



The Baptist Bridge

March 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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107 Church Street ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206
Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director

Eddy Poling, Youth Director
Michele Moore, Pianist

Caleb Villers, Praise Team Leader
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlasic, Custodian



I want to give a report on a mountain top experience this past weekend. We loaded up the Philippi Baptist Church Van to make an annual trek. The Union Baptist Association Men's Breakfast was being held at Middleville Baptist Church. At 7am we took off to encounter a few potholes in the way, but made got there in plenty of time for the 8am start time. We were met with great

hospitality by Pastor Paul Boyles and the folks at Middleville Baptist. The breakfast buffet was laid out in Kingly proportions and several of our sister churches had folks there to join in the feast. All the tables were decorated in camouflage and green army helmets and little plastic army men met us as centerpieces on each table. It then all made sense for us when Pastor Paul began to share with us a message on being courageous. He used several of his men from Middleville to share in the presentation and gave us all great food for thought to match with the amazing breakfast that was offered. We even got to share in our van ride with the pastor at Valley Bend Baptist Church. Pastor Joe Bowen is also the Band Director for Elkins High School. It was a great opportunity to connect with our sister church that is located right across from the Barbour County Fairgrounds.

As we made it back in town around 11am, we then turned our attention to the next phase of a packed weekend. Our youth organization of the Union Association, entitled U-Link, had been planning a lock-in at ABU's coliseum with its kickoff being the invitation for students and volunteers leaders to attend the 2pm and 4pm Battler Basketball Games. After the games, we cleaned up all the bleachers as a community service project. Simpson Creek Baptist provided a huge bag full of cookies. Bottles of water and Fox's Big Daddy Pizzas were also a big hit! A Big thanks to Eddy and Sarah Poling for taking care of registration and opening up Philippi Baptist for all that stayed to hear a gospel message later that evening before turning in for the night. Also, Lara Foster, Director of ABU intramurals, brought done some of her staff to interact with the middle and high school students while they were still at the coliseum. And a big thank you to the other adult leaders: Pastor Paul, Aaron, Janet and Deborah from Middleville Baptist who made the evening a great success by investing in the youth that were there!! Several ABU staff and students helped do some connecting as well: Allison, Ashley, Caleb, Padon, Rachel, Nate, Samuel to name a few. There were many more willing to be a part, but the small number of youth did not warrant more!

Eddy Poling helped lead the youth in an exercise that was brought by Deborah and Janet. The emphasis was on understanding those things we need to value. They each had to do an assignment that involved thinking they only had 5 minutes to live. With pen and paper in hand, they had to write out what they would say to the people they love. All eleven of the youth took this to heart! As they were in the midst of leaving words for mother, father, sisters or brothers; the lights were turned out 3 minutes into the exercise and they were told they could not finish. It was a very real reminder that none of are given the five minute warning and we need to value our relationships and not take them for granted.

At the end of their devotional time, they broke off into small groups where two or three of the students had one adult leader to share about the opportunities of living a Christian life. Eddy then brought them all together and asked if any wanted to make a first time commitment to follow Jesus. Two of the youth present raised their hands at this request! Praise the Lord!

After getting at least some sleep, Sunday morning was meet with a great breakfast provided by Broaddus Hospital and the East Clarksburg Baptist Church. The youth had divided up the leading of the morning worship service and we encountered a spirit filled service that made a great ending to a wonderful lock-in. The testimonies during the service were heart felt and very well received. Caleb, our oldest son, gave a presentation of his three years going with ABU's Mission team to Nicaragua. He is preparing for his fourth spring break trip with Dr. Jim Stinespring and had great stories to tell of their adventures together!

The weekend was a great reminder for me of God's leading in all circumstances. God gives us mountain top experiences to prepare us for all the other terrains of this life we will walk through.

Shalom - Pastor Jon



AB University, President Creehan faculty, staff and students

John Allen
Denny Blackburn
Melissa Bodkins
Dennis Bolyard
Jean Bowles
Ronnie Campbell
Code Blue
Wayne Drain
Christina Maddy
Ruth Mahaffey
Sam Maverick
Donna Moore
Adam Ogle
Gregory Riley
Jean Roy
Martha Rose Roy
Sonya Stahl
Gary Tetreault
Jack Wilson

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.



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



3– Shanon Dering
3– George Kratsas
4– Katie Mullens
10– Craig Cobb
11– Lindsey Bracey
11– Sarah Ferguson
12– Jean Roy
13– Cheryl Blankenship
14– George Whitman
20– Lars Byrne
21– Barbara Smith
27– Abby Blankenship
28– Jacob Steele



17– George & Carolyn Davis
24– Craig & Sarah Cobb
24– Jovan & Zvesdana Vlasic



Candidate for Baptism—Penny Adair

Penny Adair came to Philippi Baptist Church the way most people come to a new church—on the invitation of a friend. In this case, that friend was Margaret Salimi, a fellow resident of Baughman Towers. Penny, who was born and raised as a Catholic, had not been attending any church but says that she immediately felt comfortable at PBC.

“I felt like I belonged. I was no longer an outsider but was welcomed and accepted. I felt like I had come home to where my family was.”

Born in Boston, she moved with her family, which included her parents and their four daughters and a son, to Baltimore when she was three years old. It was in Baltimore that she attended Catholic schools, eventually getting married there. Tragically, her husband was killed in Vietnam. His name, Penny reports, is on the wall in Washington.

Penny mothered nine children, two of whom are deceased. The other seven are scattered—one in Maine, one in Florida, two in California, two in Virginia, and one still in Baltimore. She moved to West Virginia with her second husband, whose family was from this state. Living first in Clarksburg, she moved to Grafton and, after getting a job with the 911 Center, moved again to Philippi, where she intends to stay. She worked also as an Emergency Medical Technician with the EMS. After retiring from that position in 2006, she worked part-time at Walmart.

As soon as she made contact with Philippi Baptist Church, she became a member of the Koinonia Sunday School class and began, with Margaret, attending the Wednesday night Bible study sessions, also participating in a 40-Days small group. She is also attending the new members’ class on Sunday nights, and she expects to be baptized on Easter Sunday.

“As soon as Margaret gets back,” she says, “we’re going to become volunteers at Code Blue.” When asked why this organization is of special interest, she says, “As a child I did not have a good home life, and I’d like to help to provide some positive experiences for kids who are like I was.” Anyone who gets to know Penny Adair will soon learn that she has a wealth of wisdom and common sense to share. She is and will continue to be a blessing to this church.

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship PBC Mosaic Small groups	9:15am 10:30am 5:30pm 6:00pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house) BCM at Wilcox Chapel	1pm 8:38pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service Chancel Choir	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for March

March 2		March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Nursery	Wanda & Jim Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe & Allison Villers	No Nursery
Wee Church	Abby & Cheryl Blankenship	Rebekah Hicks & Ashley Willingham	Koereen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	No Wee Church
Junior Church	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly & Lindsey Bracey	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	No Junior Church



March 4, 2014, 9:30 AM **Monthly meeting of Philippi's ABW** in the Fellowship Hall. Love Gift is the topic to be presented by Mrs. Jody Sperry. Each month Jody collects the Love Gift monies from all attendees. These monies are collected by the member during the month as a reminder of the daily blessing. Jody will share some of the history and uses of the monies that are sent to the American Baptist Convention Women's ministries. This is one of the area of ministry for ABWM. All women are welcome to attend. Joann is the hostess for this meeting.

March 22, 2014 **ABWM Spiritual Growth Retreat** at the First Baptist Church, Grafton, with registration and continental breakfast beginning at 9:00 AM. "The Broken Path" is the topic of the special guest Speaker, Verna Bowman. Verna works as a medical secretary and patient advocate along with writing her first book, "Crumbs Along the Broken Path". The focus of the book and her topic is offering hope to those who find it difficult to see beyond the circumstances.

Please contact Jane Digman (304-457-1591) or Martha Rose Roy (304-4571998) if you are interested in attending. Lunch will be served.

Million Women Movement How many women have influenced you during your lifetime? Are you willing to give one dollar (\$1) to recognize those women? This project is to help fund ministries of the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) of West Virginia. Support is needed to continue the outreach ministries of ABWM. Details of this effort will be shared in the April newsletter.

Save the date: May 6 **Women's Spring Banquet**. Plans are under way for our annual spring banquet. The theme will probably be associated with recognizing the influential women in our lives.

Philippi Baptist Church

March 7th & 8th

The National Institute of Marriage

Branson, Missouri. 1(866) 875-2915.

Our Mission

Saving marriages and inspiring couples towards greatness.

Our Vision

Pursuing excellence in the integration of Christian faith and professional discipline, the National Institute of Marriage will find innovative and effective ways to influence our world toward God-inspired lives and marriages.

Ministry, Products and Services

Through the Intensives, our team members accomplish three very important goals: restoring couples, remaining connected to God's desire and ability to transform marriages, and, to continue learning, applying, and teaching the life-changing concepts that result in successful marriages.

Direct ministry to couples – We have developed a continuum of care that meets couples wherever they may be in their relationship. Regardless of the health of their marriage we have a service that can help them improve their marital satisfaction.

www.nationalmarriage.com

The Couples Experience

A two-day Marriage Enrichment program designed for a small group of couples to learn the tools and principles of healthy marriage. These insights come from over 10 years of assisting distressed couples reach health and recovery in our highly successful intensive marital therapy programs. One facilitator will walk couples through discussions and exercises that will reveal the hidden barriers that keep their marriage from thriving. Couples will learn how to apply valuable relationship skills aimed at strengthening their marriage. **\$50 per couple. Scholarships are available**

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 2nd– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Fund
7:30PM– Board of Deacons meeting
7:30PM– Board of Worship meeting

Tuesday, March 6:00PM– 8:00PM– Fellowship hall Reserved

Friday, March 7th– Saturday, March 8th– National Institute of Marriage retreat

Friday, March 7th– World Day of Prayer

Sunday, March 9th– 3:00PM– Blue & Grey rehearsal
5:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting
7:30PM– Church Council meeting

Thursday, March 13th– 11:30AM– 4:00PM– fellowship hall reserved

Saturday, March 15th– Spring Children’s retreat at Parchment Valley

Sunday, March 16th– 3:00PM– Blue & Grey rehearsal
4:00PM– Mansfield Place Chapel service
4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting
6:00PM– Board of Missions an Outreach meeting

Sunday, March 23rd– 11:45AM– Code Blue luncheon fundraiser
3:00PM– Blue and Grey rehearsal

Monday, March 24th– Newsletter deadline

Sunday, March 30th– 3:00PM– Blue & Grey rehearsal



What a nice surprise! I truly enjoyed receiving my Valentine box. I will cherish my last one! Thank you all so much!!!

Love, Chelsea Long



February's newsletter deadline will be March 24th.



Philippi Baptist Church
107 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rainfall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*