



# 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 2017

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, 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



## God Has a Purpose in Your Disappointment - No heartache will be wasted.

*“Hope deferred makes the heart sick,” says King Solomon.*

Proverbs, which Solomon wrote, speak to the human condition, and this one is no exception. We’re all familiar with disappointment. You don’t get invited, you don’t get the promotion or the heartbreak of a break-up is hard to shake.

Every once in a while, an event will unearth emotions that force me to put into practice everything I write about. Do I really believe that God is good? Does He truly have my best in mind? What will it look like to climb out of this rut? I believe the answer is found in the second part of the verse.

The second part of the proverb says that “a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” At first glance, this line doesn’t seem like it could be a comfort to those of us with sick hearts. We understand that our fulfilled desire would be awesome—that’s what makes deferment so tough!

But the imagery here is a “tree of life.” That same symbol is used in the Garden of Eden as the promise of provision, in Jeremiah 17 to illustrate a man whose trust is in the Lord, and in Revelation 22, which describes another tree of life that bears fruit in the new earth. Yes, getting the good things we want this side of heaven would be great, but even those things can’t truly fulfill us. The shrubs that sprout with a new relationship or a new job can indeed bring temporary satisfaction, but they pale in comparison to the ultimate gifts that the Sower has in store.

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Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 3:11 that God has written eternity on our hearts. So what does disappointment mean? That God fashioned us with a mechanism for hope. The temporary gifts He graciously gives us may use this design plan from time to time, but when it fails us in the short run, we need to understand that it won’t in the long run.

Our hopes will ultimately find their restful bliss in Christ and His redemptive plan. He alone has the power to forever wipe away tears. He alone has the ability to satisfy the deepest longings of our souls. Only Jesus can heal our sick hearts. The beautiful part is that the deferment only adds to the bliss of fulfillment. It’s worth the wait.

So what do we do in the meantime? Should we hope for earthly things at all, or should we just build walls around our hearts and hope that Jesus returns soon? I see the temptation to start putting some bricks together. Nevertheless, I think God has more in store for our hurts and hopes than eventual eternity.

A symbol that comes to mind when I think of unfulfilled hopes is a wishing well. But the picture it paints isn’t all that hopeful. Just throw in your spare change and watch it fall to the bottom. It will join other dreams in a watery grave. No redemptive value or investment, just collecting algae. Then, you go on with your life, longing for something that may or may not happen.

God’s kingdom operates very differently than a wishing well. In His detailed plan, deferred hopes do so much more than collect pond scum. Each rejection, every heartache, all the missed opportunities are invested. They are sown like seeds that will have their time to bring forth fruit. The fruit may be as simple as time spent with Jesus while you walked through a healing process. Perhaps it will look like a tender heart that is a comfort to others, having experienced loss. Or maybe it will be a thicker skin that’s ready to take on what life has in store.

I’d like to thank our guest columnist, Rachelle Windham. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/jum4rtk> Rachelle teaches at a high school outside of Vegas, but often gets mistaken for a student. She rambles on about using singleness for the Kingdom at [notsingledout.com](http://notsingledout.com) and drinks coffee like water.

There is a great account from Jesus’ days that includes a well. It wasn’t a wishing well but it left an everlasting impression on a woman who came to it in the middle of the day. I will let the Apostle John recount the meeting as an age old example of Jesus using every aspect of our life to get us to realize our worth, value and His love for us! John 4:5-39

# AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2017

Dear Congregation,

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2017 theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities,” reminds us that, as American Baptists, we exemplify a vital legacy of mission and ministry dating to 1824. The 21st-century challenges of leadership are numerous, but we are invigorated by the passage of Luke 4:18-19: *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor”* (NRSV).

Through your generous donations and partnership, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is committed to cultivating dynamic Christian leaders who are culturally and spiritually competent, in touch with their churches and communities, and passionate about ministry and helping people. Highly developed Christ-honoring leaders are called to advance the mission of peace, hope and love in their churches and communities with resilience, faithfulness and proficiency.

Your AFC gifts will come alongside ABHMS as we continually address the question: *What do leaders need to continue growing and developing?* The AFC Offering 2017 reminds us that service is a way of life for Christ’s church. Cultivating leaders is a call to all of our American Baptist family.

Consider making a generous gift!

We are encouraged by this year’s theme, “Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities.” I am asking you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering 2017 and helping us to reach our goal in support of home mission across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Together we can make a difference.

Your Pastor,  
Pastor Jon Villers



### **March 1=Ash Wednesday=Lent**

For all of our lives we have been aware of Lent, the season leading up to Easter. But where did Lent begin? What does the word mean? Is this only a Roman Catholic observance?

To begin with, Lent is Biblical, for it is based on and is a reminder of Jesus's temptation by the devil and His forty days of fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13). Scholars suggest that Lent probably originated with the idea of preparing for Easter baptisms by the early Christians in ancient Rome, even in the catacombs.

The word "lent" is Germanic in origin and refers to Spring. The forty days (actually forty-six counting Sundays) begin on Ash Wednesday, which Catholics observe as a "holy day." Many go to church to have ashes mixed with oil put on their foreheads as a symbol of penitence and humility. Lent culminates on Saturday, April 15th during Holy Week, which is the day before Easter.

For all Christians, both Catholics and Protestants, Lent is intended to be a season of fasting, self-denial, and spiritual growth, an opportunity to become more Christ-like.. It is a time for sacrifice such as fasting, but it is also a time to replace vice with virtue. It is a time to pray, read Scripture, and increase charity, both in the giving of money and in the giving of time and talents.

The color used on altars and in church decorations during Lent and the Easter season is purple, symbolic of royalty and penitence. Traditional observances include the planting of flowers as symbolic of new growth, the increase in devotional time, the sacrifice of some habit such as eating candy or watching television or drinking coffee or soft drinks.

However we observe Lent, it should include awareness of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, his total sacrifice on behalf of each and every one of us.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students  
 Barbour County Homeless  
 Phil Bowers and other  
 Russell Bolyard  
 Mike Burr  
 Pat Cain  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Code Blue  
 Delsey Corley  
 Noah Findley  
 Hinkle family  
 Adam Jones  
 Bailey Larrison  
 New Leadership  
 Joni Lipsey  
 Local ministries  
 Blair Marks  
 Teresa Marsh  
 Miranda  
 Mission Trip  
 Judy Mossburg  
 Kenny Phillips Sr.  
 Debbie Spinnenweber  
 Janet Stephens's grandson  
 Cindy Strakal  
 Catherine Vaughn  
 Darlene Waddell  
 Bill Walker  
 Sarah Weyandt  
 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.



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



Marion Boyer  
 Angie Buzum  
 Jimmy Warfuel



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



1-Nina Lindsey  
 4- Katie Mullens  
 5- Patty Phillips  
 10- Craig Cobb  
 11- Lindsey Bracey  
 11- Sarah Ferguson  
 13- Cheryl Blankenship  
 13- Faith Cline  
 14- George Whitman  
 15- Kristina Vlastic  
 20- Lars Byrne  
 21- Barbara Smith  
 22- Mark Phillips  
 25- Daniel McGuire  
 25- Jacob McGuire  
 27- Abigail Blankenship  
 28- Jacob Steele

# 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 Chancel Choir Practice	6pm 7:15pm

## Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for March

	March 5th	March 12th	March 19th	March 26th
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon
<b>Children's Church</b>	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 9:30AM on Tuesday, March 7th

Spiritual Growth  
Hostess: Joann Marsh

**Bible Book of the Month - Ezra**

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



There is a new College & Career Sunday school class at 9:15AM on Sunday mornings. They are meeting in the special Topics Café in the fellowship hall.

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on March 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, March 4th– 7:30AM– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion  
 Sunday, March 5th– 10:30AM– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
 6:00PM– Diaconate meeting  
 6:00PM– Union Association Lenten service at Hepzibah Baptist Church  
 7:00PM– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting  
 Tuesday, March 7th– 930AM- American Baptist Women’s Ministry meeting  
 Sunday, March 12th– 12:00PM– Board of Christian Education meeting  
 4:00PM- Pastoral Relations Committee meeting  
 6:00PM– Board of Trustees meeting  
 6:00PM- Bunion Association Lenten service at Flemington Baptist Church  
 Saturday, March 18th– 8:30AM– ABW Union Association spring Rally/ Spiritual Growth retreat  
 9:00AM– CRBC Leadership meeting  
 Sunday, March 19th– 6:00PM- Union Association Lenten service at Mount Vernon  
 Sunday, March 26th– 11:45AM– Fellowship luncheon  
 5:00PM– Board of Worship meeting  
 6:00PM– Union Association Lenten service at Union Baptist Church  
 7:30PM-Church Council meeting



There will be a School of Missions on March 5th at 5:30PM with Brian and Lynette Smith, ABC missionaries to Haiti.

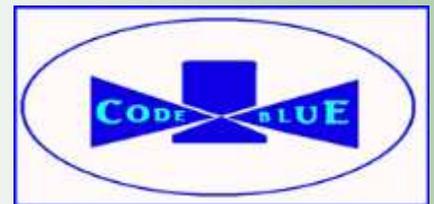


Barbour County Special Olympics having a fundraiser basketball game on March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Belington Civic Center. They will be playing Philippi police and fire departments. Admission is \$3. Concessions will be available.



The annual ABW Union Association Spring Rally/ Spiritual Growth Retreat will be Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30AM-2PM. More information can be found on a flyer in the entry.

Code Blue is asking for individually wrapped snacks to give to students who attend on Friday evenings. Examples: Individual bags of chips, snack cakes, fruit snacks, granola, etc.



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



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
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# 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**

