



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 2016

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



**Inside
this issue:**

Pastor's Message... 2-3
Birthdays... 4
Prayer Requests... 4
Getting to Know... 5

Schedules... 6
Announcements... 3, 5-8
Upcoming Events... 7



You can give online at pbcwv.net

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

Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director Madison Riffle, Youth Director

Alicia Noble—Praise Team Leader
Michele Moore, Church Pianist

Lucretia Moyer, Secretary
Emily Casto—Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



The Monday after the Blizzard of 2016

On January 25, 2016, it was the first day to venture out after unburying our van from its over 30 inch tomb of snow. You know its bad when you come to the first turn at the end of our road and I'm already hung up not even 100 yards from house. As I was shoveling from around the tires, Lara Foster hopped out of an SUV behind us and helped get us over that first mound of snow left from the plow truck coming around. I dropped Koreen off at ABU and made it downtown with no other incidents!!

The road in front of the church at Philippi Baptist had been cleared and some of the sidewalk had been cleared already. The wide twelve foot sidewalks running the length of the church had a least a six foot section dry from the sun! My next two hours consisted of finding the rest of that that sidewalk starting near the Barbour Democrat and going to the front door. That only left the remaining part of our sidewalk that is in front of the education wing of the church. This part had not been touched at all!

After coming back from lunch, Lara Foster helped me with this more difficult section because it was harder to find a place to put this snow upon removal. Delane McDaniel, a prison ministry chaplain from Dayton Park stopped by parked in the middle of the street, and hopped out to help us with the shoveling. Another gentleman stopped by to file some papers at the courthouse only to discover they were closed. We had a wonderful conversation with him as he noticed we were in front of church and told us they were looking for a church and would come be in the next couple of Sundays to check us out! Now that is what I call a Divine Appointment as even he took a few shovelfuls across the street for our clearing project!!

We finished up and headed back on the hill to Greystone Drive and continued to put my shovel to work as our twins were digging out my car and clearing the rest of the driveway. Just as we were finishing the driveway, Koreen came out said my nieces had been trying to reach me for a while and I needed to call back immediately. When I called, my niece said Dad had Mom collapse while he was helping her to the bathroom in their home in Handley and Dad called the EMTs. I asked her which hospital they were taking her too, and she said Mom was non responsive and I needed to call Dad.

When dad answered the phone, he said he tried to revive her and the EMTs tried to revive her but she was gone. It was like all that snow that I had been shoveling just caved back in top of me! I sobbed with Koreen and Bobby and Thomas and Foster as we shared in our grief of this most unexpected news. After 83 years of serving the Lord faithfully, God had called her home. I called one of the chairpersons of our deacon board and then proceeded to share the news and get things together to go be with Dad.

I called my mom's sister in Kentucky and found her on the way to a doctor's appointment with her son and my aunt started screaming I didn't get to say goodbye. Koreen had called Caleb and he was on the way over to our house and I knew I needed to find our daughter, Allison, and tell her face to face. Her roommate said she was at cheer practice so I drove down to the gym and told her coach while they were finishing their last routine of the practice. Allie came over and collapsed under the weight of the news.

Here teammates immediately started heading over to be a support for her and also to me. They made a big circle around us and prayed for us right there and then! It was an amazing sign of their love for Allie and her family. I also knew there were so many people my mom and dad have impacted with their lives, so I sent out an announcement on Facebook with some pictures of mom that we took a few weeks ago as we got to travel to Kentucky to visit her sister and brother and sisters in-law.

Koreen read the comments of over two hundred people during our two and a half hour trip to Handley. We also made arrangements on the phone on the way down so that a local funeral home would do the initial preparation of my mom's body and have a service here in Handley before taking her to Grantsville for a day of viewing and celebration service the next day there as well.

When we got to the parsonage at Handley Baptist Church where mom and dad have now lived the last fifteen years, the parking lot was full like there was a function at the church. But the house was filled with folks who loved mom and dad and were here with dad till we got here with my sister. Koreen, Bobby and Thomas came down with me and Allie had some projects for school she was going to stay and work on and Caleb stayed as well to drive them down later.

They had put mom back in bed so that Ladonna, my sister, and I along with our family could see her before the funeral home came. Just as I noticed from the very first person we had at Matheny Pomroy Funeral Home when I started work there thirty years ago as my first paid job, my mom was no longer in that shell of a body. She has already entered into her eternal reward!



Mom was an incredible woman of faith and loved to share her life with all those that came near. Her specialty was making sure every child around her felt loved and valued. She had a special place in her heart for young moms trying to provide for their children and spent a lifetime of making sure her “grandma bag” had a special treat that would brighten the face of each child that encountered it!

I have seen God’s love and mercy and acceptance over and over again through the actions of my mom and count it a privilege to know of her legacy that has touched the lives of so many down through the years. While I may have only one biological sister, there are countless men and women who grew up with me that count my mom to be their mom or grandmom as well.

She worked as a teacher’s aide in the school system of Wirt County, West Virginia for over thirty years. She helped tutor math and provide one on one care for special needs students at the school. I have received countless comments of those whose lives she has invested in as they walked through struggles in learning, struggles with the home life, struggles with their own losses and disappointments.

My mom’s favorite verse comes to us from the writings of the Book of Romans. It is where she found her strength and her ability to look at whatever challenge that was facing her with a perspective that God is with her!

8:28 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (ESV)*

And there is no place my mom would rather be than by the side of the man she has spent the last fifty three years with, her husband and my dad, Rev. Lewis Villers. I have often said in a church service with mom and dad present, it is sometimes a toss up of who will do the most preaching, whether it is dad in the sermon or mom in her testimony or prayer time!

She has been his right hand in ministry at every church they have ever pastored. She was Dad’s biggest cheerleader and countless times she has told me about a message dad has given and some of the main points or how God’s Spirit was present in a special way during the service.

Thank you for all your prayer and support as we celebrate the life of an amazing follower of Christ! I love you Mom! Shalom – Pastor Jon



Tuesday, February 9th– Monday, February 15th Pastor Jon and Koreen and Lucretia will be out of town for a Philip Barbour Band trip. If we are not able to get volunteers, the church office will be closed during that time. Please have any items for the February 14th bulletin in before February 4th to allow Lucretia time to prepare that bulletin.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Philip Atkins
 Barbour County Homeless
 Pastor Herb Bledsoe
 Jake Bowman
 Celebrate Recovery
 Code Blue
 Ruby Cozad
 Brooklyn Gibshaw
 Hinkle Family
 Dana Jones
 Johnny and Diane Kelly
 Jean Kines
 Local ministries
 Todd Lynn Family– Pray Across America
 David mellquist
 Derek Murdoch
 Professor Jom Owston’s mother
 Philip Barbour High School
 Travis Price
 Patty Short
 Elody Shrader
 Smiley Family
 Janet Stephens daughter, Lynne
 Phyllis Strachman
 Liam Varghese
 Louise Villers’ family
 Jim Warfuel
 PBC Youth

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.



Blair & Pearl Marks, Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place), Germaine & Austin Whitman



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



Breanna Gabel
 Mary Lantz
 Margaret Salimi



- 1– Jovan Vlasic
- 2– Tom Dadisman
- 5– Evalene Bartram
- 5-Margaret Salimi
- 10- Lexi Mayle
- 15– Rosa Lea Kines
- 15- Ashley Mace
- 17– Janis Sweet
- 19- Chandler Poling
- 22- Brad Allen



Filled with Praise

Alicia Noble is that dark-haired singer seen every Sunday morning when the Praise Team of Philippi Baptist Church is opening the worship service. Alicia has, in fact, been named the Praise Team Leader, with Emily Casto and Hannah Dixon usually singing with her.

Alicia is also, however, one of the singers for Celebrate Recovery on Monday nights.

Music has always been a focus in this young woman's life. Born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, she moved with her family to Nutter Fort and went to public schools there. Growing up with a brother who now attends Concord University in southern West Virginia, Alicia Noble later added two half brothers and a half sister as siblings. Alicia came to Alderson Broaddus University as a member of the West Virginians, and Music has been her minor academic field, with Elementary Education as her major. "I also like to dance," she says, "and the West Virginians provides an outlet for that interest." Other recreational and educational interests include reading fiction and Christian literature and watching movies.

"Perhaps my most memorable experience here at AB has been traveling with the West Virginians, particularly the summer of my freshman year, when we toured extensively. I particularly enjoyed Chicago. We had a lot of fun there, but there were also some very serious moments, even a near-death incident. The outstanding moments included making up *a capella* songs as we rode in the van. Lauren Lindsey was our director then, and we all loved her. Our present director, Lewis Hall, is also a phenomenal teacher and musician. It's been a great experience all around. I've really enjoyed being a part of this college, both because of the smallness and friendliness and because of the quality of the education."

Alicia says much the same thing about Philippi Baptist Church. "It's a great atmosphere," she says. "I feel completely welcome here. The people are warm and accepting."

When asked about her vision for the church, she says, "I want this to be a place where God's will is accomplished, whatever that may be. I want us all to embrace the Holy Spirit and allow it to move through us in whatever we do. I want people to come to faith through this church."

As for the Praise Team, she complements those who participate, but, she says, they are always looking for additional members, particularly if those who could play the piano or a guitar.

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship Youth	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice Celebrate Recovery	4:45pm 6:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	12:45pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm
Saturdays	Youth	6pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for February

	February 7th	February 14th	February 21st	February 28th
Nursery	Wanda & Jim Steele	Rebekah Hicks	Zvezdana Vlastic	Cheryl Wolfe
Children's Church	Kelly Bracey & Jennifer Weyandt	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson	Crystal & Wes Gray

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 9:00AM on Tuesday, February 2nd

Weirton Christian Center ~ Martha Rose Roy
Hostess- Carolyn Davis

Bible Book of the Month - Jonah

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

We have raised \$11,500 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

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



The Board of missions and Outreach and ABW want to complete the circle of soup around the sanctuary. We will be collecting until Sunday, February 7th.

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 1st– 6:30PM– Celebrate Recovery Chip Night
Tuesday, February 2nd– 9:00AM– American Baptist Women’s Ministry meeting
Saturday, February 6th– 7:30AM– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion
Sunday, February 7th– Souper Bowl Sunday
11:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering
6:00PM– Pack Valentine boxes
6:00PM– Diaconate meeting
7:30PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
Monday, February 8th– 6:30PM– Teaching– Night “Yes”
Tuesday, February 9th– Monday, February 15th– PBHS Band trip to the Bahamas
Wednesday, February 10th– 12PM– Barbour County Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Sunday, February 14th– 3:00PM– Celebrate Recovery Leadership meeting
4:00PM– Union Association Lenten Service at Summit Park Baptist Church
4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting
5:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting
7:30PM– Church Council meeting
Monday, February 15th– 6:30PM- Celebrate Recovery– Testimony Night
Wednesday, February 17th– 12PM– Barbour County Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Sunday, February 21st– 11:45AM- Nicaragua Mission trip Fundraiser Luncheon
6:00PM– Board of Worship meeting
4:00PM- Union Association Lenten Service at Mount Vernon Baptist Church
Monday, February 22nd– Celebrate Recovery Teaching Night- “7 Reasons We Get Stuck”
Wednesday, February 24th– 12PM– Barbour County Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Sunday, February, 28th– 11:45AM– Fellowship Luncheon
4:00PM- Union Association Lenten Service at East Clarksburg Baptist Church
Monday, February 29th– Celebrate Recovery Testimony Night

The Board of Christian Education is asking for donations for the college valentine boxes. Candy, Lil' Debbie Cakes, gum, or any individually wrapped food items.



The Board of Christian Education is sponsoring Super Bowl Sunday at 6:00pm on February 7th. The Board will provide drinks. Please bring your favorite snacks or appetizers.



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Suggested Heart & Hand donation for February:
Breakfast foods

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