



# 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.

March 2015

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



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## A Word from the Pastor

Every Monday night at 6:30pm, I can't wait to see what God has in store for Celebrate Recovery Barbour County! Ms. Emily Casto shared a powerful message on the topic of Sanity and I wanted to hit some highlights of Principle Two – “Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him and that He has the power to help me recover.” And Step 2 – “We come to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to SANITY.” [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com)

We spent our first month on Principle 1. We finally were able to face our denial and admit that we are powerless to control our tendency to do the wrong thing and that our lives had become unmanageable—out of control!

Now what do we need to do? How and where do we get the control? The answer is to take the second step on our journey of recovery.

The second step tells us that we have come to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. “Wait a minute!” you’re saying. “I spent an entire month hearing that to begin my recovery I had to face and admit my denial. Now you’re telling me that I must be crazy? That I need to be restored to sanity? Give me a break!”

No, Step 2 isn't saying that you're crazy. Let me try to explain what the word “sanity” means in this step. As a result of admitting our powerlessness in Principle 1, we can move from chaos to hope in Principle 2. We talked about that in our last teaching session. Hope comes when we believe that a power greater than ourselves, our Higher Power, Jesus Christ, can and will restore us! Jesus can provide that power where we were powerless over our addictions and compulsive behaviors. He alone can restore order and meaning to our lives. He alone can restore us to sanity.

### Sanity

Insanity has been defined as “doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result each time.”

Sanity has been defined as “wholeness of mind; making decisions based on the truth.”

Jesus is the only Higher Power who offers the truth, the power, the way, and the life. The following acrostic, using the word sanity, shows some of the gifts we receive when we believe that our true Higher Power, Jesus Christ has the power and will restore us to SANITY!

Strength

Acceptance

New Life

Integrity

Trust

Your Higher Power

The first letter is S, which stands for STRENGTH.

When we accept Jesus as our Higher Power, we receive strength to face the fears that, in the past, have caused us to fight, flee, or freeze. Now we can say, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear” (Psalm 46:1) and “My mind and my body may grow weak, but God is my strength; he is all I ever need” (Psalm 73:26, GNB).

Relying on our own power, our own strength is what got us here in the first place. We believed we didn't need God's help, strength, or power. It's almost like we were disconnected from our true power source—God!

Choosing to allow my life to finally run on God's power—not my own limited power, weakness, helplessness, or sense of inferiority—has turned out to be my greatest strength. God came in where my helplessness began. And He will do the same for you!

The next letter, A, stands for ACCEPTANCE.

Romans 15:7 (GNB) says, “Accept one another, then, for the glory of God, as Christ has accepted you.”



When we take Step 2, we learn to have realistic expectations of ourselves and others. We learn not to relate to others in the same old way, expecting a different response or result than they have given us time and time again. We begin to find the sanity we have been searching for. We remember to pray and ask God “to give us the courage to change the things we can and to accept the things we cannot change.”

As our faith grows and we get to know our Higher Power better, it becomes easier for us to accept others as they really are, not as we would have them be!

With acceptance, however, comes responsibility. We stop placing all the blame on others for our past actions and hurts.

The next letter, N, stands for NEW life.

In the pit of our hurts, habits, and hang-ups, we were at our very bottom. We know the feelings expressed in 2 Corinthians 1:8–9 (TLB): “We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God.”

The verse goes on to say, “God ... alone could save us ... and we expect him to do it again and again.”

The penalty for our sins was paid in full by Jesus on the cross. The hope of a new life is freedom from our bondage! “When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, TLB).

The next benefit of this step is the I in sanity: INTEGRITY.

We gain integrity as we begin to follow through on our promises. Others start trusting what we say. The apostle John placed great value on integrity: “Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are following the way of truth” (3 John 4, NCV).

Remember, a half-truth is a whole lie, and a lie is the result of weakness and fear. Truth fears nothing—nothing but concealment! The truth often hurts. But it’s the lie that leaves the scars.

A man or woman of integrity and courage is not afraid to tell the truth. And that courage comes from a power greater than ourselves—Jesus Christ, the way, the TRUTH, and the life.

The T in sanity stands for TRUST.

As we work Step 2, we begin to trust in our relationships with others and our Higher Power. “It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe” (Proverbs 29:25, GNB).

As we “let go and let God” and admit that our lives are unmanageable and we are powerless do anything about it, we learn to trust ourselves and others. We begin to make real friends in recovery, in our groups, at the Solid Rock Cafe, and in church. These are not the mere acquaintances and the fair-weather friends we knew while we were active in our addictions and compulsions. In recovery you can find real friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, to walk beside you on your journey through the principles—friends whom you can trust, with whom you can share, with whom you can grow in Christ.

The last letter in our acrostic this evening is Y: YOUR Higher Power, Jesus Christ, loves you just the way you are! “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

No matter what comes your way, together you and God can handle it! “And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out” (1 Corinthians 10:13). “Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:19).

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Higher Power and Savior, we are not only guaranteed eternal life, but we also have God’s protection in time of trials. Nahum 1:7 says, “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.”



Wrap-up

Recovery is a daily program, and we need a power greater than ourselves—a Higher Power who will provide us with the strength, acceptance, new life, integrity, and trust to allow us to make sane decisions based on His truth!

And if you complete the next principle, Principle 3, your future will be blessed and secure! Matthew 6:34 (TLB) says, “So don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.”

Let’s close in prayer.

Dear God, I have tried to “fix” and “control” my life’s hurts, hang-ups, or habits all by myself. I admit that, by myself, I am powerless to change. I need to begin to believe and receive Your power to help me recover. You loved me enough to send Your Son to the cross to die for my sins. Help me be open to the hope that I can only find in Him. Please help me to start living my life one day at a time. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Shalom – Pastor Jon



- 3- Shannon Dering
- 3- George Kratsus
- 4- Katie Mullens
- 10- Craig Cobb
- 11- Lindsey Bracey
- 11- Sarah Ferguson
- 12- Jean Roy
- 13- Cheryal Blankenship
- 14- George Whitman
- 15- Kristina Vlasic
- 20- Lars Byrne
- 21- Barbara Smith
- 27- Abigail Blankenship
- 28- Jacob Steele

- 8- Jason & Emily Meader
- 17- George & Carolyn Davis
- 24- Craig & Sarah Cobb
- 24- Jovan & Zvezdana

Save the Date!  
Vacation Bible School  
July 25th

# The Gospel Tide

The Gospel Tide, gospel singing group will be at Philippi Baptist Church’s worship service March 15th at 10:30am!



AB University, President Creehan,  
Faculty, staff, and students  
Barbour County Homless  
Stephanie Bassel  
Lee & Sue Beuckman  
Connie & Gary Booth  
Jean Bowles  
Marie Bowyer  
Randall Brannon family  
Emily Casto  
Children's' Rally  
Church van  
Faith Cline  
Code Blue  
Ruby Cozad  
Dennis Daugherty  
Elliot  
Randy Goodwin  
Arletta Gould  
Anthony Hinkle  
Betty Hoffman  
Local ministries  
Detra McVey  
Wilma McVicker family  
Milton Marks family  
David Mace  
Aaron Miller family  
Rev. Ken Miller  
Greg Mouser  
Debbie Mulneix  
Audra Murphy  
Myers missionary family in Mexico  
Michael Perry  
Michael Perry's uncle  
City of Philippi leadership  
Daniel Prussa  
Amber Riffle  
Elody Shrader  
Randy Smothers  
Inez Stump  
Koreen 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



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



Emily Casto's sister  
Randy Goodwin  
Rev. Oz Gray  
Emily Meader's dad  
Noffsingers  
Madison Riffle  
Margaret Salimi  
Madison Skidmore  
Jaxon Smiley  
Souper Bowl of Caring  
Brandy Sweeney  
Van Fund  
Heidi Wilson



### **Headed for Ministry**

Talk about active teenagers, Madison Riffle is surely one of them. Here at Philippi Baptist Church, she sings in the choir and is a note-taker for Wednesday evening Bible Study. She has helped with the youth group, and she attends Celebrate Recovery meetings. She has even done the Power Point presentations on Sunday mornings. As of January, she is also a member of the Board of Outreach and Missions.

Although she grew up in Monongalia County, she was born at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, where her Navy father was stationed on an aircraft carrier. Coming to Alderson Broaddus University after attending public schools in Mon County, Madison is now part of the Leadership Team for the Baptist Student Movement. She also sings in the Concert and Chapel Choirs, and she is a member of the Lambda Sigma Phi sorority. Her academic major is Christian Studies.

When she has time, she says, she loves to read, and she plays a guitar and thoroughly enjoys time with her friends. “I like to think of myself as an avid adventurer. I love to hike and rock climb and go white-water rafting. West Virginia is the place to be for all that.”

When asked what brought her to Philippi Baptist Church, she smiles, “Friends. I had several friends coming, and I came with them and liked it here a lot, so I’ve been here ever since.” She reports that through her middle school years, she attended a Methodist church, and through high school she worshipped with an Assembly of God congregation. Having become a Baptist, she was baptized at PBC last October. As for the future, Madison wants to become a youth minister, and she would like to stay in West Virginia.

When asked what person, living or dead, she would most like to meet, she thinks for a moment and then offers a broad smile. “My great-grandfather,” she says. “He died before I was two, so I never knew him, but I’ve heard a hundred stories about him, the great things he did as well as the pranks he played.” Her smile gets even wider. “I’d really like to talk to him and find out how much of it all is true.”

No doubt about it—this young woman is a fine addition to the PBC congregation.

# 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 March

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda & Jim Steele	Janet Baughman	Zvezdana Vlastic	Cheryl Wolfe	
<b>Wee Church</b>	Rebekah Hicks	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Wes & Crystal Gray	Wanda Steele & Rebekah Hicks
<b>Junior Church</b>	Kelly Bracey	Sara Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Angel McCullough	Wanda Steele & Rebekah Hicks

### COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 9:30am on Tuesday, March 3rd.

The topic will be "Health Issues"

Rochelle Sutton will be speaking

Joann Marsh will be hosting

**Bible Book of the Month - Ezekiel**



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



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.



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**  
Sat., March 7th @ 8:00am  
At Hepzibah Baptist Church. Van leaves PBC at 7:15am

# Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 28th– Sunday, March 1st– Junior High Convention at Highlawn Baptist Church

Sunday, March 1st- 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

4:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at East Clarksburg Baptist

4:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Wednesday, March 4th– 12:00pm– Barbour County Ministerial Association Lenten Luncheon at

Crim Memorial, Rev. Bryan Headley of Silent Grove will be speaking

Saturday, March 7th– 8:00am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Hepzibah Baptist Church, meet at 7:15 at PBC

Sunday, March 8th– Daylight Savings Time begins

4:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at Mount Vernon Baptist Church

4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting

5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting

7:30pm– Church Council meeting

Wednesday, March 11th– 12:00pm– Barbour County Ministerial Association Lenten Luncheon at

Crim Memorial, Rev. Howard Swick of Haven of Hope will be speaking

Friday, March 13th– Saturday, March 14th– American Baptist men’s Spring retreat at Parchment Valley

Saturday, March 14th—Children’s Spring Rally

Sunday, March 15th– 10:30pm– The Gospel Tide at PBC

3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal

4:00pm– Chapel Service at Mansfield Place led by Pastor Jon

4:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at Union Baptist

6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meetings

Wednesday, March 18th– 12:00pm– Barbour County Ministerial Association Lenten Service at

Crim Memorial, Rev. Shirley Webster of Green Valley speaking

Thursday, March 19th– 6:00pm– Board of Worship meeting

Sunday, March 22nd– 3:00pm- Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal

4:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at Hepzibah Baptist

Wednesday, March 25th– 12:00pm– Barbour County Ministerial Association Lenten service at

Crim Memorial, Rev. Jeff Burnett of Horizons speaking

Saturday, March 28th– 1:00pm– Family Easter Event

Sunday, March 29th– 3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm– Union Association Lenten Service at Middleville Baptist Church

Beginning March 4th there will be a ladies small group study from 5:30pm-7pm on Wednesdays. Contact Emily Casto for further questions or interest.



Beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a men’s small group study from 7:45am- 9:15am on Sundays. Contact Pastor Jon for further questions or interest.





## Union Association Combined Services Planned For 2015



### Lenten Services

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

The Board of Christian Education will be accepting donations for the Easter egg hunt. Any donations of plastic eggs and candy are greatly appreciated.



The church Easter craft program will be Saturday March 28th from 1-3 and is for all ages.

# THE GOSPEL TIDE

We are a Male Vocal Group  
focused on sharing the Gospel  
message of Jesus Christ through  
praise and worship music.

PHILIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH  
69 CHURCH ST., PHILIPPI, WV  
MARCH 15, 2015, 10:30 am



Like us on Facebook

Email/Feedback:  
gospeltide@gmail.com

Booking information:  
Doug Richter 757.537.7467  
"Jimbo" McPherson 757.390.7518





Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416

Suggested Heart & Hand donation for  
March:

**Canned meat & dried beans**

**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**