



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.

June 2016

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



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69 Church Street ♦ Philippi, WV 26416 ♦ (304) 457-3206

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

Emily Casto— Celebrate Recovery Ministry
Leader

Michele Moore, Church Pianist
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



God made all the colors of the rainbow, I can't deny. But Orange has always been the apple of my eye!

Hello Orange column readers! It has been far too long since I wrote my own article for you all! On Monday night at Celebrate Recovery Barbour County, I taught on the sixth lesson entitled ACTION. So many times, when I teach, I am the one that needs the lesson the most! I was reminded that to continue

my journey with Christ, I need to do more journaling. So I thought I would share this entry from my journal with you!

May 21, 2016 – Mom's Birthday

Louise Wiseman Villers, my mom, would have been 84 years old today. Her heavenly birthday got here first on January 25, 2016. Our family is still trying to find the new normal and I am beginning to believe as the old adage goes, "The only thing constant is change!" In these last four months our family has seen quite a bit of change. Moving dad to Philippi after accumulating a life time of memories and possessions with the same woman was quite task. It was amazing the team God assembled on both ends of the move as we spaced it out over two separate weekends till we had the parsonage in Handley empty! Dad and Mom had been serving at Handley Baptist in their "retirement" the last fifteen years and Dad was still preaching every Sunday morning and Sunday night plus all the hospital visits right up until he resigned after mom's death! Oh, did I mention he is 85!

We had already purchased mom and dad a house at the end of last year hoping we would get them to retire, again, soon and move closer to us! Our oldest son, Caleb, moved in to the house for the winter so dad had a house mate when he arrived in February. Koreen, my wife, me and our (high school) senior twin sons, had already been planning for their band trip on a cruise to the Bahamas so my niece who lives in Kingwood invited Dad to stay with her family as we went ahead! About a month later, Dad also got to spend spring break at my sister's house in Wirt County as she was off from her position at Elizabeth Middle School. Dad even made a solo trip up to visit mom's grave in Calhoun County while he was over that way! You only get cell coverage on top the hill in that rural setting and it was great to hear his voice as he delivered roses to the graveside!

Dad has also spent two weeks with my other niece in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While he was staying there for a visit, my mom's oldest brother also died and we journeyed to Estill County, Kentucky to be a part of celebrating the life of another amazing child of God! My uncle loved the Lord, loved his wife and left a legacy for his family that will be cherished for generations to come!

In the midst of all this, Caleb gets called to a full-time Associate Pastor of Student Ministries position in Summersville, WV! His first day at Summersville Baptist Church was May 15, 2016. Oh, did I also mention we are blessed to welcome in another member of our family as Maci Oiler, Caleb's fiancé will be joining our family on September 10, 2016 as Mrs. Maci James Villers. Caleb has a house coming available for him to rent in Summersville in early June while he waits for the parsonage to be available in late fall this year! A young family at the church is hosting him in their basement for these first few weeks! Meanwhile we are transitioning Dad's house as Caleb packs all of his things to then be ready for Dad's next house mate, our daughter Allison is moving in for her Junior year at Alderson Broaddus!

Our sons, Thomas and Bobby finished their senior year of school on May 20th and will be participating in Baccalaureate and Commencement exercises this week! They have started their summer employment of grounds keeping at Alderson Broaddus University and will be ready to care for any lawn maintenance that may come up after the next ten weeks of running a weed eater! Thomas will be starting a Criminal Justice Major in the fall at ABU while Bobby will be heading to Waynesburg University as a Forensic Science Major.

All that transition is happening and today we find ourselves heading to the farm in Calhoun County on Mom's birthday. We stopped by Parkersburg so that Thomas could spend some time with his new girlfriend, oh yeah, that is something totally new! And then we had lunch with my sister before going on over to the Villers Family Cemetery. Our waitress became another interesting story, but you'll have to ask Bobby about meeting Sydnee!

I knew the 1.5-mile clay mud dirt road up to the grave would be quite treacherous for Dad's two-wheel drive vehicle as it has now rained steadily for over three weeks, so we decided to walk up instead. After taking almost thirty minutes to reach the first major bend in the road and not even .3 miles completed, Bobby, Dad



and I were starting to realize we may have bit off more than we could chew. Or as my sermon title on Sunday concurred, “We were in over our heads!” We continued to forge upward finding as many stumps along the way for Dad to rest as we could! I ended up on one side of Dad and Bobby had found him a nice walking stick and that seemed to help at least for the next 1/3 of the ascent. Then we hit the steepest part right as it was starting to

downpour so Bobby got on one side and I got on the other and Dad amazingly kept putting one foot in front of the other till we reached the top!

I could not see any way Dad would be able to walk back down so through the rain drops, trying to protect my cell phone, I call a friend of ours who helped dig mom’s grave and fill it back in after the graveside service. He immediately responded and had his four-wheel jeep up to us within the hour! We got to leave twenty roses on top of mom’s grave. One for each of our immediate family, including Maci! Our friend, Danny Carpenter, who picked us up also wanted to show us his remote hunting cabin so we went out another ridge and came to an area that was in the heart of the woods. Danny had cleared off some of the woods and built a quaint wooden cabin that has gas lights, heat and refrigerator!

And of course our journey would not have been complete without a little “four wheelin’” action! After leaving his cabin he turned up what looked to me like the side of hill, but there was actually a single lane path straight up! He locked in the hubs and gunned it and after several attempts he made huge mud ruts up the side of this hill turning the steering wheel back and forth rapidly to keep us from falling over the side as we inched our way to the top of yet another ridgeline! We ate some mud as Danny had his window down and I felt like we were truly living life!!!

We then came back through Glenville, Burnsville and ate dinner in Weston! We travelled through Barbour, Doddridge, Ritchie, Wood, Wirt, Calhoun, Gilmer, Braxton, Lewis and Harrison counties on our twelve-hour excursion on Mom’s Birthday!

This whole experience, both our adventure on Mom’s Birthday and the adventure we find ourselves in as a family reminds me of the title of a book I have been spending some time. In 2014, Brian McLaren wrote a book entitled, “We Make the Road by Walking.” I’ll let a summary of why he picked this title to be my final word!

”The title comes from one of Brian's heroes, Brazilian educator/activist Paolo Freire. He used this title for a published dialogue between Freire and another seminal educator/activist, Myles Horton, who was an important figure in the Civil Rights Movement in the US. Freire may have derived the quote from the great Spanish poet Antonio Machado:

“Caminante, son tus huellas el camino, y nada más; caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar. Al andar se hace camino, y al volver la vista atrás se ve la senda que nunca se ha de volver a pisar. Caminante, no hay camino, sino estelas en la mar.”

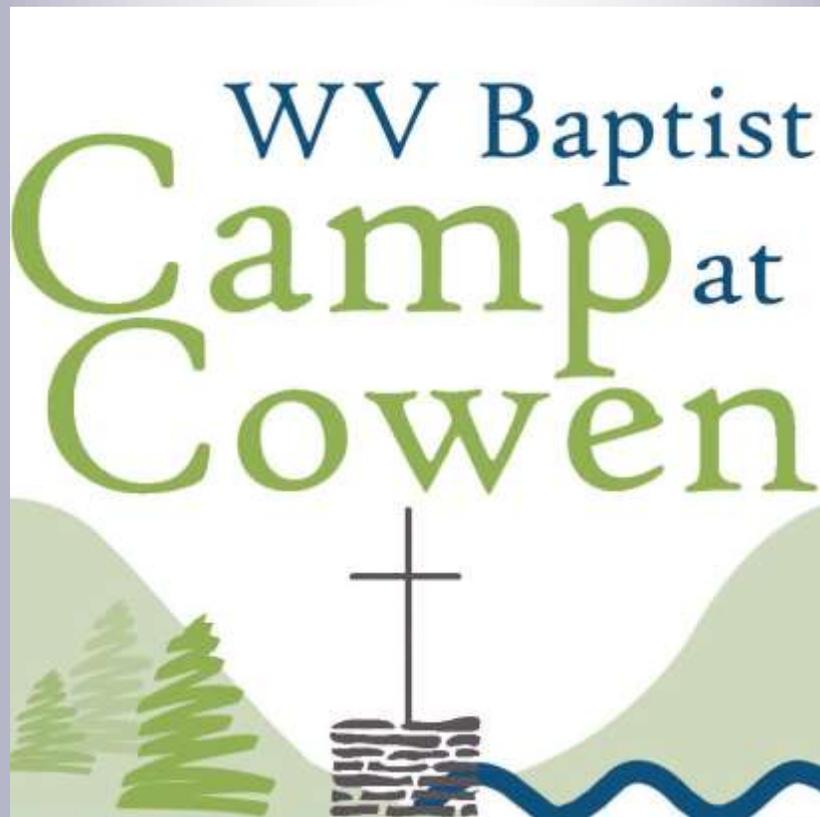
Wanderer, your footsteps are the road, and nothing more; wanderer, there is no road, the road is made by walking. By walking one makes the road, and upon glancing behind one sees the path that never will be trod again. Wanderer, there is no road-- Only wakes upon the sea. — Antonio Machado, Campos de Castilla

The title suggests that Christian faith is still "in the making" It continues to grow, evolve, learn, change, emerge, and mature ... in and through us. What we will be as Christians in the 21st century, for better or worse, will surely change what Christian faith will be in the 22nd century and beyond.”

Shalom – Pastor Jon



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for June
**mac & cheese, spaghetti & sauce, coffee
& tea bags**



CAMP COWEN

Judi Funk virtually grew up at Camp Cowen, for her father, Eber Bowles, served for over thirty years as Director of Men, Youth, and Camping for the West Virginia Baptist Convention. “Except for the years when Jack was stationed in California, I’ve spent part of every summer at Cowen,” Judi says. She has served as director of many camp sessions such as the ones for Junior High students.

Camp Cowen can be traced back to 1939 when twenty acres of land were purchased on the Gauley River. In 1941 forty more acres were added for \$525, and in 1964 thirty-one more were purchased for \$22,000. The site was dedicated in 1942 and included seven cottages and a dining hall. The annual Convention report reads, “With the kitchen stove and silverware the total investment...was \$16,000 and an indebtedness of \$8,000.” There are now twenty cabins and at least six other larger buildings. The camp is considered a mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention and is governed by the Discipleship/Youth Commission. The camp motto reads “where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith.” Its goals include the “enlarging of the understanding and commitment of campers”; provision of opportunities for worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, and recreation; development of long-lasting personal relationships with other Christians; and development of leadership for churches and their missions.

During June and July, nine camps are held for school-aged children. Other conferences and meetings are held at Cowen in other months. One camper has said, “Sandwiched between the mountains of West Virginia and the Birch River is a place many...consider ‘almost heaven,’ and for good reason. Cowen is both rustic and beautiful with the cabins covered by a canopy of sixty, eighty and hundred foot trees that may have been around when West Virginia became a state.”

Another testimony reads, “[Cowen] is a fantastic Baptist camp in rural West Virginia which has had thousands and thousands of people of all ages come through the years. Many folks have made their personal decision to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior while attending camp. Some have been baptized in the [river] which runs along the property.” Judi Funk adds an interesting memory: “We swam in the river when I first started going. The first pool was built behind the dining hall.”

If you have attended any event at Camp Cowen, you will want to go back. If you’ve never been there, be sure to make plans to go. You will be blessed!



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Barbour County Homeless
 Donnie Barkley
 Vernon Barley
 Emily Casto
 Celebrate Recovery
 Code Blue
 Ruby Cozad
 Benita Dadisman's family
 Hinkle Family
 Bailey Larrison
 Local ministries
 Patricia McQuade
 Tom McQuade
 Adrienne Marsh
 Bill Morlan
 Philip Barbour High School
 Kathy Prussa
 Joyce Riffle
 Elody Shrader
 Jan Sweet
 Charlee Thomas' Dad
 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:

Saige Cline
 Captain Aaron Cross
 Tim Jenkins,
 Brian Lundell
 Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.
 Major Kris Wood



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



Emily Casto
 JD Long
 Amber Riffle & Tyler Wood
 Margaret Salimi
 Jan Sweet



- 2- Blair Marks
- 3- Jennifer Weyandt
- 10- Judi Funk
- 16- Elaine Abrams
- 16- Wanda Steele
- 21- Scott Springer
- 21- Robert Ball
- 22- Graham Klaus
- 26- Gary Price
- 26- Joann Marsh
- 27- Maci Oiler
- 28- Marilyn Runion
- 28- Barbara Springer
- 28- Dan Unger
- 30- Chuck Scheick



- 2- Bob & Mary Boyer
- 14- Blair & Pearl Marks
- 15- Dennis & Nancy Stull
- 26- David & Marilyn Runion
- 27- J. D. & Linda Long

Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship Small Group Studies	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm
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
Every other Saturday	Youth	6pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for June

	June 5th	June 12th	June 19th	June 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, June 2nd

Closing Session

Bible Book of the Month - Numbers

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



We are asking all able-bodied members to please park behind the courthouse or in the city lot. We have many handicapped member who need the closer metered spaces. Thank You!

We have raised \$15,000 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



The Board of Christian Education is looking for a donation of a baby changing table for the Crying Room. Please let Hayley Dadisman or Crystal Gray know if you have one and are willing to donate it.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 2nd- 5th- Blue & Gray Reunion
Thursday, June 2nd-7:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir Dress Rehearsal
Friday, June 3rd- 9:00AM-3:00PM- Blue & Gray Children's Day
Saturday, June 4th- 10:00AM- Celebrate Recovery Leadership meeting
3:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir Concert
6:00PM- Youth- Abide Ministry
Sunday, June 5th- 10:30AM- Communion & Deacon Relief Offering
5:00PM- Board of Trustees meeting
6:00PM- Diaconate meeting
6:00PM- Union Association Cluster Service at Middleville, Baptist
7:30PM- Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
Sunday, June 5th- Wednesday, June 8th- Older Midler Camp at Camp Cowen
Tuesday, June 7th- 9:00AM- American Baptist Women's meeting
Friday, June 10th- Sunday, June 12th- Younger Midler Camp at Camp Cowen
Saturday, June 11th- Days of Nehemiah Vision Casting Retreat
Sunday, June 12th- Saturday, June 18th- Junior I Camp at camp Cowen
Sunday, June 12th- 4:30PM- Board of Christian Education meeting
7:30PM- Church Council meeting
Friday, June 17th- Saturday, June 25th- Pastor Jon will be on vacation
Saturday, June 18th- 6:00PM- Youth Abide Ministry
Sunday, June 19th- Saturday, June 25th- Junior High I Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, June 19th- Friday, June 24th- Cornwell United Methodist Mission team will be staying at PBC
Sunday, June 19th- Fathers' Day Recognition
Sunday, June 26th- Saturday, July 2nd- Junior 2 Camp at Camp Cowen
Sunday, June 26th- Friday, July 1st- Brother's Keeper at Parchment Valley
Sunday, June 26th- 11:45AM- Fellowship Luncheon

Dad....

A Son's First Hero,

Daughter's First Love



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