



The Baptist Bridge

December 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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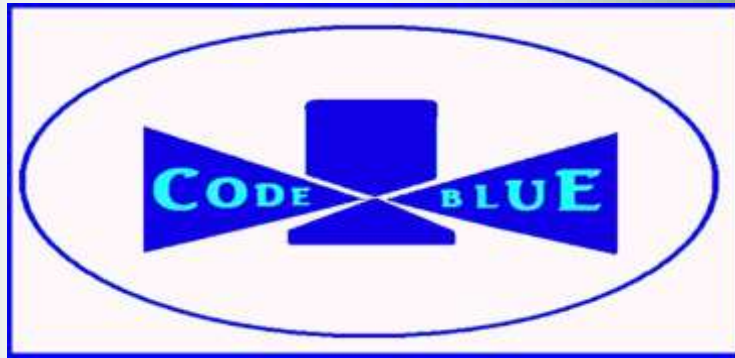
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E-mail: office@pbcwv.net Website: www.pbcwv.net
107 Church Street ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206
Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director

Eddy Poling, Youth Director
Michele Moore, Pianist

Caleb Villers, Praise Team Leader
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



I want to talk about Missions! I thank Barbara Smith for giving the following account of a great mission right here in Barbour County! Let's sit in from her viewpoint:

"The Board of Directors of Code Blue is meeting, and a fourteen-year-old member is asked what this organization means to her. She says quickly, "This is like home to me, as much home as any other place I go." A sixteen-year-old adds, "It's a place where we can have fun with friends in a positive, supervised environment. The adults provide encouragement. They care about us." One of the adults adds, "It's a safe place for the kids to come in off the street and be mentored by adults who get to know them as real people. We learn from them, too. We learn from each other." Still another Board member says, "It's important that Barbour County kids have a safe, fun environment where there's food—some of them come hungry—and friendship. They're all on the same level here, so they get along great." Another adult adds, "This is a deterrent from alcohol and drugs. There is positive support here. Structure, rules, close relationships with adults--the kids like that."

One of the Board members at this meeting is a student at Alderson Broaddus, an elementary education major from Grafton. She volunteers on Friday nights, as do other students from the college, serving as role models and encouragers. "It's a good place for us to hang out, too," she smiles.

One of the most recent additions to the outreach of the churches in Barbour County, CODE BLUE is located across the street from the Barbour County Courthouse. The organization was founded four years ago by several individuals concerned that teenagers in the community had no place to gather on week ends. The tiny blue building adjacent to the Family Resource Network soon became too small for the gatherings, so space was located on Main Street. A Department of Defense grant and non-profit status were secured by staff members from World Vision, and a coordinator was hired to oversee the activities and facilities.

Unfortunately, the grant money on which Code Blue has been operating will run out at the end of the year. Volunteers are searching for other federal and state and local sources of revenue. Volunteers also operated a food booth at the Barbour County fair. A group from Philippi Baptist Church has pledged to make sure that the organization keeps going. One member of the church spent a recent Friday evening there and says, "It was awesome. Even though it was a Philip Barbour football night, at least a hundred people came and went. There's no question—the community, especially the kids, needs Code Blue."

Besides funding, the organization needs more adult volunteers on Friday nights, anyone who can lead games or teach crafts or just "hang out" with the kids. There is also a need for donated food (anything from cookies to pizza to hot dogs to beverages).

Any questions? Stop by on any Friday night. You'll be amazed—and inspired."— by Barbara Smith
Currently we are in partnership with at least five Barbour County Churches that financially support on a monthly basis. We are petitioning the Building Commission of Philippi to lower the rent so that we can have a better opportunity of meeting our monthly expenses. We are preparing a letter to send out to all Barbour County Churches with an update and an appeal for their support. Thank you for any consideration you may be able to give this mission field in our back door!

Shalom,

Pastor Jon Villers



AB University, President Creehan faculty, staff and students

- Bryson Akingbemi
- Josiah Baits
- Lee Beuckman
- Curt Bolyard
- Dennis Bolyard
- Franklin Brown
- Ronnie Campbell
- Sarah Cobb
- Julieanne Colvin
- Melissa Franke's Aunt Gail
- Rita Franke
- Joe & Beverly Gouer
- Charles McQuade
- Christina Maddy
- Ruth Mahaffey
- Carlotte Miller family
- Donna Moore
- Duane Poling
- Frankie Poling
- Melvin Richter
- Gregory Riley
- Margaret Salimi
- Mary Selvaggi
- Kaley Sinsel
- Taylor Smith
- George Somner
- Gavin Tucker



- 2-Martha Rose Roy
- 2-Beth Longo
- 5-Melissa Franke
- 5-Glenn Sweet
- 6-Jonathan Franke
- 13-Ken Yount
- 15-Carla Springer
- 17-Marsha Smith
- 18-Dianna Wright
- 19-Kelly Runion
- 21-Danny Franke
- 21-Herb Smith
- 24-Chris Mulneix
- 24- Christina Wentz
- 27-Koreen Villers
- 29-Carolyn Davis
- 30-Richard Shearer
- 31-Ken Waddell

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.



- 21-Olin and Marj Campbell
- 27-Clarence and Dianna Wright
- 28-Don and Barbara Smith
- 31-Fred and Amy Funk



Blair & Pearl Marks, Dr. Shearer, Mary Tamulitis
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
- Chris Mossburg,
- Corporal Anthony Perry, Jr.
- Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.
- Major Kris Wood



MMBB Offering? What's THAT??

For many years, one of the four major mission offerings supported by Philippi Baptist Church goes to the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. We all know the money is used to support retired and disabled American Baptist ministers and missionaries. We receive letters of gratitude from a few recipients every year, one of which comes from Dick Hepler, who was the PBC pastor for over twenty years.

But where and how did this agency ever start? It's a story of faith and determination—and, obviously, the will of God.

It seems that the first major proponent was Henry L. Morehouse, who had been a pastor in Saginaw, Michigan, and Rochester, New York. He became Corresponding Secretary of the Home Mission Society in 1879, and in that position he spoke and wrote frequently about the need to support aging and disabled colleagues in the ministry.

Interestingly, Morehouse's model was the pension program of Cornell University, which had been founded by Andrew Carnegie. It wasn't until after the turn of the century, however, that Morehouse realized the success of his own efforts. The Northern Baptist Convention had been established in 1907, and it was at their annual meeting in the fall of 1911 that Morehouse received a telegram from a person who wanted to be known only as "a man from Pennsylvania." Later identified as Milo C. Treat, this layman pledged \$50,000—a fortune at the time—to create an agency to collect and dispense funds for "superannuated and disabled ministers and missionaries." Treat's pledge included one condition—that \$200,000 of additional funding be raised by noon on Christmas Day.

To that end, committees were formed in each state of the Convention, and mass mailings proved to be effective. Early in December, the fund stood at approximately \$100,000. Then Morehouse received a letter with instructions not to open the envelope until noon on Christmas Day. When he did break the seal, the total of the matching money stood at \$182,000—short of the goal by \$18,000. Imagine the celebrations both on earth and in heaven when Morehouse read the letter. John D. Rockefeller was offering up to \$40,000—another huge donation—to complete the campaign.

We, too, should celebrate the existence and great good work accomplished through the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board. Let us, too, give generously.

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship PBC Mosaic	9:15am 10:30am 5:30pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house) BCM at Wilcox Chapel	1pm 8:38pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service Chancel Choir	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for August

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Nursery	Wanda & Jim Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks Elizabeth Withers	Cheryl Wolfe & Allison Villers	No Nursery
Wee Church	Christmas Program practice	Christmas Program practice	Christmas Program practice	Hayden & Heather Cottrill	No Wee Church
Junior Church	Christmas Program practice	Christmas Program practice	Christmas Program practice	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	No Junior church



What: December meeting of Philippi's American Baptist Women (ABW)
When: 9:30 AM, December 3, 2013
Who: All women of the church are invited to attend and participate.
Program: A Time To Serve– Jane Digman
Hostess: Elizabeth Withers
Bible Book of the Month: Isaiah

Union Association Cluster Services

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
December 1st	6:00pm	Philippi Baptist Church	Jon Villers

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, December 1st– 10:30AM– Communion & deacon relief offering
6:00PM– Union Association Cluster service at Philippi Baptist
- Thursday, December 5th– 6:30PM– Diaconate meeting
- Saturday, December 7th– 7:30AM– Men’s prayer breakfast at the Medallion.
- Sunday, December, 8th– 11:45AM– Church Christmas dinner
-Board of Worship meeting (immediately following dinner)
4:30PM– Board of Christian Education meeting
6:30PM– Board of Trustees meeting
7:30PM– Church Council meeting
- Saturday, December 14th– 11:00PM- Children’s Program rehearsal
- Sunday, December, 15th– 6:00PM– Children’s Program
- Thursday, December 19th– 7:00PM– Mountain Hospice Memorial Service
- Tuesday, December 24th– 6:00PM– Christmas Eve Service
7:00PM– Communion
- Wednesday, December 25th– MERRY CHRISTMAS
- Tuesday, December 31st– New Years Eve
- Sunday, December 29th– Undecorate the church



All items for the bulletin and Power Point presentation must be into the church office no later than 9:00am Friday morning. January’s newsletter deadline will be December 26th.



Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 7nd @ 7:30am
At the Medallion



The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope

Dennis Bratcher

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.

The Meaning of "Advent"

The word **Advent** means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent. Thus, Advent is far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. That is a process in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture reading for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and a congregation, as they affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for Kingdom ethics, for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's in-breaking into history in the Incarnation, and anticipates a future consummation to that history for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption," it also confesses its own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbor as yourself."

For more on advent visit: <http://www.cresourcei.org/cyadvent.html>

Thank you!

Mindful of the incredible amount of love and support we have received over this past year, the time of Don's illness and recovery, we and our whole family thank God and our friends--our brothers and sisters in Christ--at PBC.

Don and Barbara Smith

Thanks to the Board of Christian Education and, particularly, Sarah Ferguson for the GREAT afternoon of Christmas crafts on November 23. What a blessing!

We received a "Thank you" card from the ladies of the Precepts Bible Study group, thanking us for the use of the church building on Wednesday morning. The card is posted in the entry to see all the notes from each of the ladies.

Dear Church family,

Thanks so much for preparing and serving the lunch for our family and friends after Candace's service. The food was very good and we enjoyed seeing all of you.

Love,

Dennis, Nancy & Christian (Stull)



Philippi Baptist Church
107 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416

Dear Friends,

God has been using BCM to change lives that change the world since 1967. We want to invite you to be a part of continuing that legacy. Our goal is to find 100 people that will give \$100 in 100 days. Your one time gift will fund ministries that will reach college students with the gospel of Christ. We have a generation of college students that is in desperate need of truth and discipleship. Will you be one of the hundred? Please make checks payable to "BCM" and mail to:



WVBC
ATTN: Project 100
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