



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.

December 2016

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



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You can give online at pbcwv.net



E-mail: office@pbcwv.net

Website: www.pbcwv.net

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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, Church Pianist
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Hey PBC Family!

Koreen and I wanted to **say thanks** for joining us at the **Pastor Appreciation Luncheon** last month! I received a wall hanging with my favorite verse – Philippians 4:13! The 'Mary' cake was amazing and we felt surrounded by a community who loves and supports us! This is an exciting time as we look to finish what we started in 2016 and to look forward at a vision and strategic plan for the future.

As we conclude 2016, there are many of you who are asking how you could specifically help finish this year on a strong note! We want to see this accomplished with a 2016 Christmas Offering. This year's Christmas Offering is going to 3 key areas including **"The Retired Minister's and Missionary Offering"** which will provide a tangible **'Thank You'** to those servants of God who have served so faithfully down through the decades either in our ABC/USA churches or on the mission field.

We're hoping most families will be able to give a gift of \$300 or more to this year's Christmas Offering. **But to reach our \$26,200 goal by December 31st**, we need a few Core Families & Friends like you to partner with us:

- **We're looking for 1 FAMILY to give a gift of \$5,000**
as the lead gift in our 2016 Christmas Offering.
- **We're praying for 2 FAMILIES to give a gift of \$2,500 or above**
as the foundation for the Offering.
- **We're asking 12 FAMILIES to give a gift of \$1,000 or more.**

Koreen and I have already committed to give **above & beyond our regular offering** towards the 2016 Christmas Offering. Although it's a sacrifice that stretches our family at year's end, we truly believe **this is a long-term investment** in the special work God's doing through Philippi Baptist.

If you have any questions about your gift, feel free to contact Clarence Wright at wright1411@frontier.com, who is stewarding the 2016 Christmas Offering.

Thanks again for your partnership in bringing the Gospel to families in Barbour County and a big thank you to our retired ministers and missionaries!
I truly believe Jesus continues to call us to Embrace, Model and Share His Good News... and that our best days as a church are ahead of us!
I hope you will join us and...

Be the Miracle!

Calling All the Church Family of PBC!!!!

It's the end of the year and I'm writing you because we need to share a few things with you! As a church we have seen a TON of amazing things happen this year like:



- *We have received four new members of the Church in the last Three Months!*
- *Continued our Second year with hosting an outreach ministry of the church called Celebrate Recovery Barbour County averaging over 40 every Monday*
- *Welcomed Debbie Mulneix home as she has retired from missionary service and hosted the Aragon Family as we now begin to support them in their new mission filed of Chiapas Mexico!*
- *We have received the largest directed giving of funds towards missions totaling \$30,000*
We have purchased a new church van after collecting over \$19,000 in two years!

While there has been a lot of good, I have to inform you about some things that are a challenge. We are ending our financial year and we are not where we need to be yet.

We have reduced our expenses over the last several years, but the amount we receive in giving has also decreased. The major project for next year is the replacing of our sidewalk at PBC. It is estimated at being as much as \$15,000. We are also \$10,000 behind in meeting our budgeted expenses compared to our budgeted giving. And we also want to give \$1,200 towards the Retired Ministers and Missionary Offering.

We are so very close to ending our year right! I know a lot of you will be out of town for the last offering opportunity of the year on December 25. The purpose of this letter is to be honest with you and ask you to make a year-end donation that will go towards helping us finish strong and lead into a good New Year financially. Historically, January has not been a great financial month for our church and we want to change that!

We are \$26,200 from finishing strong! We are asking you and every person that loves this church to make a year-end donation that will bridge the gap from where we are to where we need to be.

Most people think their gift will be insignificant and not help. You could not be further from the truth. Powerful things happen when each person takes a minute and asks God, "What do you want me to give this year-end?"

As your Pastor, I made a similar request last year. You were very generous in your response and am asking you to consider your help again this year. We want to finish strong so we can start ministering strong in 2017!

So I'm asking you to:

1. Ask God, "What do you want me to do financially this year?"
2. Give a one-time gift toward our year-end gift offering by Dec. 31, 2016
3. Ask God to bless the gift so many lives will be touched

You need to know this:

Give online – www.tinyurl.com/pbcwvgive

Give in service – Give in service this weekend and put in memo line (Christmas Offering)

Give through the mail – We have included an envelope. You can fill it out right now and stick it in the mail.

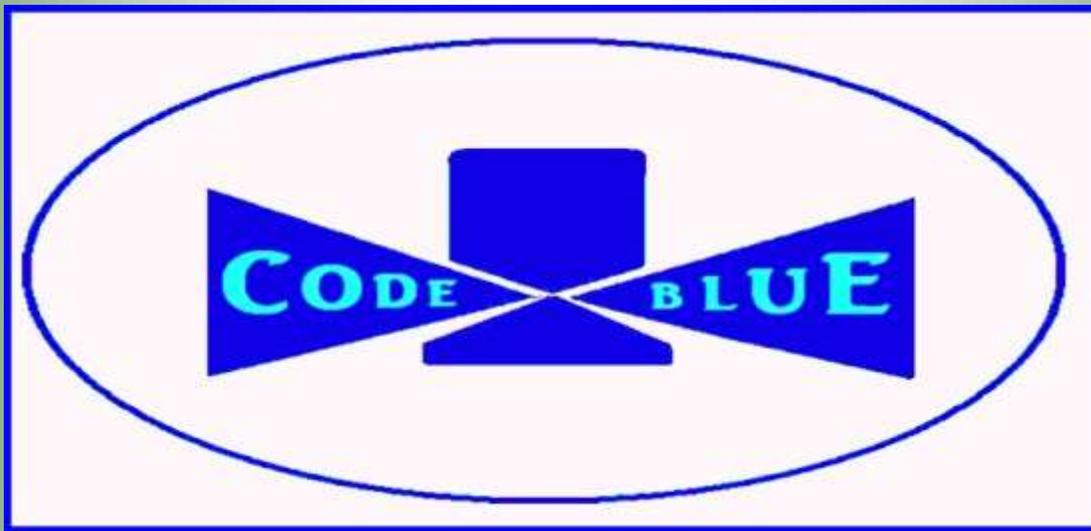
Drop it by the office by Dec. 31, 2016 at 5pm

I 100% believe God is going to answer the gap this year in our finances and I'm praying He answers it through your life and mine. Let's bridge this gap now!

I'm excited about 2017 & all we will be able to see and accomplish!

In Christ's Love - Pastor Jon Villers

PS – Drop me an email and let me know specifically how I can pray for you by December 31. My email is orangemanfor-jesus@gmail.com



Rebuilding Code Blue

Madison Riffle -madisonriffle23@gmail.com

After months of sporadic programming and uncertainty, Code Blue has finally been able to open its doors once again in a new building. First and foremost, the Board of Directors would like to thank all the community members that have been such strong catalysts and wonderful support in continuing our mission of serving the youth of Barbour County. We are grateful for the churches who have been faithful donors to our cause, and to the volunteers who were crucial to the success of our concession stand at the Barbour County Fair this year, and to The American Legion for renting us the building we are now in.

On a personal note, I am thankful for the members of our Board who have been diligently meeting to keep Code Blue alive, and for past members of the Board who have continued to pray for the organization. Above all, I am grateful that when faced with adversity, the support Code Blue has received has helped hold us together. Thank you to all the individuals and organizations who are responsible for Code Blue's ability to re-open.

On Friday, November 18th, Code Blue had an Open House and welcomed any who wanted to hang out in our new space. Games were set up, pizza was ordered, and I was busy with volunteers to get the building looking nice. I was excited, yet nervous; excited that we were finally able to open our doors for the first time since March, but nervous that such a long stretch would mean that the building would be mostly empty, aside from the few volunteers already gathered. I hadn't been very diligent in getting the word out about the Open House. Would students come? Or would I be beating myself up for where my procrastination and hyperactive brain lead me?

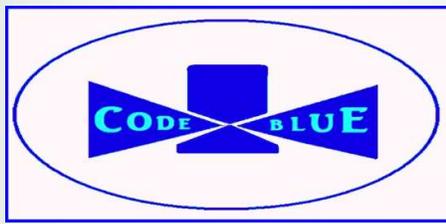
Did you know that the Bible says not to worry 365 times? Once for every day of the year, and I still don't listen very well sometimes. Six o'clock came around and a small hoard of people poured into the building, with more coming throughout the night. On our opening night, we had 11 volunteers, 14 students and 3 guests attend. Those 28 people throughout the night interacted on a heartwarming level – playing games, talking and laughing. Sometimes, there was even dancing along with the music we had playing from my friend's little CD player. Students were excited to see volunteers they hadn't interacted with in months. A few of the youth, who are just a year or so too young for our age limits, we excitedly asking if maybe they could join Code Blue anyway. I couldn't stop smiling and my heart was full of hope for what this new chapter might bring for us.

Now, as we move forward, we have different things to address. How do we keep this momentum going? Well, for that we need help! If you're interested in being involved, there are a few ways that we can make this happen: as a volunteer, as an investor, or as a board consultant. Contact information will follow the descriptions of the ways you can help.

If you're interested in volunteering, you can contact us and we will get you a volunteer application. We will then ask you to commit to a specific Friday every month. If we get enough volunteer interest, we may be able to expand the nights Code Blue can run. After we receive and application and discuss your availability as a volunteer, we will plan training! This process is meant to ensure the safety of our students, and to make sure our volunteers are as prepared as possible.

If you're interested in investing in Code Blue Youth Alliance there are two ways you can do this – financially or through donations of food for Friday nights. Financial contributions are used to pay bills and purchase supplies. Donations of food are wonderful because we feed students every Friday night. If you would like to discuss other ways you can invest in Code Blue, feel free to contact us!

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If any of the above options are of interest to you, or if your church would like to have someone from the Board visit your church to discuss ways you can be involved, you can reach us in two ways. First, you can email us at cbyawv@gmail.com and we will respond as quickly as possible. Or, if you prefer to talk on the phone, you can call me, Madison Riffle, President of the Board of Directors, at 304-365-4773.

We are so thankful for the support we have received from the community in the last few months and we are hopeful as we move forward. Thank you – all of you – for any and all of the little or big ways you have helped us.



1- Eric & Ashley Cutright
21-Olin and Marj Campbell
27-Clarence and Dianna Wright
28-Don and Barbara Smith
31-Fred and Amy Funk

Vacation

Pastor Jon will be on vacation December 26th-January 2nd. Area Minister, Rev. David Hulme will be bringing the morning message on January 1st.

CRBC and Abide Youth Ministry are hosting a Watchnight, New Years Eve beginning at 9:00PM until midnight. Abide Youth will continue with a youth lock-in concluding after the morning worship service where they will be assisting.



We are starting a new 6-week Beginnings Connections class January 4th at 6:00PM. We encourage new families to come as we will be offering a program for children and youth at the same time.



Christmas

Where They Came From, What They Mean

December means Christmas, and for most of the world, Christmas means the birth of Jesus. But Christmas also means symbols, some of them Christian, some of them not. A search for their origins and their significance can be inspiring. For instance,

Poinsettias—A Christian symbol, its star-shaped leaves representative of the Christmas star and of Jesus, the “bright morning star.” Colors: white for purity or holiness, red for blood or humanity, pink a combination thereof.

Mistletoe—Egyptian, Babylonian—symbol of magic, fertility, love

Wreaths—Roman in origin, reminiscent of the laurel wreaths used to symbolize power, strength, endurance; branches (sometimes palm) presented to honor rulers

Holly—Christian, reminiscent of the crown of thorns; berries like drops of blood

Christmas trees—from ancient worship of trees, historically a Protestant counterpart to the Roman Catholic nativity scene or crèche; evergreen symbolic of eternal life; originally decorated with edibles and placed outside for bird refuge and to ward off Devil

Carols—Roman in origin and practice until associated with Christmas during Renaissance in France, Germany, Italy

Bells—historically connected with Jewish worship when priests had bells sewn into hems of robes to call gods; also used by St. Patrick, missionary to Ireland, to call worshippers to church

Stocking-stuffing—Christian practice developed in 4th century for charitable donations; also, children filling of shoes with edibles for St. Nicolas’ horse, then receiving reciprocal gifts in stockings

Santa Claus—originally from Dutch St. Nicolas, bishop of Myra; also from Northern Europe honoring of gods Odin and Thor--long white beards, fur-trimmed clothes, and an eight-legged horse named Sleipnir carrying them through the sky

Candy canes—Christian symbol of shepherds’ staff, Jesus as shepherd of His people; peppermint symbolic of spices brought by Magi; red for Jesus’ blood and humanity, white for purity, holiness

Gifts, feasting, celebration of Christmas itself—historically Roman celebration of winter solstice, renewal of brightness of sun

Perhaps the most interesting discovery—Christmas was not celebrated by Christians until at least the third, probably the fourth, century. It is likely that before that, the celebrations of the winter solstice were considered pagan and were not connected at all with the birth of Jesus. Thank our heavenly Father—we now have the BEST reason to celebrate Christmas.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Pastor Alphonso
 Barbour County Homeless
 Phil Bowers and other local officials
 Celebrate Recovery
 The Cobbs
 Code Blue
 Mike Burr
 Justin Curtis
 Charles Hicks
 Charles Hinkle
 Bailey Larrison
 New Leadership
 Local ministries
 Rev. Jack Menear
 Betty Ocilka
 Kenny Phillips
 Phillips family
 Elaine Pluechel
 Brends Price's son
 Gary Price
 Araella Renee
 Doug Richter
 Steve Richter Jr.
 Jean Roy family
 Janet Stephens's grandson
 Phyllis Straughman family
 Bill Walker
 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.



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, Vangie Shaffer
 (Mansfield Place), Germaine &
 Austin Whitman



Jan Byrer
 Jack Dunlap
 Len Johnson
 Sue Lobello new great grandson
 Margaret Salimi
 Barbara Springer twin great grandsons
 New Van
 Carrie Vlasic
 Burt Wilfong

Happy Birthday!

2-Martha Rose Roy
 2-Beth Longo
 4- Crystal Gray
 4- Emily Casto
 5-Melissa Franke
 5-Glenn Sweet
 5- Greg Mouser
 6-Jonathan Franke
 13-Ken Yount
 13- Angel Stull
 15-Carla Springer
 17-Marsha Smith
 17- Scott Nesland
 18-Dianna Wright
 18- Lucretia Moyer
 19-Kelly Runion
 20- Randy Goodwin
 21-Danny Franke
 21-Herb Smith
 24-Chris Mulneix
 24- Christina Wentz
 27-Koreen Villers
 27- Olivia Gray
 29-Carolyn Davis
 31-Ken Waddell

Weekly Events

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

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for December

	December 4th	December 11th	December 18th	December 25th
Nursery	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon
Children's Church	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, December 6th

God All Around You
Preparing Cookie Trays

Bible Book of the Month - Job

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

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on December 3rd 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.



Upcoming Events

Friday, December 2nd– 5-9PM– Church reserved

Saturday, December 3rd– 7:30AM– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Medallion
7:00PM– The Great Night Out with Mark Cable

Sunday, December 4th– Second Sunday of Advent

11:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

12:00PM– ABU Mission Team Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

3:00PM– Union Association Cluster Service at East Clarksburg Baptist Church

Tuesday, December 6th– 9:00Am- American Baptist Ministries Meeting

Sunday, December 11th– Third Sunday of Advent

10:30AM– Choir Christmas Cantata

4:30PM– Board of Christian Education Meeting

5:00PM– Board of trustees Meeting

6:00PM– Children’s Christmas Program

7:30PM– Church Council Meeting

Friday, December 16th– 7:00PM- Studio C Recital

Saturday, December 17th– 10:00AM– CRBC Service Meeting

Sunday, December 18th– Fourth Sunday of Advent

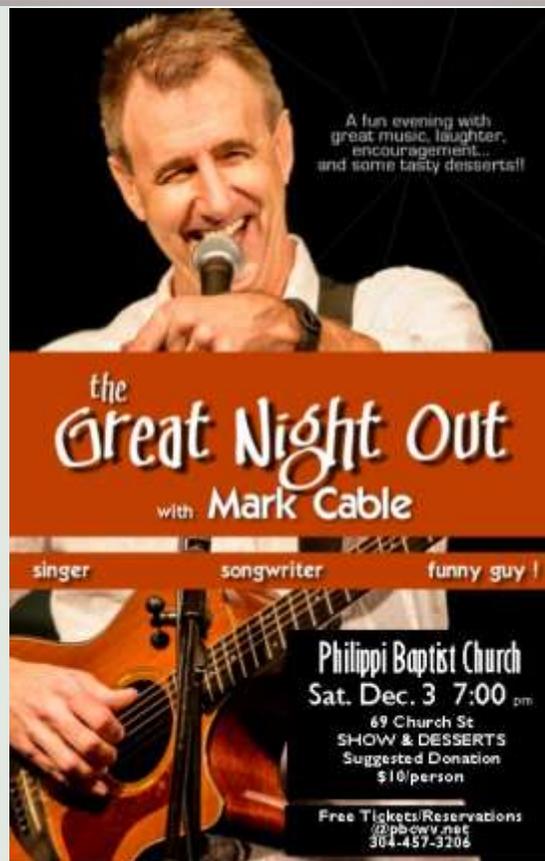
11:45AM– Annual Church Christmas Dinner– Family Craft to follow

Saturday, December 24th– 6:00PM– Christmas Eve service– Family Communion to follow

Sunday, December 25th– **Merry Christmas!**

Monday, December 26th– Office closed

Saturday, December 31st– 9:00PM– CRBC/ Abide Youth Gathering with Youth Lock-in to follow





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

