



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.

March 2016

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



Inside

this issue:

Pastor's Message... 2-3
America For Christ...3
Birthdays... 4
Prayer Requests...4
Getting to Know... 5
Schedules... 6
Announcements... 6-8
Upcoming Events... 7



You can give online at pbcwv.net

E-mail: office@pbcwv.net

Website: www.pbcwv.net

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

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

Alicia Noble— Praise Team Leader
Michele Moore, Church Pianist

Lucretia Moyer, Secretary
Emily Casto— Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

Marj Campbell, Organist
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Welcome to the Season of Lent!

As one of the oldest observations in Christendom, Lenten tradition has changed over the years, but its purpose has always been the same: self-examination and penitence, demonstrated by self-denial, in preparation for Easter.

Lent, which comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for “spring,” can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out everything which hinders a relationship with Christ.

Traditionally, the season of Lent begins with a sign of repentance: placing ashes mixed with oil on one’s head or forehead. This day is known as Ash Wednesday.

However, we must realize that any Lenten disciplines/denials we demonstrate before God should be practiced to help us become closer to Christ and become more like Him, not to wallow in our repentance or try to gain favor or earn more love from God.

How Are You Preparing?

For Christians in the early centuries, this sacred season before Easter was usually a time of training for new disciples. However, the Bible tells us that whether someone is a new believer or a seasoned one, intense spiritual training is always in season.

2 Timothy 2:20-22 gives us a healthy example of what spiritual preparation looks like:

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

This passage is part of Paul’s warning to Timothy about false teachers. In our culture’s bent toward what many call a “prosperity gospel,” (the claim that if we commit ourselves to God and live in a way that pleases Him, we will have little or no troubles in life) it is particularly important to heed Paul’s warning ourselves.

For spiritual preparation, it is important to get under sound, biblical teaching. How will we know the difference between sound doctrine and words spoken to make us “feel” better? By studying and knowing the Bible and praying for wisdom and discernment.

In verse 20, Paul uses the example of the vessels. The gold and silver vessels to which he refers are those used for noble purposes. Those represent the things in our lives that are agents to make us more holy and which can be used to glorify God.

The latter vessels he mentions, “wood and earthenware,” were more than likely examples of vessels used for garbage or excrement. These vessels are representative of the things we need to get rid of in our lives—anything that prevents us from growing closer to Christ and becoming more like Him.

What are these vessels—both examples—in your life? It’s time to take inventory and become “useful to the Master.”

Let’s look at one other principle of spiritual preparation in verse 22:

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.



Paul was reminding Timothy of his responsibilities as a young leader, in light of the false teaching that was around them. When we give way to the corruption around us (“youthful lusts”), we make ourselves more susceptible to believe lies, whether directly from the enemy or from false teaching.

Furthermore, we should strive for a pure heart through the pursuit of righteousness (adherence to God’s moral law), faith (trust in God and faithfulness to Him), love (attitude and action of commitment to God and others) and peace (harmonious relationship with God and others).

The best way to grow as disciples of Christ is to not limit our spiritual preparation to the Lenten season, but to pursue these things daily throughout the rest of our time here on earth.

Special thanks for this article from: <http://billygraham.org/story/lent-preparing-for-spiritual-growth/>

Discipleship:
Becoming More Like
CHRIST
EPHESIANS 2:10



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2016

God’s desire for all who know Him is for us to become more like Christ. We become more like Christ by first growing in our knowledge of Him. It stands to reason that we cannot grow to be like someone we don’t know. The deeper our knowledge of Christ, the deeper our understanding of Him, and the more like Him we become. Among other reasons, we are to know and understand Christ so that we will be secure in the faith. The America for Christ Offering 2016 theme “Discipleship: Becoming More Like Christ” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we embody the love of our Lord in word and deed. The Apostle Paul reiterates this truth in Ephesians 2:10: “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” It is refreshing to read that God is continuously working on us, bringing us up in maturity, shaping our hearts and growing our faith. We see that pointed out in Samuel, who “continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people” (1 Samuel 2:26). And we hear it in the exhortation of Peter, who concluded, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). The writer to the Hebrews, likewise, commands, “Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ” (Hebrews 6:1). The natural consequence of knowing and obeying God is that He becomes greater and greater, while we become less and less, as we yield control of our lives to Him. Just as John the Baptist knew that “He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30), so the Christian grows to reflect more of Christ. Luke sums it up best when he describes what Jesus told His disciples: “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it” (Luke 9:23-24). The America for Christ Offering 2016 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Extending the hope, love and compassion of our Lord to our neighbors and communities is a powerful demonstration that we have been transformed. We are reinvigorated by this year’s theme to come alongside people as they journey through life. I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s America for Christ Offering 2016 and, in doing so, help us to reach our goal as a church in support of home mission.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Barbour County Homeless
 Pastor Herb Bledsoe
 Celebrate Recovery
 Code Blue
 Ruby Cozad
 Patricia Delauder
 ZSam Duffy
 Shawn England
 Sharon Freed's parents
 Tod Heinerman
 Hinkle Family
 Amber Holstine
 Dana Jones
 Local ministries
 Todd Lynn Family– Pray Across America
 David Mellquist
 Jim Miller Family
 Bill Morlan
 Derek Murdoch
 Philip Barbour High School
 Travis Price
 Jean Propst
 Kathy Prussa
 Lailah Rice
 Lailah Rice's father-in-law
 Jeff Riffle
 Dawn Scheick
 Elody Shrader
 Smiley Family
 Liam Varghese
 Jim Warfuel
 Kristin Winter
 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.
 Major Kris Wood



Jack Dunlap
 Bryson & Leandra Morlan
 Ashley, Josh & Michael Ramsden
 Bobby Villers
 Welcome Rev. Lewis Villers

Happy Birthday!

- 1-Nina Lindsey
- 3- Shannon Dering
- 4- Katie Mullens
- 10- Craig Cobb
- 11- Lindsey Bracey
- 11- Sarah Ferguson
- 12- Jean Roy
- 13- Cheryl Blankenship
- 13- Faith Cline
- 14- George Whitman
- 15- Kristina Vlastic
- 20- Lars Byrne
- 21- Barbara Smith
- 25- Daniel McGuire
- 25- Jacob McGuire
- 27- Abigail Blankenship
- 28- Jacob Steele



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



LENT

Ash Wednesday? Maundy Thursday? Good Friday? Holy Saturday? EASTER!

Lent, the six-week period preceding Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday—or perhaps on Shrove Tuesday, which is also called Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday. The day before Ash Wednesday was traditionally a day to “shrive,” to consider what sins needed to be confessed the next day. In many areas, however, Shrove Tuesday became, indeed, Mardi Gras—a day to party and feast before the season of fasting.

Ash Wednesday is, indeed, a day of fasting. In many Christian traditions Ash Wednesday is an observance based on the words of Genesis 3:19: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Thus, in many churches, including Roman Catholic, ashes are blessed by the priest and then sprinkled on the worshiper’s head or rubbed on the forehead, ideally in the shape of a cross.

Several others of the days of Lent are named, particularly those during Holy Week. Most widely observed are Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples and begins the “Easter Triduum,” a focus on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This day is observed in many churches—as it will be at Philippi Baptist this year—with an evening service reminding participants not only of the Last Supper but also of Passover, which Jesus and his disciples were observing. The word “maundy” is derived from the Latin term for “commandment,” and it refers to Jesus’ command that we love one another. Foot washing is therefore included in many Maundy Thursday services, reminiscent of Jesus washing his disciples’ feet as an act of service and love.

Good Friday, as most Christians know, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus at Calvary. This is often seen as a day for fasting and for worship services based on the last words of Jesus, uttered from the cross. In many locations, three hours of silence are also observed from noon until three p.m. Many other traditions are included in the practices of strongly Christian countries.

Holy Saturday, sometimes called “Joyous Saturday” or “The Saturday of Light” is the last day of Holy Week, and it commemorates the day that Jesus’ body lay in the tomb. In the Eastern Orthodox church, this day is known as The Great Sabbath because this was the day that Christ “rested” physically in the grave. Generally speaking, no masses are held in Roman Catholic churches, and all decorations are removed from the sanctuary.

And then, at the end of Holy Week, and the end of Lent, comes Easter.

HALLELUJAH!

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 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm
Saturdays	Youth	6pm

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for March

	March 6th	March 13th	March 20th	March 27th
Nursery	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic	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, March 1st

See... the Risen Christ
Hostess- Joann Marsh

Bible Book of the Month - Daniel

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

We have raised \$12,000 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sat., March 5th
@ 7:30am
At the Medallion

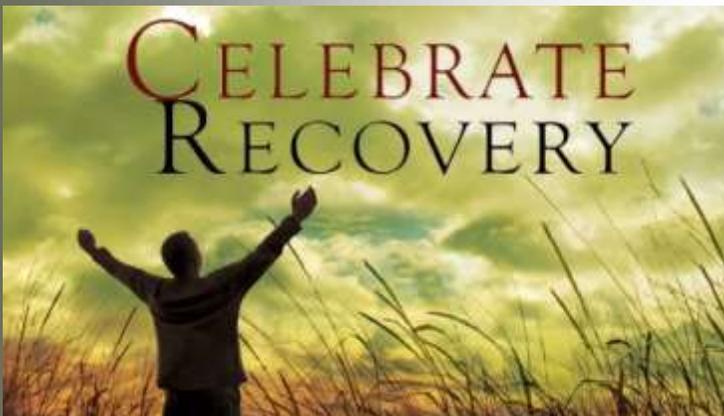


©wonderci.com

- 8- Jason & Emily Meader
- 17- George & Carolyn Davis
- 24- Craig & Sarah Cobb
- 24- Jovan & Zvezdana

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 1st- 9:00AM- American Baptist Women's meeting
Wednesday, March 2nd- 12:00PM- BCMA Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Saturday, March 5th- 7:30AM- Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion
2:00PM- Celebrate Recovery Rally at Horizons Church in Lost Creek
Sunday, March 6th- 10:30AM- Communion & Deacon relief Offering
10:60AM- The Shine Effect at New Beginnings Church
11:45AM- Celebrate Recovery Fundraiser Luncheon
4:00PM- Union Association Lenten Service at Union Baptist Church
5:00PM- Diaconate meeting
6:00PM- The Shine Effert at New Beginnings Church
Wednesday, March 9th- 12:00PM- BCMA Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Sunday, March 13th- 3:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal
3:00PM- Celebrate Recovery leadership meeting
4:00PM- Union Association Lenten Service at Flemington Baptist Church
4:40PM- Board of Christian Education meeting
5:00PM- Board of Trustees meeting
7:30PM- Church Council meeting
Wednesday, March 16th- BCMA Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Saturday, March 19th- 1:00PM- Family Easter Event
- Board of Missions Social Event
Sunday, March 20th- 3:00PM- Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal
6:00PM- Union Association Easter Service at Middleville Baptist Church
Wednesday, March 23rd- 12:00PM- BCMA Lenten Luncheon at Southern Baptist Church of Philippi
Thursday, March 24th- 6:00PM- Passover Seder Meal at PBC
Sunday, March 27th- **Easter Sunday**
7:00AM- Sunrise Service on the back porch of Burbick Hall
8:00AM- Easter Breakfast



Celebrate Recovery will be having a fundraiser soup and sandwich luncheon on March 6th following the morning worship service.

WV Celebrate Recovery P8 Connection Rally*
Saturday, March 5th ~ 8:30am -2:00pm ~ Horizons Church
8302 Mount Clare Rd, Lost Creek WV 26385

FREE EVENT

Worship by: THE SHINE EFFECT

National, State and Local Celebrate Recovery Leaders will be sharing on the many aspects of Celebrate Recovery.

There will be:
Leadership Moments
Connect Groups
Q & A
Testimony

Lunch is provided.
Please RSVP by Friday, February 26th



Philippi Baptist Church
69 Church Street
Philippi, WV 26416

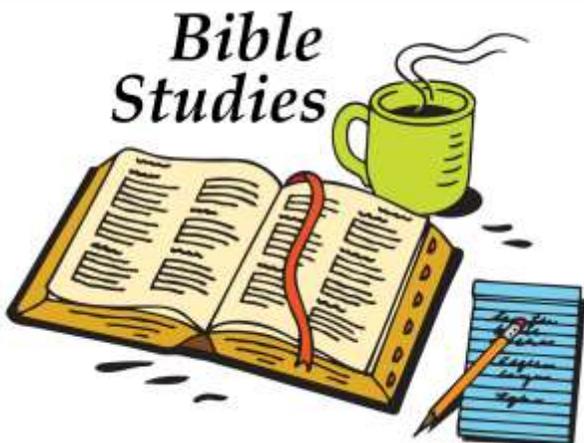


Suggested Heart & Hand donation for March
**Dishwashing Soap, Pasta Sauce, Canned
meat and dried beans**

A total of 459 food items were donated to Heart & Hand for the Souper Bowl of caring

Three new small group studies will begin on
March 6th at 6PM.

- Jim Steele will be teaching a Parables Bible study.
- Rebekah Hicks will be leading a Christian Financing and Budgeting class.
- Pastor Jon will begin a new Beginning Connections class for adults who wish to join the church.
- Madison Riffle will begin a Baptism class for youth who wish to join the church



Family Easter Event will
be held March
19th from 1:00 to
3:00 p.m. Something for
all
ages. Hope to have a
surprise visitor.

Easter Egg Hunt will be March
26th right after morning worship.

