



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.

February 2017

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



A Word from the Pastor

Can you believe the first month of 2017 is almost gone! Time sure does fly! As we started this new year, my beautiful bride surprised me with professional football tickets to watch my beloved Dallas Cowboys take on the Philadelphia Eagles! We had an amazing trip to the city of Brotherly Love on New Year's Eve and had a great time on New

Year's Day as we watched the game with 50,000 of our new found friends! Ok, so there were a few thousand that share my choice of colors with a big white star, but the green eagled fans were nice as well! In our travels we spent some time going over a list of questions posted by the Associate in Ministry for Baptist Campus Ministries at the University of Charleston, Todd McClure:

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

It got us thinking and talking and became an amazing start for us in the new year!! It also led us to another assignment of finding one word that would be a central theme for all that we are and do for 2017! My word is DECREASE! This is the same declaration that John the Baptist makes in the Gospel of John 3:30 when he says, "He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease." There are lots of things that need to decrease in my life:

My preoccupation of self, my weight, the unpacked boxes in my office, the stuff that I have accumulated over the years, wasting of time, and decrease my involvement to focus on the main priorities of my life.

I'll let Rev. Jack Graham have our final word today as we prepare to head into our second month of this new year! Blessings to you All!

"The new year is here, and with it the resolutions we all seem to make – losing a few pounds after the indulgences of the holidays, maybe signing up for a gym membership and really getting in shape.

Of course, we know how that usually turns out. After a month or so, the enthusiasm evaporates, people give up on their resolutions and things go back to the way they were.

The same thing happens in the Christian life. People decide they've had enough of their old lives, hanging onto the hurts and habits of the past, and they promise themselves they'll really pursue Christ this time. And a few weeks later, they find themselves in the same familiar patterns as before. If you're seeking a new start in this new year, you might worry where you'll find the motivation to take your walk with Christ to the next level. I wish I had an easy answer. There is no magic pill that can replace simply staying committed to what's important.

Persistence is nothing more than starting over every single day. Forget the failures of the past. Every day is a new day, a new opportunity. Treat it that way!

This isn't just an issue for new Christians, either.

See next page



A Word from the Pastor

All too often, I'll talk with long-time believers who are looking back, not forward. They rest on past accomplishments – that mission trip they took, or that service project or some other moment when God used them in a powerful way. But rather than remembrances, these things become idols in their lives, and excuses for not doing much today.

But if we live with our focus on Jesus, we'll be looking ahead at what God has in store for us next. Yes, it's wonderful to recall how God worked through you in the past. But it's far more important to make yourself available to God to see what He wants to do through you today!

The Bible often describes life as a race, and not a sprint but an ultra-marathon. Some of us run the race well, some stumble to the finish line and others stop long before the race ends.

But our goal as believers in Jesus Christ is to run the race strong, and finish well. We do that by exercising our faith and spending time with God!

There will be occasions when you're tempted to skip that precious time with the Lord. Things come up, life gets in the way and excuses are easy to find.

But this year, and all the years that follow, make it a priority to exercise your faith, digging into God's Word and spending time in prayer each day.

I can assure you you'll be better equipped to face the problems of life. And as you gain the eternal perspective God wants you to have, your problems won't seem nearly as big as they once did!" by Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano TX



Pastoral Relations Committee? What's That?

According to the church constitution, the Pastoral Relations Committee is composed of five members, with the pastor serving *ex-officio*. Three of the members are elected by the congregation for three-year, staggered terms. The other two members are appointed to one-year terms by the pastor but can serve for three consecutive terms.

The committee serves as liaison between the pastor and the congregation. They are to review the Minister-Church Agreement annually and to recommend changes as "desirable and acceptable." Subjects to be considered include financial arrangements, vacation time, and continuing education possibilities. Also of concern to the committee are the pastor's ministerial responsibilities and, especially, overall church leadership.

The Pastoral Relations Committee will meet monthly during 2017 and will report to the Church Council. MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WHO HAVE CONCERNS ARE URGED TO CONTACT ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE: Jan Sweet (chair), Tom Dadisman, Chuck Scheick, Judi Funk, Barbara Smith.



A True Georgia Peach

Yes, Megan Ray was born in Georgia, but the family moved to Huntington when her father’s job assignment changed. She attended public schools there in Huntington, but when her dad took a job at Alderson Broaddus, they moved to Philippi, and she has been here ever since. Megan, a “middle kid,” has five siblings—two brothers and three sisters.

Megan is planning to attend West Virginia University in Morgantown, where she has been working for Bank of America. Having been interested in psychology since high school and since then the importance of health and nutrition, she intends to study Nutritional Psychology. She describes the field as an investigation of the effect of food and beverages on the brain and body. Practitioners in this field are involved not only in research but in the counseling of individuals who want or need to change nutritional habits.

It was her good friend, Hannah, who brought Megan to Philippi Baptist Church. “The people are very welcoming,” she says. “This church plays a big role in my life. It’s my spiritual home. I’m particularly impressed with all the help that is offered to the community. It’s a real ministry.”

Blessings on Hannah and Megan and on all who bring their friends to church and to Christ.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Barbour County Homeless
 Phil Bowers and other local officials

Mike Burr
 Pat Cain
 Celebrate Recovery
 Code Blue
 Delsey Corley
 Rofer Delauder
 Noah Findley
 Anastasia Green
 Sarah Hamman
 Hinkle family
 Ryan Johnson
 Sherry Jones
 Bailey Larrison
 New Leadership
 Local ministries
 Delbert Mahaffey
 Blair Marks
 Mission Trip
 Martha Rose Roy
 Virginia Shanaburger
 Debbie Spinnenweber
 Janet Stephens's grandson
 Cindy Strakal
 Catherine Vaughn
 Darlene Waddell
 Bill Walker
 Jim Warfuel
 Christina Wentz
 Sarah Weyandt
 Bill Winans
 Gavin Wolfe
 Sue Wolfe
 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 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.
 Amber Underwood
 Major Kris Wood



Mary Boyer
 Constance Brown
 Hannah Dixon
 Rebekah Hicks
 Michele Moore
 Kenny Phillips
 Margaret Salimi
 Glenn & Andrew Sweet
 Jacob Vlastic

*Happy
 Birthday!*

- 1- Jovan Vlastic
- 2- Tom Dadisman
- 5- Evalene Bartram
- 5- Margaret Salimi
- 15- Rosa Lea Kines
- 15- Ashley Mace
- 17- Janis Sweet
- 22- Brad Allen

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 February

| | February 5th | February 12th | February 19th | February 26th |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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, February 7th

Tie Quilting
Hostess: Carolyn Davis

Bible Book of the Month - Philemon

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 February 4th 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

Saturday, February 4th– 7:30AM– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion

Sunday, February 5th– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

5:00PM– Super Bowl party

6:00PM– Diaconate meeting

Tuesday, February 7th– American Baptist Women’s Ministry meeting

Saturday, February 11th– Church Reserved

Sunday, February 12th– 12:00PM– Board of Christian Education meeting

4:00PM– Pastoral Relations Committee meeting

6:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting

7:30PM– Church Council meeting

Saturday, February 18th– 9:00AM– CRBC Leadership meeting

Sunday, February 19th– 11:45AM– Fellowship Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Nicaragua Mission trip

Saturday, February 25th– 8:00PM– Union Association Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Summit Park Baptist

February 26th– 5:00PM– Board of Worship meeting



2016 contribution statements are available. Please see Clarence Wright or Craig Cobb, if you have any questions or need a copy.



The Board of Christian Education needs volunteers for the Sunday School Nursery. Please contact Hayley Dadisman or Crystal Gray if you can volunteer.

The Board of Christian Education will be hosting a Super Bowl Party at PBC on February 5th at 6:00pm. Come and bring a favorite snack to share!



The Board of Christian Education will be collecting individually wrapped snacks or small treats for college Valentine boxes. They will be assembling the boxes on February 12th.



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

