



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.

September 2015

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

My **GRACE**
is sufficient
for you
for my **POWER**
is made perfect
in weakness

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

© Lily & Val

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Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director Madison Riffle, Interim Youth Director

Emily Casto— Interim Praise Team Leader
Michele Moore, Accompanist

Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



A Word from the Pastor

Seasons - A Time for Everything (from Ecclesiastes ESV)

³ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

I had some amazing little people surrounding me this past Sunday Morning. I called them up during a time in the service we call, "Tiny Moments." I had not prepared for this segment so I had to be quick on my feet as I found myself in the midst of eight beautiful children all lined up on each side of me waiting to see what happens next! I then used what I saw in front of me and started on a journey with these gifts from God! I asked them what I had in my lap and I heard everything from a pumpkin, corn on the cobb, straw, a flower, a strawberry to name a few. All were correct because the vase holding some brilliantly colored flowers had a painting all the way around it showing off a collage of images. I asked them what color the flowers were, and they shouted in a magnificent chorus, "Orange!" (Music to my ears!!) I then asked them what season these colors reminded them of. They quickly responded, "Autumn, Fall!"

I then said, "Yes these are the colors of Autumn! Summer is almost done and it is time for a change once again." I explained to them that the seasons of the year remind us that we also go through seasons in our life. Right now they all are in a season of childhood, and while they may not believe it, it seems like just yesterday when my adult children, (that's right for those of you that know a little about my brood, Koreen and I know have no children in our household – two eighteen year old twin boys, a nineteen year old daughter and a twenty-three year old son!) were the age of those sitting around me. I then asked if they knew how we should prepare for other seasons of our life? I was informed very quickly that a snow coat and mittens along with snow boots was a good way to prepare! "Absolutely!" I said. We pick out things that help get us ready for the next season! I then finished by saying the best thing we can ever put on in getting ready for a new season is God! He is the all purpose garment and I prayed they would be ready for this new season of life called school that many had just started and one of our kids got the last word after the prayer, in fact I think he would have added it during the prayer if he could have gotten my attention! He said, "And I sure am sleepy with this new season!"

Well, I am here to confess that I have been sleepy through many seasons of my life as well. My wife, Koreen and I have seen many seasons of life as we started this journey together over twenty-six years ago. Our first five years together saw seven moves and at least eight job changes plus a beautiful little boy entering into this world as we had finally settled at Concord College in Athens WV. Our next five years saw us balancing ministry between two churches in East Bank and Handley, WV as a bi-vocational pastor and Koreen working out of our home for a company from Boston selling college programs on the East Coast. The next five years ushered in the doubling of our family to six as we welcomed twin three year old sons and their five year old sister into our home and Koreen and I both went on Staff full-time at the same church in downtown Charleston, WV. The next five years moved us to 1,200 acres of amazing WV countryside in Ripley WV as Koreen became the onsite director of our WV Baptist Conference Center and where we watched our oldest graduate from High School and other three move up through the middle school ranks as I pastored full time in Ravenswood WV. That brings us to our last five years here in Philippi where our daughter graduated from Philip Barbour, our oldest son graduated from Alderson Broaddus University and we now get to experience



our twin “babies” starting their senior high school year while my wife works full time for our alma mater – ABU and I continue to serve here at Philippi Baptist.

Solomon in all his wisdom gives us a great word about seasons of life. I have experienced great highs in ministry and marriage in each stop along the way and I have also experienced great lows along this journey of life as well. I find myself at a crossroads. I have watched my dad and mom serve in ministry together for over fifty years now. Dad “retired” from preaching at three churches and teaching all the upper sciences at Wirt County High School going on fifteen years ago. It was at that time when mom and dad moved to Handley WV and lived in the first parsonage they had ever lived in their 35 plus years of ministry together. Dad and Mom walked in to that little church on the side of the road two miles outside of Montgomery in the upper Kanawha Valley and started to do what they do best: Dad preached the word of God and Mom started loving on all the kids in that little community not to mention loving on young adults who caught a vision to invest in these young kids lives who for so many of them were being raised by grandparents or welfare impoverished homes where love become the strongest currency anyone could ever offer.

Now almost fifteen years later, Mom and Dad have settled into a routine that involves feeding the “elderly” every Monday, running a children’s program every Sunday Night, preaching Sunday morning and evening services and doing numerous hospital visits to the surrounding region for those that are in need of pastoral care while hospitalized. I believe the commandment to Honor your father and mother is still as applicable today as it has always been. I want to honor them in this season of their life. After prayerful consideration, Koreen and I decided to purchase a single level home here in Philippi for my parents.

Their health is remarkably good and our thinking involved the opportunity for them to be closer to some of their family with the six in our household and my niece with her five under an hour away in Kingwood. It is hard for me to articulate how our concern includes thinking about what would happen if one or both of them were not able to do their regular routine as they have established over the last decade and half. We also wonder when the time will come when Dad is not able to drive. There have been several robberies in their community and Mom has been a victim of one of those robberies. I am also realizing that what makes perfect sense to me, may not be the only way to look at this situation or other seasons of life I find myself.

What I do know is that God continues to be faithful. I want to trust Him with these next steps and to discern what the next right step needs to be for both me and my parents. I know many of you find yourselves in different seasons of life as well. May we rest in this assurance: “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6 ESV)





AB University, President Creehan,
 Faculty, staff, and students
 Suzie Ball family
 Barbour County Homeless
 Stephanie Bassel
 Gary Booth family
 Keith Bragg
 Debbie Buntrock
 John and Pat Cain
 Celebrate Recovery
 Church van
 Code Blue
 Perry Collins
 Ruby Cozad
 Shaquille Evans
 John Hick's grandson
 Hinkle Family
 Jonathan Jones's brother's mother-in-law
 George Kratsas Family
 Caitlin McGuire
 Local ministries
 Men's Step Studies
 Debbie Mulneix
 Myers missionary family in Mexico
 Michael Perry's uncle Kirby
 Michelle Phenix
 Philip Barbour High School
 Margaret Salimi
 Megan Scott
 Dr. Shearer
 Elody Shrader
 Phyllis Straughman
 Liam Varghese
 Rev. Lewis and Louise Villers
 Ronny "tinker" Wilmoth
 Women's Step Studies
 PBC 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.
 Major Kris Wood



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



Lysle Lewis Amerson



- 1- Skip Ervin
- 6- JD Long
- 7- Hannah Dixon
- 8- Eddy Poling
- 13- Mary Lantz
- 15- Emily Meader
- 19- Charlie Davis
- 21- Hayley Dadisman
- 22- Marj Campbell
- 22- Michael Perry
- 26- John Hicks
- 26- Zvezdana Vlasic
- 27- Mary Boyer
- 27- Kathy Kratsas
- 29- Sarah Cobb
- 30- Elsie Frye
- 30- Nancy Stull



Sticking Close to Home

Linda Howell was born and raised just a few miles from Philippi—Pruntytown--where her parents had bought a old house to restore—the former home of John Barton Payne, United States Secretary of the Interior. She went to grade school there and graduated from Grafton High School before enrolling at Alderson-Broaddus College. She had been baptized at Beulah Baptist Church when she was eleven years old, and a result of being influenced by two Canadian men who led a revival which Linda attended, she began with a major in Christian Education. That major was discontinued at AB, so she proceeded to earn degrees in history and elementary education and went on to complete a master's degree in elementary education. After teaching in Taylor County for five years, she transferred to Barbour County in the Headstart program and then taught at the elementary school. Twenty-four years later, she took a job at the Philippi Public Library, where she has been for five years.

Linda's husband, "Red," died of a heart attack just a week before Christmas in 1995. He had spent twenty-five years as a member of the U.S. Air Force and had been working locally at the time of his death. A brother of Linda's is also deceased, but she has a sister living in Clarksburg and another one in North Carolina. Her household now includes three dogs and a turtle. "My cat," she says, "died last year. She was over twenty years old."

In addition to taking care of her animal family, Linda likes to read, and she spends a good deal of time writing to some sixty pen pals, most of them in the United States but one in Canada, one in France, and one in Ireland. She also enjoys membership in the American Baptist Women's Ministries group at Philippi Baptist Church and has served that organization as its president. She has also filled in when the church secretary has had to be absent, and she coordinates bereavement dinners and is a member of the Prayer Chain. In spite of occasional difficulties finding a parking place and using the church elevator, Linda makes every effort to attend worship services. "It just doesn't feel right," she says, "not to be in church on Sundays. I look forward to the fellowship and the messages and the general atmosphere of love." Would that all members were as faithful!

Weekly Events

Sundays	Men's Step Studies Sunday School AM Worship	7:30am 9:15am 10:30am
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice Celebrate Recovery Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4:45pm 6:30pm 7:15pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	12:45pm
Wednesdays	Women's Step Studies Midweek Service	5:30pm 6pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for September

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Nursery	Wanda & Jim Steele	Janet Baughman	Zvezdana Vlastic	Cheryl Wolfe & Bobby Villers
Wee Church	Rebekah Hicks		Koreen Villers & Sam Ferguson	Wes & Crystal Gray
Junior Church	Kelly Bracey		Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Angel McCullough & Thomas Villers

American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 7:00PM on Tuesday, September 2nd

Election of Officers

Bible Book of the Month - I & II Timothy & Titus

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



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for August:
Canned Meat & Dried Beans



Heart & Hand Christmas box donation suggestions:
Flour & Sugar

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, September 1st– 7PM– American Baptist Women’s meeting

Wednesday, September 2nd– 7:15PM- Choir Rehearsals begin

Friday, September 4th– Sunday, September 6th– Camp Global at Camp Cowen

Saturday, September 5th– 7:30AM– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Medallion

Sunday, September 6th– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

4:30PM– Diaconate meeting

Sunday, September 13th– 11:45AM– Church Picnic

4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting

5:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting

7:30PM– Church Council meeting

Friday, September 18th– Saturday, September 19th– Fall Youth Rally at Camp Cowen

Saturday, September 19th– 2:00PM– Union Association Annual Picnic at Summit Park Baptist Church

Sunday, September 20th– 4:00PM– Pastor Jon leads Chapel Service at Mansfield Place

6:00PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

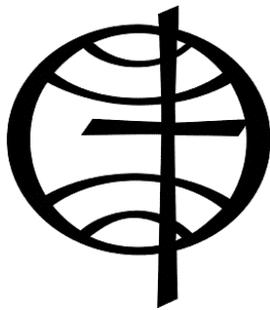
Monday, September 21st– 1PM– Homeless Coalition meeting

Friday, September 25th– Sunday, September 27th–

American Baptist Women’s Spiritual Growth Retreat at parchment Valley

Alderson Broaddus University Homecoming

Sunday, September 27th- Philippi Baptist to host Annual Union Association meeting



The Union Association annual meeting will be hosted by us on September 27th. Registration begins at 2:30pm. Dinner will follow the program at 5pm. Come join your sister churches as we celebrate ministry together.

September 27th is Alderson Broaddus University Sunday. We will be serving breakfast with a presentation from AB at 9:15am. A guest speaker will speak during the service. We will be receiving a special offering for the mission of





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

