## America for Christ Offering 2015

Dear PBC Family,

As I journey through our community, I see countless people in need of Jesus' love and healing touch. You may be pondering, like I do, what difference one can make in addressing so many needs. Together, we can make a difference by supporting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2015.

The theme this year—"Discipleship: A Journey of Grace," based on Titus 2:11-13—is a wonderful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. On each day of his journey, the compassion of Jesus was felt by someone somewhere.

In "Meditations of the Heart," Howard Thurman, African-American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, civil rights leader and founder of a multicultural church, wrote:

*I will lift up mine eyes. Scarcely knowing it, I have become increasingly self-centered, my mind focused upon all the details of my little life and the endless trivialities of a daily routine. I hover over all my little aches and pains, my petty annoyances, my little frustrations... Then out of no place comes sometimes a gentle, sometimes startling reminder and I lift up mine eyes. ...I will lift up mine eyes to life, that I may read the guideposts along my way and not miss the important turning in the road. I will lift up mine eyes to love, that I may not close the door of my heart to the knocking hand, the tender cry, the anxious reach. I will lift up mine eyes to God, that I may meet His spirit not only in the high place, the great moment, the penetrating call, but also in the byways, the little duties, the stinging irritations and the sad and bottomless renunciations. And for me this is enough.*

We learned that we should live to love because true freedom in Christ enables us to do so by the power of the Spirit in our life. The outworking of God's grace will be seen most often during difficult times. God's grace is being manifested in our lives as we gladly seek to help others carry their burdens.

The AFC Offering 2015 reminds us that when grace happens we receive not a nice compliment from God but a new heart. We receive a transformed life that becomes the hands, the feet and the prophetic voice of Jesus Christ in our communities and as we connect with people every day.

How do we see the grace of Jesus Christ at work in our community? We are encouraged by this year's theme to come alongside people as they journey through life. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year's AFC Offering 2015 and help us to reach our goal in support of home mission that is making a difference.

Shalom,  
Pastor Jon





## Union Association Combined Services Planned For 2015



### Mens Prayer Breakfast

Feb. 21 8:00 a.m.

Hepzibah Baptist Church

### Lenten Services

Feb. 22 4:00 p.m.

Summit Park Baptist Church, Pastor Rick Owens

Mar. 01 4:00 p.m.

East Clarksburg Baptist Church, Pastor Larry Fleming

Mar. 08 4:00 p.m.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Pastor Paul Byrd

Mar. 15 4:00 p.m.

Union Baptist Church, Pastor Jerome Lewis

Mar. 22 4:00 p.m.

Hepzibah Baptist Church, Pastor Alan Rosenberger

Mar. 29 6:00 p.m. "Special Easter Service"

Middleville Baptist Church, Pastor Paul Boyles

### Cluster Services

May 3 6:00 p.m.

Flemington Baptist Church, Pastor Garry Whitescarver

Jun. 7 6:00 p.m.

Belington Baptist Church, Pastor Herb Bledsoe

July

No Combined Services Scheduled

Aug. 2 6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Grafton, Pastor Orville Wright

Sept.

No Combined Services Scheduled

Oct. 4 6:00 p.m.

Hepzibah Baptist Church, Pastor Alan Rosenberger

Nov. 1 6:00 p.m.

Union Baptist Church. Pastor Jerome Lewis

Dec. 6 6:00 p.m.

Philippi Baptist Church, Pastor Jon Villers

If you have any questions, please call Roger Delaney at 304-842-5149.



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416

# 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**

