



# The Baptist Bridge

November 2013

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



## Hello PBC Family,

I ran across an intriguing title of a book: *Jesus > Religion – Why He is so much better than trying harder, doing more, and being good enough*. I have included a little about the author and an excerpt from the book coming out this month. Shalom!

### **Abandon dead, dry, rule-keeping and embrace the promise of being truly known and deeply loved.**

Jefferson Bethke burst into the cultural conversation in 2012 with a passionate, provocative poem titled “Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus.” The 4-minute video literally became an overnight sensation, with 7 million YouTube views in its first 48 hours (and 23+ million in a year). The message blew up on social-media, triggering an avalanche of responses running the gamut from encouraged to enraged.

In *Jesus > Religion*, Bethke unpacks similar contrasts that he drew in the poem—highlighting the difference between teeth gritting and grace, law and love, performance and peace, despair and hope. With refreshing candor he delves into the motivation behind his message, beginning with the unvarnished tale of his own plunge from the pinnacle of a works-based, fake-smile existence that sapped his strength and led him down a path of destructive behavior.

Bethke is quick to acknowledge that he’s not a pastor or theologian, but simply a regular, twenty-something who cried out for a life greater than the one for which he had settled. Along his journey, Bethke discovered the real Jesus, who beckoned him beyond the props of false religion.

(from Chapter One)

## **Not Your Mom’s Jesus**

Once I began to realize the packaged Christianity I grew up with didn’t tell the whole story, I began to see this dangerous Jesus everywhere in Scripture. I would come across passages that completely confronted my sanitized Christianity.

Jesus was borderline homeless?

Jesus called people sons of the devil?

Jesus actually told his disciples they needed to physically follow him not just sign a card and raise their hand?

Jesus told people they couldn’t be a follower of him until they took up the most brutal torture device ever invented, the cross?

One of my favorite verses can be found in the book of Isaiah: “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.”<sup>12</sup> We often miss that our “righteous acts” are “filthy” before God. Not just our bad days, but our extremely good days too! Praying, reading the Bible, giving to the poor, and going to church nine times a week? Filthy rags apart from Jesus and his cross. Tell me that isn’t just a little bit controversial.

And if that God isn’t shocking enough for you, author Francis Chan shares in his book *Crazy Love* that the Hebrew word for “filthy rags” can be interpreted as “menstrual garments.” In that verse God says our good works are no better than a bloody tampon. Next time you’re in a public restroom and you see the waste can, feel free to remind yourself that’s your righteousness apart from Jesus. This abrasive message wasn’t just from God the father either. Jesus delivered his fair share of one-liners to the most religiously zealous of his day—“hypocrites,” “brood of vipers,” and “murderers.”<sup>14</sup> Would this Jesus get kicked out of your church or criticized on your blog for not being gracious or kind enough? And don’t you find it interesting that some of Jesus’ harshest words were reserved for the most devout religious people of his day? You would think he would condemn the bad sins of marginalized people of society such as prostitutes, drug dealers, and tax collectors, right? Instead, speaking to the religious leaders, he says stuff like, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John [the Baptist] came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.” If that won’t make a religious person faint, I don’t know what will.

Jesus hung out with the most marginalized and disrespected people of society, and he was fiercely opposed to anyone representing him in a hypocritical way. His words should not only shock us but also make us fear, because they were written just as much to us Christians today as they were to the religious leaders of his day, the Pharisees. I certainly have focused on outward appearance and made extra to-do lists to add to my salvation, all while neglecting the simple needs of others. I’m often more Pharisee than saint. I’d rather people tell me how awesome I am than how awesome Jesus is. I’d rather concentrate on other people’s sins before I look at my own. More often than not, I sense the toxic Pharisee spirit rising up within me.

The Bible isn’t a rule book. It’s a love letter. I’m not an employee. I’m a child. It’s not about my performance. It’s about Jesus’ performance for me. Grace isn’t there for some future me but for the real me. The me who struggled. The me who was messy. The me who was addicted to porn. The me who didn’t have all the answers. The me who was insecure. He loved me in my mess; he was not waiting until I cleaned myself up. That truth changed my life, and I’m convinced it can change yours.

(excerpt from Jefferson Bethke’s book, *Jesus > Religion*, Thomas Nelson, October 7, 2013 )



AB University, President Creehan faculty, staff and students

- Bryson Akingbemi
- Josiah Baits
- Lee Beuckman
- Dennis Bolyard
- Franklin Brown
- Julianne Colvin
- Candace Cypert family
- Sarah Ellen Dillon
- Clinton Dean
- Ruth Dugan
- Wilda Finley family
- Melissa Franke's Aunt Gail
- Rita Franke
- Joe & Beverly Gouer
- John Fetty
- Dick McDonald
- Charles McQuade
- Christina Maddy
- Amanda Means
- David Mellquist
- Donna Moore
- Debbie Mulneix
- Mark Nigh family
- Duane Poling
- Frankie Poling
- Gregory Riley
- Margaret Salimi
- Mary Selvaggi
- Kaley Sinsel
- Taylor Smith
- George Somner
- Gavin Tucker



- 1- Bill Mozley
- 3- Dorothy Hayhurst
- 7- Bob Boyer
- 11- Samuel Ferguson
- 11- Andrew Funk
- 12- Phyllis Martin
- 17- Kendra Waddell Blake
- 18- David Runion
- 19- Rebekah Hicks
- Stephen Redd
- Don Smith
- 20- Ross Campbell
- Jon Wright
- 21- Ktahy Lind
- 21- Donovan Price
- 21- Priscilla Wonkka
- 22- Kathy McBee
- 23- Linda Howell
- 25- Sarah Ayers
- 26- Steve Markwood
- 26- Michael Wolfe
- 29- Gerald Fogg
- 29- Morgan Franke

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:



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

- Captain Aaron Cross
- Tim Jenkins,
- Brian Lundell
- Chris Mossburg,
- Corporal Anthony Perry, Jr.
- Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.
- Major Kris Wood



### Mission Far from Impossible

Of all of the mission projects named specifically in the annual budget of Philippi Baptist Church, the farthest away and having the most unusual story is Bacone College.

Oklahoma's very first college, then called Indian University, began classes in early 1880. Enrollment totaled three students. A year later it was chartered by the Muscogee-Creek Nation, with its purpose stated as to provide Christian education for American Indians under the auspices of the American Baptist Home Mission Society. This agency governed the school until the late 1950s, and the tie is still strong.

By 1893, enrollment had reached 703 in the college and the preparatory school, with students coming from six Indian nations—Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, Wichita, and Kiowa. In 1910 the name was changed to honor the American Baptist missionary, founder, and first faculty member and president, Almon C. Bacon. In 1885 the campus moved to land donated by the Muscogee-Creek Nation in Muscogee. The main building was named for John D. Rockefeller, who donated ten thousand dollars to the institution. Interestingly, that building, called "Old Rock," was dismantled in 1938, but much of the material was reused in the building of Memorial Chapel.

In recent years, emphasis has been placed on recruiting Indian faculty and staff and in developing courses in Indian culture. Like Alderson-Broadus the school is known for offering the first nursing degree in the state. Buildings on the campus include the Ataloa Lodge Museum and the McCombs Gallery, which together house an impressive Native American art collection. Outstanding alumni include Richard "Dick" West and Woody Crumbo, artists who originated the style which has been known as the Bacone School of Art. Another alumnus and artist who is also an award-winning author is Eddie Chuculate, whose best-known book is *Cherokee Madonna*. Alumnus Enoch Kelly Haney serves currently as Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and was a State Senator from 1986 to 2002, a member of the State Legislature before that. Another artist and sculptor, he designed "The Guardian," the statue on top of the state capitol building. Patrick Hurley, a soldier, statesman, and diplomat, and Alexander Posey, writer and humorist, also graduated from Bacone, as did Don Chandler, kicker and punter, a member of the Halls of Fame of the University of Florida, the New York Giants, and the Green Bay Packers.

What brings the mission very close to home is the fact that a beloved member of Philippi Baptist Church, Gary Wagner, left the staff at Alderson-Broadus to join the staff at Bacone. Thus, this effort begun by American Baptists, home to one of our own, is still of our prayerful concern.

# 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

|                      | November 3                | November 10                       | November 17                       | November 24                    |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>       | Wanda & Jim Steele        | Christie Allen                    | Rebekah Hicks & Elizabeth Withers | Cheryl Wolfe & Allison Villers |
| <b>Wee Church</b>    | Abby & Cheryl Blankenship | Rebekah Hicks & Ashley Willingham | Koreen & Thomas Villers           | Hayden & Heather Cottrill      |
| <b>Junior Church</b> | Pete & Sarah Ferguson     | Kelly & Lindsay Bracey            | Sara & Eddy Poling                | Pete & Sarah Ferguson          |



**What:** November meeting of Philippi's American Baptist Women (ABW)  
**When:** 9:30 AM, November 5, 2013  
**Who:** All women of the church are invited to attend and participate.  
**Program:** Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer  
**Hostess:** Martha Rose Roy  
**Bible Book of the Month:** II Corinthians

## Union Association Cluster Services

| <u>Date</u>  | <u>Time</u> | <u>Church</u>              | <u>Speaker</u> |
|--------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| November 3rd | 6:00pm      | Middleville Baptist Church | Paul Boyles    |
| December 1st | 6:00pm      | Philippi Baptist Church    | Jon Villers    |

Every Member Canvas  
Clarence Wright  
Chairman

The theme this year for the Every Member Canvass is "**The 3:10 Principle**" Pastor Jon has suggested that we take our guidance from Malachi 3:10 - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, test Me in this and see if I will not open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

I am asking you to help us continue and expand the ministry of our Philippi Baptist Church. You can do this in two ways. First is by contributing to our general operating fund. And the second way is to volunteer your time and talent. The nominating committee is currently looking for members to staff our church boards which oversee the various ministries. However, we are also in need of people to help in other ways. We need two more church van drivers to share Sunday driving responsibilities. We always need help in the church nursery or for wee church. There are many needs out there and there and I am sure each of you has a talent that could be used to fill those needs.

I would like to review receipts and expenditures for last year and compare them to estimates for this year. In 2012 we collected \$155,000 and spent \$158,000. Last year we increased our budget for 2013 by \$15,000 in three areas. This was to fund: \$6800 for building improvement, \$4300 for salaries and benefit increases and \$4000 for youth activities. This included increases for camping, Backpack Ministry, Code Blue and VBS. Right now, our estimated collection for this year is \$159,000 and estimated expenses \$170,000

As you can see, our expenditures have increased faster than our collections. We have been blessed to have some savings to help us through this time. However this is not sustainable. Now the church boards are meeting this month to review their budgets and we will have a challenge budget ready for next month's business meeting. I know that some boards have plans to increase their budgets for some very worthwhile ideas. So at risk are not only some of the new ministries that we have started this year but also new ones being envisioned for next year and beyond.

Next Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will ask members and friends of the Philippi Baptist Church to make their commitments. We also have Time-Talent Inventory forms available for you to indicate your desire for in service opportunities. These forms will be available in the vestibule this week and next week and they may be placed in the offering plate. Please consider the words from Malachi as we seek to open the floodgates to serve our neighbors here in Philippi and throughout the world, through the Philippi Baptist Church.



Adopt-A-Highway report: Just a note to say thanks to the following hearty souls who came out to help with the Adopt-A-Highway effort on Saturday morning, Sept. 28, 2013: Barbara Smith, Clarence Wright, Dianna Wright, Scott Springer, Pastor Jon and Craig Cobb. Together we cleaned up 11 bags of garbage and trash, and several other items which were too big to fit in a bag, off of our assigned highway.

# Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 2nd– 7:30AM– Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, November 3rd– 10:30AM– Communion Deacon Relief Fund Offering

4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting

6:00PM– Union Association Cluster service at Middleville Baptist Church

Monday, November 4th– 6:30PM– Heart & Hand volunteer night

Saturday, November 9th– fall Children's Rally at Parchment Valley

Sunday, November 10th– 11:45AM– Board of Worship meeting

7:30PM– Church Council meeting

Sunday, November 17th– 4:00PM– Mansfield Place service

6:00PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

7:30PM– Business meeting

Friday, November 22nd– Sunday, November 24th– Senior High Convention

Saturday, November 23rd– Christmas Crafts

Saturday, November 30th– Hanging of the Greens

Philippi Baptist Church is pleased to host the Buckhannon Choral Society as they present their annual Fall concert. The 45 member choir will present "A Celebration of Folk Music". Selections include "Skip To My Lou", "The Water Is Wide", "Shenandoah", "Old Dan Tucker", as well as others. The choir is directed by Mr. Stephen Benson and accompanied by Mrs. Jeanne Defoe, piano. Other instruments will be featured during the presentation, including violin, string bass, flute, and percussion.

The concert is Sunday afternoon, November 10th, at 3:00pm, at Philippi Baptist Church. Admission is free. Donations are welcome. Come join us for a fun afternoon of folk music.



All items for the bulletin and Power Point presentation must be into the church office no later than 9:00am Friday morning. December's newsletter deadline will be November 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, November 2nd @ 7:30am  
At the Medallion

# Fall

## CONCERT

BUCKHANNON CHORAL SOCIETY



November 8, 2013 at 7:00pm  
St. Matthew United Methodist Church  
Weston, West Virginia

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November 10, 2013 at 3:00pm  
Philippi Baptist Church  
Philippi, West Virginia

# Senior High Convention

November 22-24, 2013

Simpson Creek Baptist Church

231 West Philadelphia Ave., Bridgeport, WV 26330

**Speaker:**

**To be announced**

**COST: \$30.00...**(including adults)

if postmarked by November 15th.

\$35 if AFTER Nov. 15th or at the door.

(Money must accompany registration in order to get the early bird price.)

**Housing Deadline: Nov. 15th**

*All housing requests must be postmarked by November 15th,*

*no changes or additions to housing will be accepted after this date...NO Exceptions!!*



*Housing should NOT be requested by anyone who has made personal arrangements to stay with specific individuals.*

## Band: Abandon



*An electric pulse you can't escape. That sparkling description of the omnipresent God jumps out from the lyrics of "Providence," one of six energy-gushing songs off the self titled debut disc by new San Antonio rock act, Abandon. The poetic phrase could also describe the band's sound, a steady rush of uncommon creativity that has both modern flash and worshipful depth.*

*"It's all about the atmosphere of God, the electricity of His presence," says Josh. "I must decrease; He must increase. Healing happens when you're in the atmosphere of God."*

*"We're excited to talk with people about faith and relate to them on a musical level," Josh concludes. "We love to see people changed, to bring peace and hope. At the end of the show, if people have more hope, we've done our job."*

### Directions to Simpson Creek Baptist Church

#### From Charleston Direction:

Take I-79 North, Take Exit 119, Turn right at ramp stop light, Proceed through next 2 stop lights, Turn left at stop light onto Virginia Ave, Turn right at stop onto Philadelphia Ave, Church is on right.

#### From Fairmont Direction:

Take I-79 South, Take Exit 119, Turn left at ramp stop light, Proceed through next 3 stop lights, Turn left at stop light onto Virginia Ave, Turn right at stop onto Philadelphia Ave, Church is on right.

*SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION is a three day event designed to equip, challenge and encourage the Christian Walk of Senior High students in grades 9-12. This event takes place in one of our local churches. The members of that church and surrounding WVBC churches provide housing for the youth.*



Philippi Baptist Church  
107 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416



Congratulations to Everett & Jody Sperry on the birth of their new great granddaughter!



Congratulations to Jud & Kelley Bracey on the birth of their first grandchild, Finn Robert Scheight!