



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.

May 2018

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



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message... 2-3

Birthdays & Anniversaries... 6

Prayer Requests... 4

Schedules... 6

Announcements... 5-8

Upcoming Events... 5

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 Emily Delligatti, CRBC Leader
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary Zvezdana Vlasic, Custodian

Hannah Dixon, Praise Team Leader
Brenna Dugan, Assistant Praise Team Leader

Michele Moore, Pianist
Marj Campbell, Organist

Robert Villers, Youth Ministry Intern
Taylor Wagner, Youth Ministry Intern



Tax Day has occurred for another year! I want to thank Frederica Mathewes-Green, David A. Croteau and Steve Stewart on helping us grapple with another financial conundrum! Is It Robbing God to Tithe on Your After-Tax (Not Gross) Income? Their short answer is, “No, It’s Robbing Yourself.”
Frederica Mathewes-Green

“My husband and I were newly Christian and in seminary when a friend told us about tithing. She stressed the importance of giving a full 10 percent before taxes, before anything else, so that we would be giving God the first fruits of our labor.

We recoiled at the thought, but she said this practice had given God room to work miracles in her life. She and her husband had once put their last dollar in the offering plate, only to have the pastor turn around and give them the whole collection. My husband and I began this plan right away and never even considered making our tithe after taxes. It seemed petty to make such calculations when giving to a God who gave us everything, including his Son.

Soon, we had settled into a pattern of giving 5 percent to our local church and 5 percent to charity. But one year, when it was time to renew our annual pledge to the church, I was convicted that a radical increase was necessary. God says, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse” (Mal. 3:10, ESV). For our family, that means the local church. So the full 10 percent should go to our church, while charitable gifts (alms) were to be an additional offering.

When I began sharing this with my husband, we were in for a surprise. He had separately come to the same conviction. The problem was that we had just promised 5 percent of our income to a missionary. Overnight, we went from giving 10 percent of our income to giving 15 percent.

Yet we never suffered. We saw God meet our needs in ways that bordered on the miraculous. People were always giving us things we needed but couldn’t afford: a sewing machine, a lawn mower, a new refrigerator. More than once, we found an inexplicable extra \$50 in our savings account.

Over the years, our total giving (including alms) has ranged from 15 to 20 percent. We found, like others before us, that once we determined to make our tithe the first payment each month and this habit became routine, all other expenses fell into place.

God uses strong language about tithing (Mal. 3:8–9). We live in a time that is offended by that strong language, and resents any implication that we ought to do or not do something. We regard ourselves as customers, even in church, and expect to be treated with deference, for the customer is always right.

This kind of exhortation has a way of backfiring. So the best I can say is: At least try. Aim to give a percentage of your income. Start with whatever percentage you give now, and raise it a little each year. In time, you will reach the tithe.

Then you will be giving as generously as the people of the Bible, who lived in conditions we would see as abject poverty. Like them, pay God before you pay Caesar, for there is no better indication of your priorities.”
Frederica Mathewes-Green, author of ten books, blogs on Christian spirituality and Eastern Orthodoxy at frederica.com.

No, Put Away the Calculator

David A. Croteau

“The question here assumes that tithing in some way is required for Christians. The word tithe means 10 percent, not necessarily “a tenth of my income.” The biblical definition of a tithe is “giving 10 percent of one’s increase from crops grown in the land of Israel or cattle that feed off the land of Israel.” It was consistently connected to the land of Israel. A tithe was done multiple times a year, probably equaling more than 20 percent of crops. No one was ever commanded to give 10 percent from their general income (just crops and cattle). So unless you are under the Old Covenant and have crops based in the land of Israel or cattle that feed off the land of Israel, you do not qualify to tithe (Lev. 27:30–33; Num. 18:21–24; Deut. 14:22–29).

Does the Bible teach that neglecting to tithe is robbing God? Sort of. The question refers to Malachi 3:8–11. But the word for tithe in Malachi 3 refers to the definition noted above. Christians live under the New Covenant, so our standard for giving has changed. It’s not necessarily a higher or lower standard, but it is different.

Some people may hear, “Christians aren’t required to tithe,” and think it means, “Christians aren’t required to give.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The New Testament gives many principles for giving, but it never mandates a specific percentage or addresses after-tax or gross income.



For many prosperous US Christians, giving 10 percent could be considered “robbing God” (in a sense) because it does not meet the standard of generous giving. For those who make a more meager income, giving less than 10 percent could be generous and sacrificial. If I’m asking the question with the intent to decipher how little I can get away with giving, then a serious heart issue is exposed. When we are driven by the principles of

giving from the New Testament, the after-tax question becomes irrelevant. God’s people should try to find ways to give more, not less.

What are some of those biblical principles?

There are three driving forces for Christian giving in 2 Corinthians 8. First, it is grace-driven. Our giving is a response to the grace that God has shown to us through Jesus Christ. The more we recognize that we have done nothing to deserve salvation, the more likely we are to respond to God’s grace by giving generously. Second, Christian giving is relationship-driven (v. 5). Much Christian giving today is taught in such a way as to drive the Christian to a calculator. You type in your income, multiply that by 10 percent, and give the total, rounding up to include an offering. But God wants you to seek a relationship with him, not with your calculator.

Third, Christian giving is love-driven. In verses 8–9, Paul provides an example of this type of giving: Jesus’ death on the cross, the ultimate demonstration of love. In this way, our giving is a barometer of the genuineness of our love for God.

David A. Croteau, author of *Tithing after the Cross*, is professor of New Testament and Greek at Columbia International University.”

Yes, God’s Word Is Clear

Steve Stewart

“There is no way to sugarcoat Malachi 3:8: “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and offerings.” Bible-based tithing does not fit comfortably into an era of complex payroll deductions.

To be sure, before-tax or after-tax giving of a tithe is not a salvation issue. Tithing is not in the Ten Commandments. God does not love us more or less because we adhere to an Old Testament mandate of giving a tenth of our first fruits.

Millions of Americans have jobs at companies that withhold Social Security, Medicare, and federal and state income taxes. This is done to assist individuals by placing money aside throughout the year so they don’t have to come up with all the money at tax time. If we are to base our tithe on after-tax income, are givers in states with income taxes robbing God more than income tax-free states?

There is a joke that goes, “If you want only net blessings, pay on the net. If you want gross blessings, by all means, pay on the gross.” But even while the joke encourages tithing on before-tax income, it approaches the topic in the wrong way. Tithing, based on any amount, is not about what we get but rather what we give. I challenge Christians to consider off-the-top tithing another way to become more like Jesus. Giving is taking our eyes off ourselves. Giving with the right mindset steers our behaviors in a new direction. When we consider giving a tenth of our net versus our gross, we are really asking, “How much can I give without giving too much?” This is the spirit behind my daughter’s heavy sighs when I remind her to give a dime out of each precious dollar she earns. This kind of nonverbal response is rooted in our selfish nature that resists God’s request that we help build his kingdom by giving to our local church.

The definition of a tithe is a tenth of our first fruits (Prov. 3:9)—our income. And we are to pay Caesar what is Caesar’s. So the answer to our plight becomes clear.

By giving 10 percent off the top—the whole top—I came to grips with my selfish desires and challenges. Once I changed my heart, I was able to let go and began giving 10 percent of our gross income. We were blessed before we started giving off the gross, and I believe we are more blessed today. It’s not a quantifiable blessing or something I can show you. Erasing this debate from my mind allows me to focus more intensely on serving God.

Malachi is provoking our total dependence upon a loving, covenantal God, not an everlasting guilt trip. When we tithe off the top, we rely more on God and less on our wallets.”

Steve Stewart is founder of MoneyPlan SOS, a Christian coaching ministry.

Shalom – Pastor Jon



Rev. Gene Adkins
 AB University, Faculty, staff, and students
 Barbour County Homeless
 Phil Bowers and other officials
 Gwen Carpenter
 Hattie Castle
 Noah & Aaron Casto
 Celebrate Recovery
 Code Blue
 Maggie Dixon
 Stephanie & Noah Hinkle
 State & National Leadership
 Local ministries
 Judy Mossburg
 Karen Riffle
 Margaret Salimi
 Janet Stephens
 Sara Stout
 Zvezdana Vlastic
 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



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



Praises

Gayle Bruns
 David Cobb
 Josh Gilpin
 Anthony Hinkle
 Linda Howell
 William Jacobs
 Debbi Mulneix
 Henry & Max Scheick



Pray for protection for military personnel and their families throughout the world and those serving our country:

Aaron Nicholas Henderson
 Brian Lundell
 Amber Underwood

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 3rd– 12:00pm– National Day of Prayer at Belington Square
7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 5th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion
-ABU graduation

Sunday, May 6th– 10:30am– Graduation Sunday. Communion & Deacon Relief Offering
11:45am– Fellowship Luncheon, Board of Missions & Outreach meeting
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal
4:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Monday, May 7th– Saturday, May 12th– State BCM Beach retreat

Thursday, May 10th– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Saturday, May 12th– Men’s Work Party at Parchment Valley

Sunday, May 13th– 11:45am– Board of Christian Education meeting
11:45am– Board of Trustees meeting
3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal
4:00pm– Pastoral Relations Committee meeting

Thursday, May 17th– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 18th– Saturday, May 19th– Youth Work Party at Camp Cowen

Friday, May 18th– 7:00pm– Philip Barbour graduation at the fair grounds

Saturday, May 19th– 9:00am– CRBC Leadership training
3:00pm– Madison Riffle and Alexander Stout wedding at Wesley United
Methodist Church in Morgantown

Sunday, May 20th– 3:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Monday, May 21st– Friday, May 25th– afternoons– Feed my Sheep graduation rehearsal at PBC

Thursday, May 24th– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir rehearsal

Saturday, May 26th– Studio C recital at PBC

Sunday, May 27th– 5:00pm– Board of Worship meeting

Thursday, May 31st– 7:00pm– Blue & Gray Choir Rehearsal



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We wanted to share with you the news that our church secretary, Ms. Lucretia Moyer, will be going to a full time position in the Barbour County Courthouse. We have been blessed with her five plus years of service and pray continued blessings on her and her family. Lucretia has taken our secretary position to new levels of technology and productivity and her servant heart has been a huge asset to the ministry here at PBC.

Would you please share with those you know who: love the Lord, has a high aptitude in technology and looking for part-time work that Philippi Baptist Church is looking for a part-time secretary, 9am-1pm M-F. Have them stop by the church office, 69 Church Street or call 304-457-3206 for an application or more information.

Shalom – Pastor Jon

Weekly Events

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Sundays | Sunday School AM Worship PBCY | 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 | 6pm 7:15pm |

Children's Volunteer Watch and Teach Calendar for May

| | May 6th | May 13th | May 20th | May 27th |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nursery Birth to 4 years | Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson | Rebekah Hicks & Emily Meader | Zvezdana Vlasic & Bonnie Daugherty | Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon |
| Children's Church 5 years to 4th grade | Jim & Wanda Steele | Kelly Bracy & Jennifer Weyandt | Koreen & Bobby Villers | Crystal, Wes & Jacob Gray |



Men's Prayer Breakfast on May 5th at 7:30AM at the Medallion

Happy Anniversary

8- Austin & Germaine Whitman

11- John & Rebekah Hicks

27- Jon & Koreen Villers

Happy Birthday!

5- Kelly Bracey

5- Anne Jones

8- Vangie Shaffer

9- Andrew Sweet

13- Grant Dadisman

24- Elizabeth Wentz

24- Malachi MuCullough

24- Kendra Phillips

25- Jud Bracey

26- Wesley Gray

28- Olin Campbell

29th- Anna Faith Phillips

31- Jane Digman

31- Jacob Scheick



Anyone who wishes to go to Camp Cowen and will be needing financial assistance please contact the church office or Jennifer Weyandt.

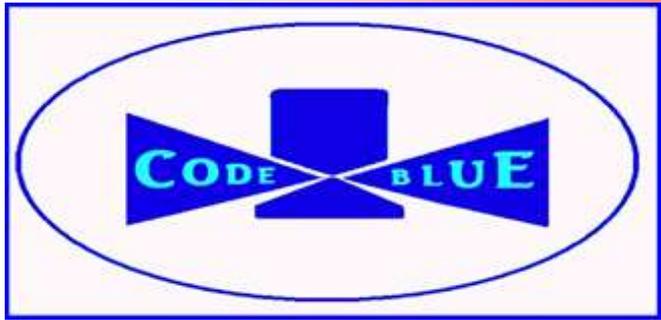


The Annual Women's Mother's Day Banquet will be Tuesday, May 8th at 6PM. Reservations will be taken until Friday, May 4th. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The cost is \$5 per adult and \$3



The Board of Mission & Outreach is collecting toilet paper (4 packs) and papertowels for Heart & Hand until May 13th. Donations can be brought to the church.

Code Blue is in need of individually packed food items. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.



The Board of Worship is looking for volunteers to work in the sound booth on a rotating basis. Training will be provided. Please contact the church office or Dianna Wright to sign up.



Congratulations to our graduates!
Joey Mullens– West Virginia University- Bachelors in Biology– Will be attending Marshall Medical School
Dain Mullens– Notre Dame High School– Will be attending WVU majoring in biology
Anthony Hinkle– Morgantown High School– Will be attending Pierpont Community and Technical College studying social work.



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

