



# 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.

November 2014

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



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E-mail: [office@pbcwv.net](mailto:office@pbcwv.net)

Website: [www.pbcwv.net](http://www.pbcwv.net)

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

Jon Villers, Pastor    Jud Bracey, Choir Director    Eddy Poling, Youth Director

Jennifer Wheeler– Praise Team Leader  
Michele Moore, Pianist

Emily Casto– Assistant Praise Team Leader  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



I found an article written to pastors. It is titled, "4 Things Every Preacher Should Forget Each Sunday Morning." By Leslie Holmes

I think this message is also for any Christian as we face another week! May this week be a blessed one for you!

"I've been reflecting on a big moment in Joseph's life. It was just after Joseph's son, Manasseh, was born, and Joseph explains why he gave his son this name: "God has made me forget all my hardship" (Gen. 41:51). Oh, blessed forgetfulness!

God gives each of us a memory with two primary functions. First, our ability to remember is so we can recall the things we need to know. We use our memories to try to remember the flow of our sermon notes each time we preach. Before that, memory helps us remember where the church meets every Sunday morning. The other function of memory is the opposite: We use our memories to forget some things.

Bob Pitman, my elderly preacher friend, says the years have gathered up against him, and he has become a very good forgetter. "In fact," Bob said, "I have become almost a perfect forgetter." Joseph had forgetting in mind when he named Manasseh. Joseph effectively was saying, "I am a perfect forgetter because I refuse to allow some memories to burden me." The Hebrew word *kineshni* also might be translated "oblivious to" or "unmindful of."

There are some things in our memory banks we do better to let go, especially because we preachers and pastors are given the added call to be role models. What things should we ask God to help us remove from our memories? Reflecting on my 40-plus years of pastoral ministry, I can think of at least four, one of which may surprise you:

### **Forget Your Sins!**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Each time I come to that verse, a conversation with Valerie (name has been changed) comes back to me. Valerie, who had committed her life to Christ as a teenager, was approaching middle age. For more than two decades, she had carried the burden of a momentary moral lapse on a high school graduation trip. When I pointed out John's inspired words to her, she said, "I've read that hundreds of times, but I just cannot forgive myself." I reminded her that because God had forgiven her, she effectively had set a higher forgiveness standard than God Himself. We are all sinners, and we need to confess; and then, having received God's forgiveness, forgive ourselves.



## Forget criticisms!

As preachers, we will be the targets of critics no matter what we do. C.S. Lewis' [\*The Screwtape Letters\*](#) instructs Wormwood to become a church faultfinder. That has been a good strategy for Satan—one he still uses. Mean, ugly, jealous attacks are part and parcel of life for ministers. They hurt, but we must practice forgetting them. Otherwise, we will find ourselves ministering on the defensive, and that never works! By intentionally forgetting them, we can demonstrate the love and mercy of the One who called us to preach and who said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Forgive your critics, forget the hardship of whatever they said or did, and move ahead. Oh, blessed forgetfulness!

## Forget Your Own Goof-ups!

Given the number of times we speak and act in public, it should not surprise us that we will say and do some things that come under the heading of Dumb! Every time it happens, quickly apologize and ask forgiveness. Then move forward. Forgive yourself. Imagine what a terrible difference it would have made if Paul had continued to beat himself up emotionally for all the things he did before he encountered Jesus. Instead, he chose to count all those things as rubbish (see Phil. 3:8). Learn your lesson, then intentionally forget what you did and allow the gospel's unique peace to reign in your heart.

## Forget Your Successes!

We all enjoy recognition and commendations. However, when we bask in past achievements, we become self-centered bores, and our whole future looks as if it happened yesterday. See those great moments as stepping stones to the new successes God has planned ahead. Thank God for what you did, and put your hand in His great hand for what He has in store for you. Paul, remembering his successes, said, "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14).

Keep your mind focused on "whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Phil. 4:8)."

Shalom, Pastor Jon



Thanks to our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Barbara Smith, Randy Moore, Scott Springer, Clarence Wright and Craig Cobb for helping with our Fall cleanup on Saturday morning, October 25, 2014. We started a half-hour earlier than we have traditionally (8:30 am rather than 9:00 am), and got finished a half hour earlier as well. Together we removed 11 bags of litter from our assigned 2.2 miles of highway on Rt. 119, between the covered bridge and the Rt. 57 intersection. Thank you all, and God Bless.



AB University, President Creehan,  
 Faculty, staff, and students  
 Lee & Sue Beuckman  
 Connie & Gary Booth  
 Jean Bowles  
 Dylan Carpenter  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Code Blue  
 Courtney Conley family  
 Rev. Jim Crouch  
 Betty Hoffman  
 Hong Kong  
 Cameron Kelley  
 Detra McVey  
 Aaron Miller  
 Myers missionary family in Mexico  
 PBC Choir  
 Elody Shrader  
 Everett Sperry family  
 Tom Ware

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:

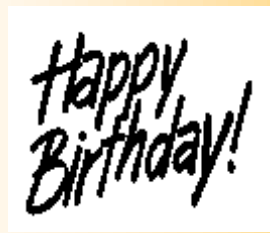
Captain Aaron Cross  
 Tim Jenkins,  
 Brian Lundell  
 Corporal Anthony Perry, Sr.  
 Major Kris Wood



Blair & Pearl Marks, Dr. Shearer, Mary Tamulitis  
 Vangie Shaffer (Mansfield Place), Germaine &  
 Austin Whitman

# Praises

Penny Adair  
 Craig & Sarah Cobb  
 Debbie Mulneix  
 Jordan Price  
 Jan Sweet



- 1- Bill Mozley
- 3- Dorothy Hayhurst
- 7- Bob Boyer
- 11- Samuel Ferguson
- 11-Andrew Funk
- 12- Phyllis Martin
- 17- Kendra Waddell Blake
- 18- David Runion
- 19- Rebekah Hicks
- 19- Stephen Redd
- 19- Don Smith
- 20- Ross Campbell
- 20- Jon Wright
- 21- Kathy Lind
- 21- Donovan Price
- 21- Priscilla Wonkka
- 22- Kathy McBee
- 23- Linda Howell
- 25-Sarah Ayers
- 26-Steve Markwood
- 26- Michael Wolfe
- 29- Gerald Fogg
- 29- Morgan Franke



- 21- Chris & Jean Irvine
- 22- Tom & Hayley Dadisman





### **Another New Kid on the Block**

“The minute I walked in the door,” Elaine says, “I felt at home.” She had been looking for a church for several months, she says, and had visited several, but it was Philippi Baptist that immediately met her needs.

It was Penny Adair who brought her. They met in a doctor’s waiting room, and Penny asked where Elaine was going to church. The very next Sunday, they came together to PBC, and now Elaine has decided to become a member. “I had been praying that the Lord would lead me to the right church, and he and Penny did.”

She is also a member of the Koinonia Sunday School class, as is Penny, the two of them sharing the book currently being studied—Philip Yancey’s *What’s So Amazing about Grace?*

Elaine was born and raised in Dallas, Georgia, a small town some forty miles northwest of Atlanta. Her father worked there for Lockheed Aircraft, with Elaine being the second of his six children. After graduating from high school, she married and raised five daughters and one son. When that son’s wife had to undergo back surgery here in West Virginia, Elaine and her youngest daughter moved north to help out. She smiles. “We fell in love with West Virginia, and we’ve been here ever since.” Three of her daughters still live in Georgia, the fifth in upstate New York. Elaine’s son and his family live in Buckhannon.

Interested in gardening and interior decorating, Elaine also spends a good bit of time on genealogy. Her eyes sparkling, she reports, “I’ve traced my family back to England in 1200—and I’m not finished.”

Elaine Abram is living proof of what many other churchgoers have experienced—most newcomers become part of a congregation because of an invitation extended by a friend.

Go thou and do likewise!



**Steve, Bekah, Ruthie, Doug and Heather Orner  
Missionaries to Madagascar**

Bekah Orner, daughter of Charles & Jan Byrer, and her family will be leaving Sunday, November 2nd to be missionaries to the Antakarana in Nosy Mitsio in Madagascar, Africa with Africa Inland Mission.

**“The Antakarana**

The Tankarana (literally ‘people of the rocks’) occupy the far northern part of Madagascar where they are geographically cut off from southern regions of Madagascar by the Tsaratanana mountain range. They are mostly fisherman, although those in the interior raise cattle. At the center of their group identity is the story of their survival in the nineteenth century when they were being exploited and pursued by the Merina. On one occasion, they had safely hidden in caves for more than a year before they were discovered. King Tsimiaro I made a prayer, vowing that if his people survived the Merina onslaught, the Tankarana would embrace Islam. This vow was honored and today the Muslim religion is evident there, strongly intermingling with traditional Malagasy customs. This syncretistic and mostly nominal practice of Islam has inspired concentrated effort on the part of zealous Muslims to teach and give the prescribed doctrinal content. Right now, they are not open to hearing about Christ because they have never heard. Instead, they are bound to fear and worship their ancestors. They do not know of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and we are going to be one of the first to share it with them.

**Nosy Mitsio**

Located about 20 miles off the northwest coast of Madagascar. Nosy Mitsio is small, only about 9 miles long and 2 miles wide, and still almost completely undeveloped with no electricity, no running water, no access to healthcare, no churches, and only one small single-classroom school building on the far south of the island. The island holds significant importance as it is the spiritual center of the Antakarana.”

**[sborner@aimint.net](mailto:sborner@aimint.net)  
[www.orneraimsites.org](http://www.orneraimsites.org)**

# Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship Small Groups	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house) Baptist Campus Ministry	1pm 8:38pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Service Chancel Choir Practice	6pm 7:15pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

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

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe	Cheryl Wolfe
<b>Wee Church</b>	Heather Cottrill & Sarah Ferguson	Heather Cottrill & Sara Poling	Heather Cottrill & Koreen Villers	Heather Cottrill & Kelly Bracey	Heather Cottrill & Crystal Gray
<b>Junior Church</b>	Heather Cottrill & Sarah Ferguson	Heather Cottrill & Sara Poling	Heather Cottrill & Koreen Villers	Heather Cottrill & Kelly Bracey	Heather Cottrill & Crystal Gray

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

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele	Christie Allen	Rebekah Hicks	Cheryl Wolfe
<b>Wee Church</b>	Heather Cottrill & Kelly Bracey	Heather Cottrill & Sara Poling	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Wes & Crystal Gray
<b>Junior Church</b>	Heather Cottrill & Kelly Bracey	Heather Cottrill & Sara Poling	Pete & Sarah Ferguson	Kelly Bracey

### COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet at 9:30 on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Koreen Villers will be presenting- Million Women Movement. Hostesses re Jody Sperry and Barbara Springer.

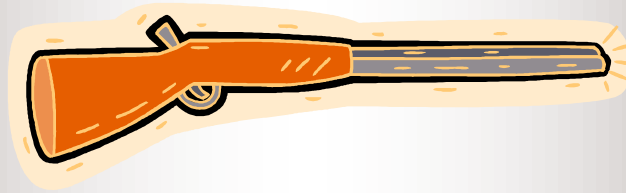
**Bible Book of the Month - Psalm 73-150**

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

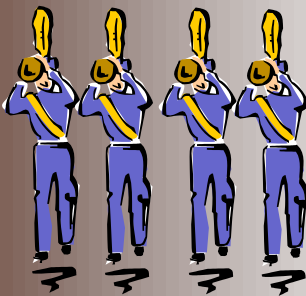


## Every Member Canvas

The theme this year for the Every Member Canvas is "Your Whole Heart for the Whole Kingdom." Pastor Jon has suggested that we take our guidance from 1 Chronicles 29:1-9 wherein the people responded to King David's example and provided for the construction and furnishing of the temple: "Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly." Let us contemplate these words and the example as we prayerfully consider our tithes and offerings, as well as our time and service commitments to the Lord for 2015. The church's boards and committees are currently working on our budget for 2015. Included within our general budget are moneys for the continued maintenance of our church facility and support for church staff and our mission work. We will ask our members and friends to make their pledge on Commitment Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. May God bless the gifts and the givers in 2015.



Barbour Outreach's Annual Sportsman's Banquet will be Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Junior Volunteer Fire Department. The cost is \$10. They will be giving away a 243 Savage Bolt Action Rifle, and a Mossberg 500, 12 Gauge Pump Shotgun. This is great opportunity to invite our unchurched friends to hear the Gospel and share in a great meal. We are being asked to donate six desserts. If you would like to donate one please sign up in the church narthex.



The Board of Christian Education would like to host the AB marching band before every home game. Other organizations have donated for three of the five games already. Please notify the church if you would like to help serve. The home game dates are:  
November 1st, & 8<sup>th</sup>.



We would like to donate six turkeys to the community Thanksgiving dinner. Thawed uncooked turkeys can be dropped off at the church by November 23rd. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



# Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 1st– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, November 2nd– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

6:00pm– Union Association Cluster Service at East Clarksburg Baptist Church

7:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Monday, November 3rd– 6:30pm– Heart & Hand Volunteer Night

Friday, November 7th– 6:30pm– Barbour Outreach’s Annual Sportsman's Banquet

Saturday, November 8th– Children’s Fall Rally at Parchment Valley

Sunday, November 9th– 5:00pm- Board of Trustees meeting

7:30pm Church Council meeting

Monday, November 10th– 6:00pm– Family Game Night

Thursday, November 13th– 6:30pm– Christian Men’s group meets at the Garden Market

Sunday, November 16th– 4:00pm– Mansfield Place Chapel Service

6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

Saturday, November 22nd– 1:00pm– Family Christmas crafts

Leadership training at Parchment Valley

Sunday, November 23rd– 4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting

Sunday, November 30th– Hanging of the Greens



Family Christmas Crafts is Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-3pm. Families are invited to come and travel through stations making Christmas crafts and hearing the Christmas story. If you would like to lead a craft, please contact Koren Villers.

The Children’s Program will be Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

“Beneath the Shining Star” program will be followed by congregational carol singing and cookie exchange. Children will begin practicing Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> during Wee Church and Junior Church. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm and includes lunch.





Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416



**Men's Prayer  
Breakfast**

Sat., November 1st  
@ 7:30am  
At the Medallion



--Heart & Hand Thrift Store--  
**VOLUNTEER NIGHT--**  
Monday, November 3rd  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.  
**COME JOIN THE FUN!**