



# The Baptist Bridge

April 2016

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... 2-3*  
*Birthdays... 4*  
*Prayer Requests... 4*  
*Getting to Know... 5*

*Schedules... 6*  
*Announcements... 5-6*  
*Upcoming Events... 7*



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

Alicia Noble—Praise Team Leader  
Michele Moore, Church Pianist

Lucretia Moyer, Secretary  
Emily Casto—Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Christ is risen! Now what? Special thanks to Ken Crawford as he helps us answer this question! (<http://tinyurl.com/jn6ken4>) Easter Sunday reflections on Mark 16 vs1-8

What are you expecting of God? We marvel that no one in the story seemed to anticipate the resurrection even though they'd been repeatedly told by Jesus, and even though we can see in their scriptures some foreshadowing, as we heard in Isaiah 53. Yet somehow everyone missed it. Everyone was surprised. No one expected what God ultimately did.

What are you expecting of God? Once you realize what God has done, now what? Think about these women at the tomb – they've come to finish the burial rites that were rushed because the Sabbath evening fell. So Joseph of Arimathia and Nicodemus quickly took the body of Jesus after receiving consent from Pilate, and they lay it in a borrowed tomb. It was necessary that the body not be left exposed, as a mitzvah to honor the dead and save the land from being cursed. And their work had to be done before sunset on Friday, the beginning of the Sabbath. So now the women come to the tomb to finish. They realize while they are on the way that they should have brought some of the men with them to help roll away the stone and open the tomb. They arrive and the stone is rolled away. A young man is there (notice no angel in Mark's story – his lacks the power and glory found in the other accounts) and he speaks to them – "He is not here. He has been raised."

Good news! The one who had died is now alive! We will not go back to the way things were, but forward to a new way, a new life. But that's not what we want, is it. We don't want to go forward, we want those we have lost restored and brought back. Jesus is not brought back to life, but taken forward through death to new life. Even though they will see and experience him, they will not be allowed to hold onto him for long. This is not the good news for which we had hoped. This is not what we thought God was going to do. Christ is risen. Now what?

The young man instructs the women to go and tell the others. Their next steps are clearly laid out for them. But they are frightened – "terror and amazement has seized them" – and they said nothing to anyone. That's how Mark originally ended his gospel. Later generations would add two alternate endings because, like us, they felt Mark's ending unsatisfactory. They knew that more happened – Matthew, Luke and John give several more details over 40 days. But for Mark, at the time he was writing, this ending seemed appropriate. His church was asking the same question we are asking today, "Christ is risen, now what?"

Mark's gospel was written during or just after the Jewish revolt which began in 68 AD and included the destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Romans in 70. To be a Jew of any sort (even one who was a Jesus follower) was a dangerous thing in Mark's day. It is believed that Mark's mother owned the home in Jerusalem with the upper room where the Last Supper was shared by Jesus and his disciples (Acts 12) – probably when Mark himself was 10 or 12 years old. Later, when he was a young man, he traveled with Paul and then with Barnabas. He had first-hand knowledge of the events of Jesus' last week, including the resurrection and the days which followed. The disciples were hiding back in the same house on Easter when Jesus showed up in the locked room and asked for something to eat (Luke 24). Mark knew what Jesus wanted the disciples to do in response to the resurrection, he was a part of their response. And yet, at the time of his writing, it made sense to end his sermon in this way:

6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

With what was Mark's church struggling? With what do we struggle on this Easter morning?

Perhaps the women struggled to believe that what they heard is true. The women had repeatedly heard Jesus say that he would be raised again. This young man in white told them it has come true. And yet the go away in silence and fear. It seems incredible, unbelievable, inconceivable. Mark's church was witnessing what to them must have seemed like the end of their world. Jews and Christians alike were under attack. The Temple had been destroyed. With such tragedies surrounding them, did they begin to question God's faithfulness. Did they begin to wonder if God could or would bring resurrection to the church? Were things too far gone to be restored? It is too big to wrap our minds around. We struggle just to believe it. Christ is risen! Now what?



Perhaps the women struggled out of fear that they would be in danger. After all, Jesus had been killed. The apostles were hiding in the upper room. They had reason to fear. Mark's church, likewise, could relate to such fear. The tide had turned and again it was dangerous to be a follower of Jesus. Standing up for God among a religiously diverse community risked not only neighbor, business and family relationships. Proclaiming faith could cost

Mark's church members their lives. What about us? What is at risk for us as followers of Jesus? Do you risk rejection from coworkers, business associates, neighbors, friends and family? Are you able to live out your faith fully in the face of a religiously diverse? Christ is risen! Now what?

Perhaps the women feared because they knew that they could not live up to what the resurrection would mean. If Jesus were raised from death, then nothing would ever be the same. All their relationships would be transformed; their commitment to community, their relationship with money and material things. It is not that Jesus would ask too much, but that they could not live up to this. This would be too much grace, too much mercy, too much love. Was this the fear of Mark's church? Did they fear that they could not live up to the claim of the resurrection on their lives? Not that God was too small, but that they were too small for God's greatness. They were unworthy to receive God's power in their lives, and through them bringing redemption to the world. Is this our fear today? Are we like these Easter women who experience the resurrection power of God in their lives but fear to step into it fully, fear that we will fall and fail? Do we doubt not God but ourselves? It seems easier to live in silent fear than to risk everything for God.

Did Mark close his gospel this way so that we would know that we are not alone in our Easter fear; that others have been overwhelmed by all that the resurrection means? Are you afraid to go and live an Easter life? Are you afraid to let the full power of the resurrection flow through you to transform your life and world? If you are afraid, you are not alone. But the story does not end there. Christ is risen! Now what? Will we hide from all that God's resurrection power desires to accomplish among us, in us, through us in the world? Or will we receive this good news? Will we celebrate it, live it, share it fully, in spite of our fears?





AB University, Faculty, staff, and students  
Barbour County Homeless

Vernon Barley  
Pastor Herb Bledsoe  
Sara Cain  
Celebrate Recovery  
Code Blue

Ruby Cozad  
Patricia Delauder  
El Socorro, Nicaragua  
Crystal Gray's family  
Hinkle Family  
Amber Holstine  
Dana Jones

Johnny Kelly & family  
Bailey Larrison  
Local ministries  
Roger Lutz  
Pearl Marks  
Bill Morlan  
Derek Murdoch  
Phil Newlon

Philip Barbour High School  
Kathy Prussa  
Elody Shrader  
Smiley Family  
Jim wagner  
Jim Warfuel

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.



Blair & Pearl Marks, Vangie Shaffer  
(Mansfield Place), Germaine &  
Austin Whitman



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



Sam Duffy  
Breanna Gabel's father  
Bill Klaus  
Mission team  
Margaret Salimi  
Liam Varghese  
Kristin Winter

Happy Birthday!

2- Christian Stull

2- Jody Sperry

2- Allison Villers

4- Brenda Price

12- Jacob Gray

13- George Sommer

24- Mike Wells

27- George Davis

28- Darlene Waddell



### The New Music Man

The newest member of the chancel choir at Philippi Baptist Church is Jacob Steele. Why, after many years as what he calls a “pew-sitter,” did this handsome young man decide to don a blue and gray robe on Sunday mornings? “My folks,” he says, “have been very active in the church, and they had been urging me to find a way to become more active myself. The choir was a perfect answer. Well,” he continues, “almost perfect. I can’t read music, but I can follow directions and make noise.”

Born in Fairmont but growing up in Philippi and attending public schools here, he went on to West Virginia University to earn a degree in computer science and engineering. His master’s degree was earned at the University of Virginia. And now he is back at home, serving as Associate Professor of Computer Science at Alderson Broaddus University.

Jacob has been active in the Boy Scouts for many years. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow, the honor organization within the Scouts, a group which focuses on service. “We’ve done a lot of building—like archery ranges and picnic tables at Boy Scout camps.” For three years, while he was a student at WVU, he also was a Lodge Chief or group leader. “Scouting complements my commitment as a Christian,” Jacob says. “All of the outdoor activity brings appreciation of God’s creation, and the service orientation has an obvious relationship to Christianity. But maybe the most important thing I got from Scouting was leadership training. That has encouraged me to be good at my job—any job.”

“As for church background,” he continues, “I was baptized by my dad in the river at Tacy. He was the minister of the Methodist church there at the time. We’ve been in a lot of churches over the years, and we’ve seen both the good and the bad. Since we’ve been here at Philippi Baptist, though, this has become our extended family. I feel as if this is what a church should be.” He smiles and returns to the subject of his latest involvement. “One thing for sure—the choir is a major blessing for me and for everyone else. I’m very glad I decided to join.”

# 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 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm
Saturdays	Youth	6pm

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

	April 3rd	April 10th	April 17th	April 24th
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic	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 9:00AM on Tuesday, April 5th

Hospice  
Hostess- Joann Marsh

**Bible Book of the Month - Zechariah**

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



- 10- Glenn & Jan Sweet
- 16- Ken & Darlene Waddell
- 17- Randy & Michelle Moore
- 20- William & Shirley Jacobs
- 25- Jim & Wanda Steele



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for April  
**Shampoo and conditioner, peanut butter, and Breakfast items**

# Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 2nd– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion  
4:00pm– Celebrate Recovery Benefit Gospel Sing

Sunday, April 3rd– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
11:45am– Pastoral Relations Committee meeting  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir practice  
5:00pm– School of Missions  
6:00pm– Diaconate meeting

Tuesday, April 5th– 9:00am– American Baptist Women’s meeting

Sunday, April 10th– 3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir practice  
3:00pm– Celebrate Recovery Leadership meeting  
4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting  
5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting  
5:30pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting  
7:30pm– Church Council meeting

Saturday, April 16th– Celebrate Recovery Summit One Day Event in Annapolis, Maryland  
1-4pm– Church reserved

Sunday, April 17th– 11:45am– Quarterly Business meeting  
1:00pm– Church Reserved  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir practice

Sunday, April 24th– 10:30am– Graduation Sunday  
11:45am– Graduation Dinner  
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir practice

Friday, April 29th– Saturday, April 30th– Men’s Work Party at Camp Cowen

Saturday, April 30th– Evening Board of Missions Social Event



## Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sat., April 2nd @  
7:30am  
At the Medallion



We have raised \$14,000 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.





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# 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**