

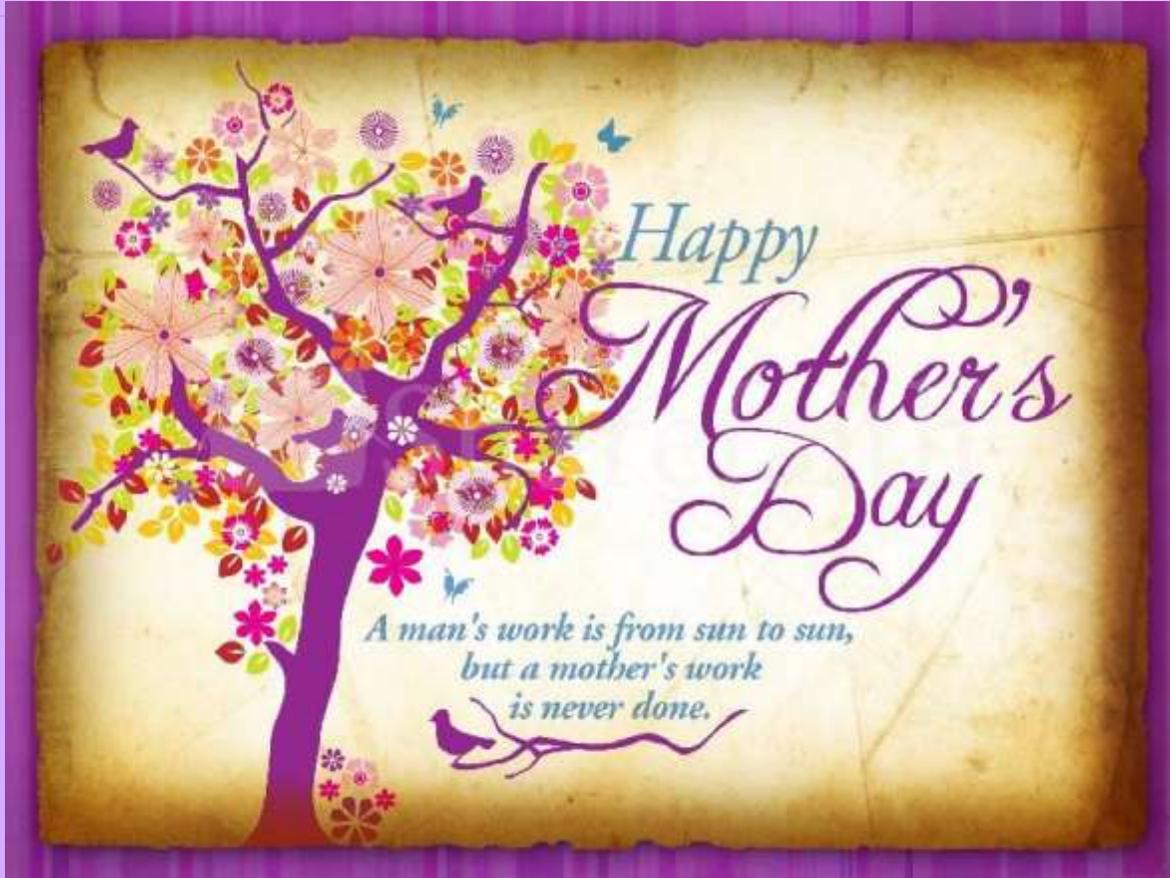


# The Baptist Bridge

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.

May 2017

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



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

Jon Villers, Pastor   Jud Bracey, Choir Director   Madison Riffle, Youth Director   Emily Casto, CR Leader

Sarah Hamman—Praise Team Leader  
Hannah Dixon—Assistant Praise Team

Michele Moore, Choir Accompanist  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



My beloved father and retired pastor, Rev. Lewis Villers can't wait for you to ask him, as he is in his eight-sixth year of life, "How are you doing?" He then replies, "No good!" Of course you would then inquire why he is not doing good. Then he will say, "Don't you read your Bible?" After we answer something like, "Well yes I try to..." He will say, "The Bible says there is none that are good!" In fact in Mark 10 we find these words, "17As Jesus

started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.

And the Psalmist echoes this sentiment in Chapter 53:1 - The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity; there is none who does good. Dad exposes at the very heart of our common method of greeting that we are asking the wrong question. We should not be ultimately concerned with how we are doing. Our doing will always be limited because of our finiteness. The question really should be, "How are you being?" And that answer should be, "I am being good because I'm a child of God!"

I'll let one of my favorite authors make this point much more clearer than I can! Ted Dekker has branched out from his fiction writing career to lead us down a path he titles, "The Forgotten Way" He makes five declarations as we understand Jesus to be the Way, the Truth and the Life. In The Truth section, his first point is: God is infinitely good, far more loving and gentle and kind to His children than any earthly mother or father imaginable. God is infinitely complete; nothing can threaten or disturb Him. Nothing can be taken away from Him, making Him less than complete, nor added to Him who is already complete.

The following illustration comes from his first chapter:

"Let me tell you a story. A spiritual teacher is walking with a small boy in the savannah one sunny afternoon. He uses a walking stick because his bones aren't as strong as they once were. The child holds the old man's free hand because in the boy's eyes, the teacher is a giant and can save him from any danger.

Today's lesson is on God the Father. The teacher has brought the boy to a field frequented by lions. Seeing a pride under a tree, the teacher stops and points to a lion who stands alone, watching them. He turns to the boy.

"Imagine that God is a strong lion, and the accuser, representing all of evil, is a hyena," he says. "Tell me, can the hyena hurt the lion?"

"Yes," the boy says. "He can chase him and with many others, take him down."

"Well then, let's make the lion bigger, because God is infinite. Let's make him as big as the field. The hyena, being finite, does not grow bigger. It is still the same size. Now can the hyena hurt the lion?"

The boy thinks for a moment. "Yes, he could bite the lion's foot," he says.

"Then let's make the lion bigger. As big as the whole savannah. Can the hyena now hurt the lion?"

The boy thinks hard for a long moment. "Well . . . Maybe . . ." "Let's make the lion as big as the whole world and the hyena now only a tiny speck on the field. In fact, let's make the lion as big as all the worlds. As big as the whole universe. Now . . ." He turns to face the boy, staff planted in the dirt before him, his gaze steady. "Can the hyena on that field, who is still the same size, much smaller than a single atom on the surface of a billion suns, hurt the lion?"

"No," the boy says, eyes wide with wonder. "Can the hyena threaten the lion?"

The boy shakes his head. "No."

The teacher looks off to the horizon and draws a deep breath through his nostrils. "Can the hyena even *bother* the lion?"

The answer is plain to the boy. "No," he says.

The teacher looks down and offers an approving nod. "Always remember, this is how big and powerful your Father is. The only thing bigger is His wisdom and His love for you, because God *is* love and you are His son. The hyena can only bother those who do not know who they are."

Where did you come from? What is your origin? But more, *who* is your Father? You must know the answer if you wish to experience your true identity on this earth.

You were fashioned in the image of God, who is Father, Son, and Spirit, and who spoke to *Himself* at the foundation of the world, saying, *Let us make man in Our image*. And thus, the Scripture tells us, you were made in the *likeness* of God.<sup>1</sup>

God is both infinitely transcendent and infinitely close, closer than your own breath. This we know when we taste and see that He is good. This we know from countless Scriptures.



## A Word from the Pastor

But who was God before He first created the fabric of time and space and all that is in this universe? If God is infinitely perfect and complete now, has He not always been? Was He lacking before He created the world? Was He ever like so many false gods, frail and in need of completion, or lonely and in need of followers? No.

Furthermore, can anything be *added* to what is already infinitely complete and perfect? The answer is plain even to the old mind.

But even more, can anything be *taken away* from the One who is infinitely complete and powerful? Can God be compromised? Can any power anywhere make Him less than perfectly complete?

No. Nothing can be added to God, who is already infinite and complete in perfect love, and nothing can be taken away to diminish Him in any way. Ever.

Can anything even pose a true *threat* against such an infinite Being? Can He *feel* threatened? Can He *be* threatened? Is your Father vulnerable in any way? Does He fear and fret for His safety?

Can your all-knowing and complete Father ever expect one outcome and yet be surprised by another, as a god made in man's likeness might? Hoping for one outcome but getting something less brings disappointment. Your Father has known from eternity past all that will ever happen—so can He ever be disappointed? Is this the weak Father you belong to? Never. Do you see how powerful and complete your Father is?

But let's take it even further. You know that God intimately knew you before the foundations of time and space. Before the beginning, He knew everything there is to know about you for all of eternity.

Even at the foundation of the world, you existed in the mind of God as a thought. And God's thoughts are as real as any physical manifestation of them. Thus, outside of time and space, you have always existed. And in that same way, you were predestined before the foundations of the earth to be His son, his daughter.<sup>3</sup>

In the beginning was the Word. A word is the expression of thought. Everything that has ever existed (including you) was made by and through Him. In Him was life, and that life was the Light.<sup>4</sup> Thus, as Paul put it, in Him you live and move and have your being.<sup>5</sup>

Do you begin to see just how infinitely powerful your Father is? He is not a lesser god that has been made in the image of man's religion.

And as for evil, it is like that tiny, tiny, tiny hyena, barking its accusations against you and your Father, stalking those who will listen to its lies, consuming them with misery.

Don't try to comprehend God's magnificence—your brain is too small. Instead just rest in this one thought today, because it is enough to radically shift your perspective from anxiety to confidence that fills your life with joy.

Come to your Father as a child full of simple faith in His goodness. Be in awe. Be glad and rejoice. Do not fear. Nothing can hurt your Father nor you as His child.”

Shalom – Pastor Jon – 304.531.2918

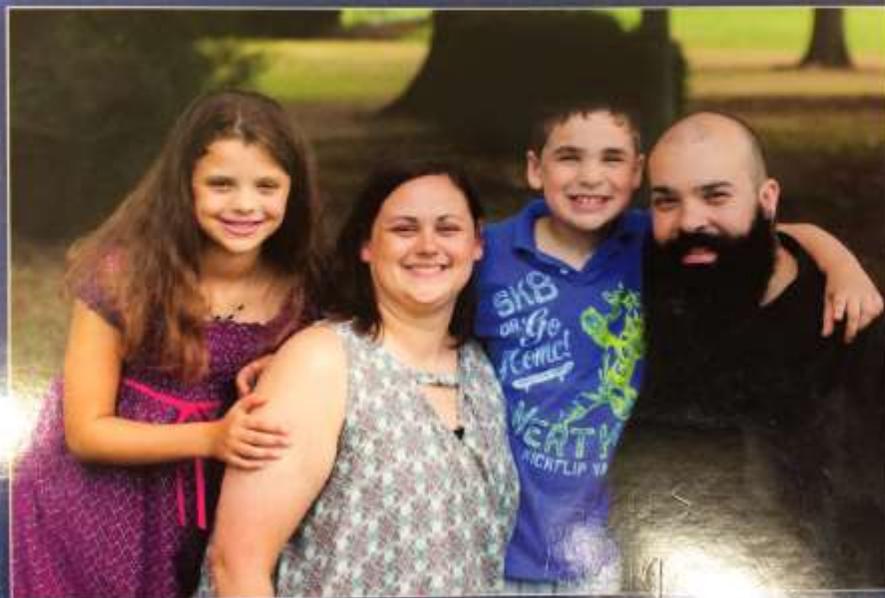
### *Vance Family Serving God in Kenya East Africa*

Selena 2/24

Jeri 5/21

Micaiah 6/5

Shaun 7/12



The Vance Family will be guest speakers and musicians at CRBC on Monday, May 8th. Shaun is the Celebrate Recovery Landing Rep. for the South East Region. They will soon be moving to Kenya as missionaries. Please come and hear their hearts and vision for telling the good news.



## **A New Mountain Hospice Man**

Jeff Allen grew up as a Methodist but has been a member of Philippi Baptist Church since the mid-1980s. He was born and spent his first four years in Stark County, Ohio. His family moved to Arden in Barbour County, and Jeff attended public schools from there. After graduating from Philip Barbour High School, Jeff entered West Virginia University but left to return to Foodland in Philippi, where he had been working since high school. Twenty-six years later, when the store closed, Jeff took a job with Advanced Auto Parts, then became general manager of the NAPA store in Elkins but now manages the store in Belington.

It was during their days at Philip Barbour that Jeff and Christie met. They were married in 1978 and have three children—Marcie, Macall, and Brad—all three of whom were baptized at PBC. Jeff and Christie have been avid supporters of their children's activities. He was, for instance, instrumental in the formation of the swim teams for Philip Barbour and for the City of Philippi.

What about his work with the City Council? "I'm in my eleventh or twelfth year," Jeff reports. "Christie served one term, too, between mine."

As for his church involvements, they have included Jeff being the youth leader for some twenty years. He served on the staff at Camp Cowen for many years. He has also been a member of the Diaconate and of various financial committees and boards. At present he is the Treasurer of the congregation. He also sings in the chancel choir. Obviously, much of his time has been devoted to the church and to youth involvements, but he also enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting.

Jeff Allen's most recent commitment has been to Mountain Hospice, where he has become a member of the Board of Directors. When asked how this interest developed, he mentions the illness and passing of his father. "I believe our contact with Hospice was part of a plan. I was looking for a new job and was having no success, which worked out well because I had time to help with Dad. Hospice came in and worked not only with Dad but also with Mom and the rest of us. They were absolutely wonderful. Three days after Dad passed away, I received three job offers." He smiles. "That's the way God works. I can't tell you how much we appreciated the hospice staff. I'll support Mountain Hospice in whatever way I can. It's a great organization."



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students  
 Barbour County Homeless  
 Phil Bowers and other  
 Mike Burr  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Code Blue  
 Delsey Corley  
 Noah Findley  
 Anthony Hinkle  
 Hinkle family  
 Bailey Larrison  
 New Leadership  
 Local ministries  
 Blair Marks  
 Teresa Marsh  
 Mary Mosesso  
 Judy Mossburg  
 Kenny Phillips Sr.  
 Chuck Schieck  
 Debbie Spinnenweber  
 Janet Stephens's grandson  
 Cindy Strakal  
 Catherine Vaughn  
 Darlene Waddell  
 Bill Walker  
 Elizabeth Wentz  
 Sarah Weyandt  
 Sue Wolfe  
 PBC Abide 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.



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.  
 Amber Underwood  
 Major Kris Wood



Blair Marks (VA Nursing Home),  
 Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place),  
 Germaine & Austin Whitman



8-Austin & Germaine Whitman

11- John & Rebekah Hicks

27- Jon & Koreen Villers



5- Kelly Bracey

5- Anne Jones

8- Vangie Shaffer

9- Andrew Sweet

13- Grant Dadisman

20- Caton Hill Jr.

22- Pat Cain

24- Elizabeth Wentz

24- Malachi McCullough

24- Kendra Phillips

25- Jud Bracey

26- Wesley Gray

26- Hayden Cottrill

28-Olin Campbell

29- Anna Faith Phillips

31- Jane Digman

31- Jacob Scheick

# Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship	9:15am 10:30am
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/ Abide Youth Ministry Chancel Choir Practice	6pm 7:15pm

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

	May 7th	May 14th	May 21st	May 28th
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlasic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon
<b>Children's Church</b>	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 6:00PM on Tuesday, May 2nd

Annual Women's Banquet

**Bible Book of the Month - Judges**

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

Hi, Ladies,

It's spring again and time for our Annual Women's Dinner. Mark your calendars: May 2, 2017 at 6:00PM in the church dining hall. Kelly Bracey will tell us about the first Mothers' Day and the church men, led by Clarence Wright, will cook for us. We need reservations so we'll know what preparations to make.

If you have a memento— picture, quilt etc. that you could bring remembering your mother or grandmother, please do so. We will have a display table.

The cost is \$5 for women and \$3 for girls, 12-years and under. Please put your reservation in the offering plate today, or sign the sheet in the foyer.



# Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 2nd– 6pm- American Baptist Women’s Ministry annual Women’s Banquet  
Saturday, May 6th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
10:30am- Emily Casto & Mike Delligatti Wedding at Sassafras Farms  
12:00pm– Church Reserved  
Sunday, May 7th– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal  
4:30pm– Pastoral Relation Committee Meeting  
6:00pm– Diaconate Meeting  
7:00pm– Union Association Cluster Service at Hepzibah Baptist Church  
7:30pm– Church Council Meeting  
Monday, May 8th– Sunday, May 14th– Baptist Campus Ministries Retreat at North Myrtle Beach  
Thursday, May 11th– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal  
Sunday, May 14th– Mothers’ Day  
12:00pm– Board of Christian Education Meeting  
4:00pm– Blue & Gray Coir Rehearsal  
6:00pm– Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday, May 18th– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal  
Saturday, May 20th- 9:00am– CRBC Training  
6:00pm– Studio C Recital  
Sunday, May 21st– 11:45am– Fellowship Luncheon  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal  
4:30pm– Board of Missions & Outreach Meeting  
Tuesday, May 23rd– 6:00pm- Feed My Sheep Graduation at PBC  
Thursday, May 25th– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Coir Rehearsal  
Sunday, May 28th– 3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm– Board of Worship Meeting

The next Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be on May 6th at 7:30 AM at the Medallion. All Men and Boys are invited to come for some good fellowship, food and to talk about almost anything. Come and get to know someone you’ve seen, but never had a chance to talk to.



The Board of Christian Education needs volunteers for the Sunday School Nursery. Please contact Hayley Dadisman or Crystal Gray if you can volunteer.



**Congratulations  
2017 Graduates!**



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416

# 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**

