



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.

July 2017

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



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message... 2-3
Birthdays... 6
Anniversaries... 6
Prayer Requests...5

Getting to Know... 4
Schedules... 6
Announcements... 6-8
Upcoming Events...7

You can give online at pbcwv.net



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Jon Villers, Pastor Jud Bracey, Choir Director Emily Casto, CRBC Leader

Hannah Dixon– Interim Praise Team Leader
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Michele Moore, Choir Accompanist

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Dear PBC Family,

Here at Philippi Baptist Church, we choose to be affiliated with the American Baptist Churches, USA. We have recently chosen Dr. Lee Spitzer as the General Secretary for our Denomination. On June 16, 2017, he wrote a pastoral letter to all our churches. I wanted to share his words as a reminder to us all of how we should choose to respond in this every changing world we find ourselves.

Dear ABCUSA Family,

The recent terrorist attacks in England, the apparently politically motivated shooting that took place in Virginia, ongoing debates over how to treat immigrants and visitors to our country, and the struggles of another Baptist denomination to take a clear stand on issues related to white supremacy remind us all that we are living in a violent and divided world that desperately needs to overcome every form of social and political discrimination and search for more just ways to live in harmony. In 2017, American Baptists gladly and forthrightly reassert our fundamental Baptist convictions regarding individual liberty, dignity and respect for all people, regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage, political or religious beliefs, or any other factor. In 1976, the General Board affirmed a policy statement on human rights, which said:

“Baptist history is rooted in concern for conscience and for freedom of individual beliefs, for choice, and for unregimented living whether by religious dogma and institution or by social and political structures. John Bunyan in prison and Roger Williams driven from Massachusetts, reflect commitment to these ideas, as did Martin Luther King, in his witness to human dignity and the rights of minority groups. Resolutions by the American Baptist Churches over the years have particularly sought to reflect the denomination’s basic principles of freedom of thought and belief, the right of dissent, the responsibility to speak prophetically to church and society and support for human dignity and social justice.”

In the past, American Baptists have expressed these convictions in resolutions and statements, which make clear we have consistently opposed every form of racism and discrimination. For example, in 1983, the ABC General Board declared,

“We, as American Baptists, believe that all people are made in the image of God and that the right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person without regard to race, is foundational to our faith... Racism, whether individual or corporate, is a sin against God... We affirm the diversity of races and cultures as distinctive aspects of our denomination. We accept each person as a full participant and each race and each culture as valid expressions within the life and witness of the ABC family.”

The statement rejected manifest destiny as “a form of white racism which has affected the way the United States views its role in the world and views immigrants to this country. As American Baptists, we will seek to create a new image for this nation in which the cultures, the contributions, the insights and the abilities of all racial groups are valued.”

We also have clearly stated in the past that American Baptists reject violence as a means of achieving one’s social, religious or political goals. In a Convention resolution opposing racial segregation adopted in 1964 and reaffirmed by the General Board in 1985, we urged our members to engage in “programs of nonviolent direct action” and made clear that only “Christian means must be used to obtain these desired ends.”



With such a rich and diverse set of resolutions and statements, how should we as American Baptists respond to the challenges we face in today's troubled and fractured society? I suggest we not only re-affirm the statements of the past, but resolve to live them out in practical and consistent ways in our individual and congregational spiritual journeys. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "One of the great tragedies of

life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying" (*Strength to Love*, 37). To bring our thoughts and actions in line with our expressed convictions, we must re-engage Scripture and let its message take control of our beliefs, attitudes, emotions and actions. Please consider these as a starting point in such a transformational journey:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for a person's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:19-20, 26-27)

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

As I reflect on these Scriptures, I glean the following challenges to help us all hold fast to our Baptist convictions while also contributing to a more harmonious American civic life:

Commit to listen more graciously and with an open mind, especially when we are in conversation with people who hold different views than we do.

Reject anger, rudeness, hatred, arrogance, and egotism in our dealings with others. Being prophetic is not compatible with being obsessive, abusive or insensitive.

Do not forget that people we disagree with are still human beings, and desire respect, grace and acceptance. The Golden Rule still applies to human relationships.

Be patient before responding to situations and people; oftentimes, first reports of an event do not convey the whole truth. Knee-jerk reactions are seldom helpful.

Do not assume that one's own position on an issue is the only Christian response to which all others must subscribe. We know only "in part," as Paul says.

As American Baptists, may we, through our words and actions, "let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds" (Matthew 5:16) and be drawn to Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA
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Church = Home and Family

If you ask Patty or Kenny Phillips what Philippi Baptist Church means to them, they are quick to answer. “Everything!” Kenny says. At the same time, Patty says, “It’s just about our whole life. It’s our second home, and it’s our second family. This church gives meaning to our lives.”

If you ask them to be specific, they mention their involvement in Celebrate Recovery, and Kenny talks about their close relationship to the Villers family, including “Pap,” and he talks about fellowship and the friendliness of the congregation.

Patty came to Philippi via Buckhannon, where she was born and where she attended public schools. She has worked in various locations, including a nursing home in Charleston. She has four siblings, one brother and three sisters, and she enjoys sports, particularly playing on a local basketball team.

Kenny, on the other hand, is “a Philippi boy.” He has two siblings, a brother and a sister. That sister, Patty Delauder, is the Volunteer and Bereavement Coordinator for Mountain Hospice. In addition to spending time at the church, Kenny likes camping and working with his father.

On July 14, Patty and Kenny will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary. Their four children include Kendra, who is seven, Mark, who is five, Clayton, who will be two in July, and Anna, who is just a year old.

Summing up their appreciation for PBC, Kenny says, “This church has taken us back to the good stuff we grew up with. It had changed our lives, and all for the better.”



Blair Marks (VA Nursing Home),
Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place),
Germaine & Austin Whitman

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

Mike Burr
Pat Cain Family
Paisley Carter
Celebrate Recovery

Code Blue
Delsey Corley
Sam Duffy
Frank Field

Noah Findley
Barbara Gillespie
Harmony Grogan
Anthony Hinkle

Charles Hinkle
Stephanie Hinkle
Hinkle family
Mike Johnson

Tommy Knotts
Bailey Larrison
Leadership

Local ministries
Bruce Long Family
Teresa Marsh

Robert Moore Family
Judy Mossburg
Kenny Phillips Sr.
Sara Poling

Chuck Scheick
Jim Shannon Family
Debbie Spinnenweber
Cindy Strakal

Bill Walker
Jim Warfuel
Austin & Germain Whitman
Burton Wilfong

Betty Workman Family
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 these missionary families serving
around the world:

The Myers in Mexico
The Aragons in Mexico
The Smiths in Haiti
The Vances in Kenya
The Orners in Madagascar
The Reeds in Bolivia
Debbie Mulneix consultant for International
Ministries



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



Praises

Graham Klaus
Kenny Phillips
Michael Perry
Jacob Ivan James Vlasic
Sarah Weyandt

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/ Abide Youth Ministry	6pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for July

	July 2nd	July 9th	July 16th	July 23d	July 30th
Nursery	Wanda Steele	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlasic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon	Rebekah Hicks
Children's Church	Kelly Bracey & Jennifer Weyandt	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson	Crystal & Wes Gray	Rebekah Hicks



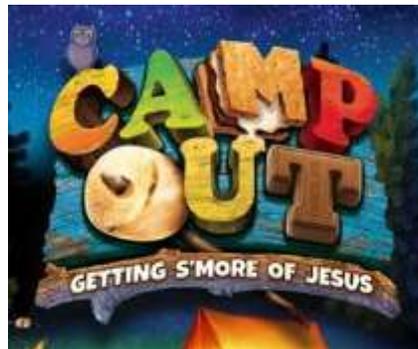
Mark your calendars:

July 23rd at 6PM- School of Missions with Michael Perry, American Baptist short term missionary to Liberia. We will be having appetizers and desserts.

Happy Anniversary

Happy Birthday!

- 3- George & Marija Sommer
- 11- Gary & Brenda Price
- 14-Kenny & Patty Phillips
- 16- Jud & Kelly Bracey
- 29- Pete & Sarah Ferguson
- 30- Bruce & Cheryl Blankenship
- 31- Wesley & Crystal Gray



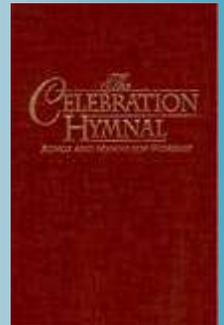
- 2- Bobby Villers
- 2- Thomas Villers
- 3- Josh Gilpin
- 5- Cheryl Wolfe
- 7- Clayton Phillips
- 8- Noah Casto
- 13- Bentley Meader
- 16- Bruce Blankenship
- 20- Randy Moore
- 22- Richard Hepler
- 24- Carman Cline
- 24- Madison Riffle
- 26- Shirley Keen
- 28- Roconda Daugherty
- 29- Taylor Smith
- 30- Erin Davis
- 31- Caleb Villers

Vacation Bible School will be Saturday, July 22nd. The theme is Campout: Getting S'more of Jesus. We are looking for volunteers to lead groups, help with stations, etc. If interested, please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

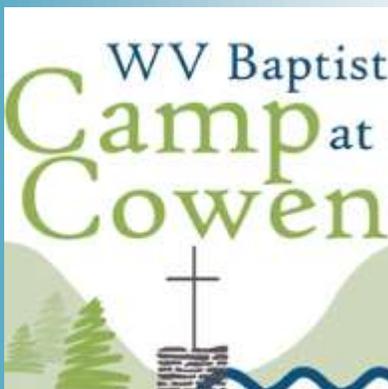
Upcoming Events

Friday, June 29th– Sunday, July 2nd– ABC USA Mission Summit
Sunday, July 2nd– 10:30AM– John Hicks will be speaking
4:30PM- Diaconate meeting
Friday, July 7th– Saturday, July 15th– Pastor Jon on vacation
Sunday, July 9th– Saturday, July 15th– Stroudsburg Mission Team staying at PBC
Sunday, July 9th– 10:30AM– Rev. Kevin Sions will be speaking/ Communion/ Deacon Relief Offering
6:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting
Tuesday, July 11th– 6:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir practice
Thursday, July 13th– 6:00PM– Blue & Gray Choir practice
Saturday, July 15th– 9:00AM– CRBC Leadership training
7:00PM– Anthony Mossburg concert at Clarksburg Amphitheater
Sunday, July 16th– 2:00PM– Union Association Fellowship Picnic at Summit Park Baptist Church
4:30PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
Friday, July 28th– Sunday, July 30th– Family Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, July 30th– 11:45AM– Fellowship Luncheon

The Board of Worship is doing a collection for the purchase of Celebration Hymnals
They are \$10 each and they are recommending that we start with the purchase of
100. Each Sunday please notice the water jug for donations.



We will not have
Prayer Breakfast in
July or August and
will re-start
on Sept. 9.



The Board of Christian Education is looking for anyone interested in
sponsoring a youth for camp this summer. We have about 6 students
looking to go that we would love to help out. If interested speak with
Pastor Jon. Thank you!



During the months of June and July the Board of Missions and Outreach will be collecting
canned meat and dried beans for Heart & Hand.



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

