



# The Baptist Bridge

January 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 ♦ 107 Church St. ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206



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Eddy Poling, Youth Director  
Michele Moore, Pianist

Caleb Villers, Praise Team Leader  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



For the New Year edition, I will start us with both a devotional for the Fourth Sunday of Advent as we lit the Candle of Love and also a devotional for the Christ Candle which we lit on Christmas Eve. A Blessed New Year to you all!

## A Loving Son –by Jimmy Dorrell

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

LOSING A CHILD is painful beyond words. Every parent assumes they will breathe their last breath years before their kids. But no such promise is given us.

Seth was a gift from God to us for 32 years. From day one to his last breath, he was a bright light in our family and in the communities he lived. The first born of four children, Janet and I experienced what most every parent feels so deeply in the delivery room, an incredible sense of awe and wonder. From diapers to home school to Little League to the challenges of youth, he was so loved and so loving. Friends were attracted to his humorous wit and his responsible nature.

With a college degree in hand and soon off to get a graduate degree, the summer between was life-changing for him. For four months he chose to live in Haiti, in a small village where overwhelming poverty and darkness reigned. It was there God seemed to call him from his deepest inward parts to live a life that would make a difference. Once back in the States, he and his new wife moved into a struggling poor neighborhood in West Philadelphia to complete his master's degree and went to work among the under-resourced of their blighted communities. Having grown up in a broken neighborhood, Seth and Sarah, along with baby Finley, embraced the poverty, crime and dysfunction as opportunities to serve instead of run away from. For eight years they loved their neighbors and were incarnational lights of hope in the community.

Yet the poverty and need experienced firsthand in Haiti could not be forgotten. With a sense of excitement only the called understand, they began a new life in Northeast Haiti to provide economic and community development through water wells, schools, microloans and community health care. Despite the challenging living conditions, they loved life and the people they served.

Then the unexpected happened. Seth was diagnosed with third-stage rectal cancer and had to immediately return to the states to begin surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. The next year was hard, but others could hardly tell it by his face or attitude. His humor never succumbed to the harsh side effects, and he refused to give up. During his recovery, we hired him at Mission Waco/Mission World to continue outreach efforts from Waco to Haiti, Mexico City and India. His work was amazing, even with periodic setbacks. Within a year, things were looking great for his future.

Last June, on a mission trip with us to Mexico City, Seth died. It was unexpected and traumatic. He had spoken words of life and light in a worship service that morning and breathed his last breath that evening. How could it be?

The pain has been deep and overwhelming for our family and his. We cry often. There are no words that can really console such loss. But there is hope, hope through the Resurrection that the last enemies of sin and death have been conquered through the Light of the World. And we celebrate the ongoing light of his legacy.

In October, 25 solar-powered lights were purchased from the memorial fund set up in Seth's name. Students and adults, under the guidance of New Vision staff, including Seth's younger brother, Zach, built panels that will be installed in dark homes in Haiti in the months ahead. Light will expel the physical darkness in the village because the Light that expels all darkness still reigns, even in death. "May the light shining before men glorify the Father who is in heaven!"

Jimmy Dorrell is the founder and executive director of Mission Waco/Mission World and pastor of Church Under the Bridge for 21 years. He and his family moved into a poor neighborhood in Waco, Texas, 33 years ago and still live in the same house. With academic degrees from Baylor University (B.A. and M.A.), Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div) and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (D.Min), he is an adjunct professor at Baylor University, Truett Theological Seminary and Bakke Graduate University with a focus on Christian community development classes. Jimmy and Janet had four children, with the loss of their oldest son this past summer, and they enjoy their four grandchildren.



The Christ Candle -On Fire for God – by Rev. Ruston Seaman

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:31-32

As a boy, I remember having really good feelings about Jesus at Christmas. It seemed magical watching people do nice things for others, getting bigger tips as a paper boy, eating special food, having time off from school, and the real bonus – we celebrated Jesus' birthday and we got the presents. What a winning combination for a clueless, young seeker! I saw no downsides.

Thanks to my emerging lobbying skills, I won the right to be the youngest kid in our church's history to light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. I could hardly sleep the night before as I worked out in my mind the strategy of how to get all the candles lit. My family would be proud. God would say "well done," and I would do my part to ensure the world would be made right for another year.

The time finally arrived. The songs had been sung, the lights were down low, and the usher in the back handed me the book of matches along with his final instruction.

"Make sure to get all the candles lit," he said.

"Yes sir," I replied with confidence.

I had no intention of failing at the most important job I had ever been given in my life. Cool, calm and collected, I walked down the aisle while "Silent Night" played softly.

Everything felt right as I tore out the one match who would sacrifice itself for this task. I struck it on the pack with flawless precision. With the skill of a surgeon, I proceeded. Front candle - lit, left candle - lit, back candle - lit. By the time I got to the fourth candle, which was on the right, I heard that small voice in my head forcefully whisper, "Ruston, we have a problem". My dream job quickly turned into a nightmare as I realized the match was just about to set my finger ablaze, and the Christ Candle had been placed in the middle of the fiery furnace. Either I missed the directions or the usher failed to tell me that it was ok to use two matches. In an instant of clarity, I realized I was going to have to sacrifice my fingers to finish this mission.

Adrenaline kicked in, and time stood still as I calculated my options. Failure to light the Christ Candle might stop the world from spinning and the shame would be too much to bear. So with as much speed and courage as a young boy could manage, and knowing it was going to hurt, I raised my elbow to go over the top the burning ring of fire. Saying a quick prayer to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, I focused on the task at hand, smelling my own flesh as I focused on my target. I literally was "on fire for God!" As I lit the Christ Candle, its glow seemed equal to that of the Olympic flame coming alive to the shouts of praise of the angels in heaven.

In my mind I recall the majesty of that moment when the light of his flame caused my pain to disappear. As I finished my job and blew out my fingers, I made my way back to my seat doing my best not to cry or break the silence of this most special night.

Ruston Seaman is the president of New Vision Renewable Energy and the pastor of Peoples Chapel in Chestnut Ridge, W.V. Along with his wife, Donna, and children, Leah, and Ruston Ray, he loves finding ways to help make the world a better place.





AB University, President Creehan faculty, staff and students

Bryson Akingbemi  
Josiah Baits  
Lee Beuckman  
Curt Bolyard family  
Dennis Bolyard  
Franklin Brown  
Ronnie Campbell  
Jane Cobb  
Sarah Cobb  
Julianne Colvin  
Anne & Frank Dowd  
Melissa Franke's Aunt Gail  
Rita Franke  
Joe & Beverly Gouer  
Stephanie Hinkle  
Sherry Jones  
Charles McQuade  
Christina Maddy  
Ruth Mahaffey  
Wilma Marsh  
Donna Moore  
Duane Poling  
Frankie Poling  
Melvin Richter  
Gregory Riley  
Dawn Scheick  
Kaley Sinsel  
Gavin Tucker  
Christina Wentz

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, Dr. Shearer, Mary Tamulitis  
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  
Chris Mossburg,  
Corporal Anthony Perry, Jr.  
Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.  
Major Kris Wood



3- Elizabeth Sweet  
4- Elizabeth Withers  
6- Clyde Sphon  
9- Robert Digman  
9- Sue LoBello  
10- Jeff Allen  
10- Petar Vlastic  
17- Marija Sommer  
20- Linda Long  
23- Dennis Stull



## The Girl Who Sings Soprano

Two new faces have appeared recently in the chancel choir at Philippi Baptist Church. One belongs to alto Sarah Ferguson, lifetime member of the congregation and well known as the wife of Pete and the mother of Sam.

The other belongs to a newer member, SarahEllen Dillon, a soprano and a senior at Alderson Broaddus University with a major in Music Education and a minor in International Studies. A trombone player, she is a member of the Brass Choir and the Concert Band. She has also played in the Brass Quintet and the Jazz Band. Sports fans will recognize her as having participated as a Color Guard in the AB marching band.

A native of Peterstown, where her two older brothers still live, dark-haired and smiling SarahEllen resides in Alderson, where she graduated from Greenbrier East High School. She attends the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church when on vacation and last summer directed their Vacation Bible School. She also participated in Energy Express there and plans to do that again next summer. In the fall she will go with the AB group to spend the semester in Europe, returning in the spring to do her student teaching. Having transferred from Marshall University to take advantage of the music program at AB, she intends to continue her education after graduation by working on a master's degree and earning certification in Elementary Education, probably at Concord University. Ultimately, she says, she wants to teach music at the elementary school level. Her favorite hobby or extracurricular activity is photography, and she enjoys traveling to capture unusual nature pictures.

SarahEllen is seriously interested in missions and has participated in two related trips, one to Wichita Falls, Texas, with Habitat for Humanity and one to Camden, New Jersey, with the AB mission team. She is part of the Baptist Campus Ministry leadership team at AB, describing that involvement as a good mid-week break from studies. She reports that she feels honored and challenged to have been asked by the PBC Nominating Committee to have her name submitted as a potential member of the Board of Missions and Outreach. "Philippi Baptist is my home church. This is where my membership belongs and is," she says. "I came here because friends were attending, and it just felt right. The congregation is very welcoming, and I really appreciate the music." As evidence of that, SarahEllen sings not only in the choir but on the Praise Team. PBC is blessed by her presence and her contributions to the church ministry.

# Weekly Events

|            |  |                             |
|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Sundays    | Sunday School<br>AM Worship<br>PBC Mosaic                          | 9:15am<br>10:30am<br>5:30pm |
| Tuesdays   | Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)<br>BCM at Wilcox Chapel | 1pm<br>8:38pm               |
| Wednesdays | Midweek Service<br>Chancel Choir                                   | 6pm<br>7:15pm               |
| Fridays    | Code Blue (ages 13-17)   | 6pm-9pm                     |

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

|                      | January 5                    | January 12                           | January 19                         | January 26                        |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>       | Wanda & Jim Steele           | Christie Allen                       | Rebekah Hicks<br>Elizabeth Withers | Cheryl Wolfe &<br>Allison Villers |
| <b>Wee Church</b>    | Abby & Cheryl<br>Blankenship | Rebekah Hicks &<br>Ashley Willingham | Koereen & Thomas<br>Villers        | Hayden & Heather<br>Cottrill      |
| <b>Junior Church</b> | Pete & Sarah Ferguson        | Kelly & Lindsey<br>Bracey            | Sara & Eddy Poling                 | Pete & Sarah<br>Ferguson          |



**What:** January meeting of Philippi's American Baptist Women (ABW)  
**When:** 9:30 AM, January 7, 2013  
**Who:** All women of the church are invited to attend and participate.  
**Program:** Bible Study– Ephesians 4– Barbara Smith  
**Hostess:** Jane Digman  
**Bible Book of the Month:** Romans



--Heart & Hand Thrift Store--  
**VOLUNTEER NIGHT--**  
 Monday, January  
 7th--6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
**COME JOIN THE FUN!**

**Philippi Baptist Partners with Philippi Mayor and  
Barbour Co. Community Corrections Program  
To build Ramp for Needy Family**



During December 2013, several members of the Philippi Baptist Church partnered with Philippi Mayor, Jerry Mouser, and with the Barbour County Community Corrections Program, under director, Matt Bennett, to build a power scooter ramp for the Anthony & Terri Mayle family, near Philippi. Mr. Mayle had suffered a brain injury several years ago as the result of an ATV accident. The project was completed by the Church as part of the “40 Days of Community Program. Several church members commented that the project was truly a community effort, and are thankful for all who participated.

# Upcoming Events

- Thursday, January 2nd– 6:30pm– Diaconate meeting
- Friday, January 3rd– Undecorate the church
- Saturday, January 3rd– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion  
- 1-5pm– Fellowship hall reserved
- Sunday, January 5th– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
-11:45am– Board of worship meeting **immediately following worship service**
- Monday, January 7th– 6:30pm– Heart & Hand Volunteer Night
- Sunday, January 12th– 4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting  
-7:30pm– Church Council meeting
- Sunday, January 19th– 4:00pm– Mansfield Place Chapel service led by Pastor Jon  
-6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
- Monday, January 27th– Deadline to get articles in for February newsletter.



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### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, January 5th @ 7:30am  
At the Medallion



February's newsletter deadline  
will be January 27th.