



# The Baptist Bridge

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



## Inside this issue:

*Pastor's Message... 2*  
*PBC Mosaic... 4*  
*Birthdays &  
Anniversaries... 6*

*Prayer requests... 6*  
*Getting to Know... 7*  
*Schedules... 8*  
*Announcements... 8-10*

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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



## Dear Parents with young children in church

I want to welcome guest columnist, JAMIE BRUESEHOFF. Her post was forwarded to me by our Children's Choir Director. After seeing 14 kids line up across the front of Philippi Baptist Church on Easter Sunday for Tiny Moments Children's message, I was inspired even more to include it this week in my column. I am so thankful that Jesus specifically took time for children and gave us the example to do the same! I will now allow Jamie to voice a huge thank you to parents of young children in church:

"You are doing something really, really important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you beg your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is so important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to sit quietly and behave in worship. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of those mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know it matters. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are enough right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly-timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise because it means they are present.



I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.”

Jamie Bruesehoff is a mom, pastor's wife, runner, camp director and writer. She strives to live and parent with love, grace, and courage. Jamie writes honestly about parenting her spirited children, faith, her struggle with depression and anxiety, running, and of course, those \*that\* mom moments when motherhood leaves her doing things she never imagined or even swore she'd never do at <http://www.iamtotallythatmom.blogspot.com/>

Shalom, Pastor Jon



## Congratulations to our graduates!

Abby Blankenship– Philip Barbour High School– High School Diploma  
Saige Cline– Philip Barbour High School– High School Diploma  
Jonathan Franke– Philip Barbour High School– High School Diploma  
Joey McGuire– Philip Barbour High School– High school Diploma  
Scott Nesland– Philip Barbour High School– High School Diploma  
Allison Villers– Philip Barbour High School– High School Diploma

Chelsea Long– Davis & Elkins College– B. S. in Nursing  
Ashley Mauldin– Alderson Broaddus University– B. S. in Nursing  
Ben Noffsinger– Alderson Broaddus University– B. A. in Music Education  
Caleb Villers– Alderson Broaddus University– B. A. in Christian Studies  
Ashley Willingham– Alderson Broaddus University– B. A. in Elementary and Special Education  
Matt Wood– Alderson Broaddus University– B. A. in Musical Arts



On April 26, 2014, six hearty souls from Philippi Baptist conducted our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, as part of the state-wide cleanup effort. Those helping included Clarence and Dianna Wright, Randy Moore, Bob Boyer, Pastor Jon and Craig Cobb. Together we removed 16 bags of trash and litter from our assigned 2.2 mile stretch of Highway, on Rt. 119 between the Covered Bridge and the Rt. 57 intersection. May the Good Lord bless all those who work to keep His world clean.



When I say I use Apologetics in youth ministry, it gets mixed reviews. Some people think it amounts to "intellectual bullying and argumentative one-upsmanship" as Brett Kunkle, Student Impact Director for Stand to Reason (Str.org) would say. Some folks feel it is all thinking and no faith. Is this an accurate view of Apologetics? Why do we need to know this stuff?

**1 Peter 3:15- *But sanctify the Lord God<sup>al</sup> in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;***

**First**, Playing Defense- The Greek word for defense is "apologia", which is where the term Apologetics comes from. When someone lashes out with a platitude or belief about God that isn't true, they have taken an offensive stance against him. We are called to make give a defense. Think of it like a football game. If one team stands there while the other team plays offense. They will get beat. However, If the defensive team has practiced defensive tactics, they will hold off the Offensive team from scoring. When someone makes a statement like " How can a good God allow suffering?" "The Bible is full of errors." or "Jesus can't be the *only* way to God.", we can use Apologetics to defend Chrsitianity against tough questions. Does God need us to defend him. No. However, We ARE told to give a defense none the less.

**Second**, Playing Offense- We are called to play offense as well!

**Mark 16:15-<sup>15</sup> *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.***

This is God's Offensive play.

*We offer evidence for God's existence, reasons to trust the Bible, and arguments for the bodily resurrection of Jesus. By playing offense, we give others good reason to think Christianity is true."*Brett Kunkle

What are you defending? "The hope that is in you." It gives hope for the truth to come out and for people who have never known God to hear the hope in you and that you are willing to defend it. In doing so you are "setting apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts". We are giving over ourselves to Christ. Being transformed is a beginning point for sharing with nonbelievers.

Now, defense doesn't mean being *defensive*. Offense doesn't mean being *offensive*. Rather, verse 16 tells us our defense is made "with gentleness and respect." Our experience should be filled with humility, warmth, grace and love, even while we stand boldly for the truth, discerning when, what, and how address misunderstanding. By doing so, we follow in the way of Jesus, who was "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

**Third**, Apologetics is an attempt to deal with the onslaught of untruth bombarding us today. Basically it is a step in understanding how to evangelize. We should not sit idly by and ignore the dilemma of the unbeliever. We need to tell them that sin is real because God is real, and that breaking God's law has a consequence.



**Fourth**, Christianity has gotten a bad image in the media and culture. Protestant televangelists and their scandals as well as other denominations, have given Christianity a negative stigma. When a person seeking answers meets a well thought out, faithful believer, they often get many questions answered and have a "stone put in their shoe". The information and understanding of the truth they encounter leaves them hard pressed to continue walking the same path. It is the work we have been commanded to take up; the casting of the Seed!

**Fifth**, Apostasy is everywhere these days. Without constant study and grounding in reality and the understanding of truth, many Churches and Christians have begun to believe blatant untruths. The study of the word and how it is seen by the world is important to strengthen community and congregation .

**Sixth**, We need apologetics because of the many false teachers out there. There are many half truths being taught.

**Seventh**, the rise of immorality in America is a threat not only to society but also to Christianity. This is a serious issue because an immoral society cannot last long. The Barna Research group statistics show that 64% of adults and 83% of teenagers said moral truth depends on the situation that you are in. 19% of the adult population believes that "the whole idea of sin is outdated." 51% believe that "if a person is generally good, or does enough good, he will earn a place in Heaven."

Beginning in May, PBC MOSAIC will begin a study that focuses on "Defense of Hope". It's purpose will be to equip Christians to think clearly about their faith and make a credible defense for Christian beliefs and values. Paul exhorts us to be ambassadors for Christ. An effective ambassador has three essential skills: knowledge, wisdom, and character. Please Join us!





AB University, President Creehan faculty, staff and students

Ty'Shawn Berkley's family  
Denny Blackburn  
Cheryl Blankenship and family  
Dennis & Donna Bolyard  
Connie & Gary Booth  
Jean Bowles  
Code Blue  
Bill & Julia Corder  
Eric Corder  
Wayne Drain  
Oetta England  
Joe Gower  
Virginia Hinkle  
Tom Johns  
Sherry Jones  
Steve Lantz  
David Lucy  
Christina Maddy  
Ruth Mahaffey  
Sam Maverick  
Helen Mazzei  
David Mellquist  
Skylar Moats  
Donna Moore  
Gregory Riley  
Artie Shaw  
Sonya Stahl  
Phyllis Strauchman  
Ashley Taylor  
Edwina Thomas family  
Ken Waddell's sister



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



5- Kelly Bracey  
5- Anne Jones  
8- Vangie Shaffer  
9- Andrew Sweet  
13- Grant Dadisman  
16- Jennifer Wheeler  
20- Caton Hill Jr.  
22- Pat Cain  
24- Elizabeth Wentz  
25- Jud Bracey  
26- Wesley Gray  
26- Everett Sperry  
28- Olin Campbell  
31- Jane Digman  
31- Jacob Scheick



8- Austin & Germaine Whitman  
9- George & Kathy Kratsas  
11- John & Rebekah Hicks  
27- Jon & Koreen Villers

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.



### **Like Son, Like Father—Double Baptism**

“What does baptism mean to you?”

Ten-year-old Sam Ferguson has a ready answer. “It means becoming a member of the church and being a follower of God.”

“What does it mean to be a follower of God?”

“It means devoting your whole life to Him.”

“And what do you like about Philippi Baptist Church?”

“Everyone here is kind,” Sam says. “Well, almost everyone. And I have good friends, and I like the classes and especially Vacation Bible School and Family Game Night and trips like to Idlewild Park.”

When the questions turn to his father, Pete, Sam runs off to find more interesting things to do than listen to the adults.

Pete reports that although he was born in Elkins and been in kindergarten for one day, after which his family moved to Belington. He attended the Belington schools, then Philip Barbour High School and West Liberty College. He followed education right on into his career as a teacher and coach, now teaching science and math at the Philippi Middle School and coaching wrestling and girls’ soccer at Philip Barbour. “It’s all really teaching,” he says, and he notes that over the past several years, he has had five girls on his wrestling teams.

When asked why he has decided to be baptized, Pete says, “It’s time. I’ve considered myself saved for a long time, but I feel it’s important now to make the public statement of being baptized. As for this church,” he says, “we actually left for a while and tried several other churches, mainly because Sam was the only child here at that time. But we came back after being promised that more children would be coming into the congregation, and that has happened. The children’s ministry is growing. Sam was influential in our return to PBC. When we came, he said, ‘It’s good to be back in our own church,’ and that’s how we all feel. This is definitely our spiritual home.”

Pete and his wife, Sarah, have been very active in Christian Education. They frequently lead Junior Church, and they are leaders in other children’s as well as adult activities. They attend the Faith and Family Sunday School class. Pete says that he is glad for the growth of the congregation and hopes for increased attendance in all classes. “The small groups are very important, both spiritually and socially. There’s a good core of people in this congregation, people who have stuck with it. I’d like to see that core grow to include an even greater variety of people.”

The plan is for Sam and Pete to be baptized on Mother’s Day. In this father and son team and in the support and leadership of Sarah, a lifelong member of the church, the Lord has surely blessed this congregation.

# 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)	1pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service Chancel Choir	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

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

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
<b>Nursery</b>	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe & Allison Villers	Wanda & Jim Steele
<b>Wee Church</b>	Rebekah Hicks & Ashley Willingham	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Rebekah Hicks & Ashley Willingham
<b>Junior Church</b>	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly Bracey	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sara Ferguson

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

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<b>Nursery</b>	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe & Allison Villers	Wanda & Jim Steele	Christie Allen
<b>Wee Church</b>	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	Rebekah Hicks & Ashley Willingham	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Hayden & Heather Cottrill
<b>Junior Church</b>	Kelly Bracey	Sara & Eddy Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly Bracey	Sara & Eddy Poling



## American Baptist Women News

*Ladies Spring Banquet is Coming Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.*

The theme this year is "You Decorated My Life". This is in celebration of the women who have special meaning in our lives. Through the Million Women Movement, each American Baptist Woman in West Virginia is celebrating the influence of other women in her life. Have you been blessed by another woman in your life? Share that blessing and join the fun in celebrating.

Reservations will be taken April 27 and May 4. Adults \$5; girls under 12 -\$3.



# Upcoming Events

Thursday, May, 1st– 7:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Friday May 2nd– Saturday, May 3rd– Men's Work Weekend at Camp Cowen

Saturday, May 3rd– 7:30AM– Men's Prayer Breakfast  
Church Reserved

Sunday, May 4th– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

11:45AM– Graduation Recognition luncheon

2:00PM– Fellowship hall reserved

3:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

4:00PM- Union Association Cluster Service at Webster Baptist Church

7:30PM- Diaconate meeting

Monday, May 5th– Wednesday May 7th– Minister's Spring Retreat at Camp Cowen

Monday, May 5th– Wednesday, May 7th– Spring Godlen'eers Retreat at Parchment Valley

Thursday, May 8th– 6:30PM– Christian Men's group meets at the Farmer's Market

7:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 11th– 10:30AM– Mother's Day service

3:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

5:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting

7:30PM– Church Council meeting

Thursday, May 15th– 6:00PM– Fellowship hall reserved

7:00PM– Blue & Gray Coir rehearsal

Friday, May 16th—Saturday, May 17th– Youth Work Party at Camp Cowen

Sunday, May 18th– 3:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

4:00PM– Chapel service at Mansfield Place led by Pastor Jon

6:00PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

Thursday, May 22nd– 7:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Sunday, May 25th– 10:30– Memorial Day service

3:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

4:30PM– Board of Christian of Christian Education

Monday, May 26th- Newsletter deadline

Thursday, May 29th– 6:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir dress rehearsal

Saturday, May 31st– 3:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir Concert



May's newsletter deadline  
is May 26th



**Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, May 3rd @ 7:30am  
At the Medallion



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416



### **Notice**

Due to the new 911 address system the church mailing address has changed. The new address is  
Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV26416

If your address has also changed, please call or email the church office with your new address.

Office@pbcwv.net  
304-457-3206