



# 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.

October 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



Welcome to Week 7 of an 8 week Series entitled "Life's Healing Choices" We thank Pastor Rick Warren for leading us on this journey!

"As we've worked through life's healing choices the last few weeks, we've examined our lives in the areas of hope, commitment, housecleaning, transformation, and relationships. By now, God has shown each of us at least one area in which we need to grow. This is where the real work of change begins, because growth in Christ is like a person running a marathon. It is hard work. There is no growth without change, no change without loss, no loss without pain, and no pain without grief. Way too many people enter in with high hopes, only to flame out before they've even reached the halfway point. But you don't get life's gold medal for starting. You've got to finish the race. This week we'll look at seven ways to maintain your momentum on this road to God's glory.

#### HOW TO CONTINUE GROWING -

##### 1. FIX A DAILY TIME WITH GOD.

How shall we live in Christ based on 1 John 2:28? What are the stumbling blocks that stand in our way of having a daily time with God? Why do you think Satan fights us so hard in this arena? How can we realistically overcome these distractions? As we live with Christ how will our lives evolve as seen in 1 John 3:6? How is this transformation possible? Colossians 4:2 entreats us to do what? How do we develop a life of prayer - continually talking to Christ as we would to a close friend?

##### 2. FILL MY MIND WITH SCRIPTURE.

If we study God's law, James 1:25 tells us that our life will be described in what way? How does studying God's Word improve our lives? According to John 8:31-32, what will we be able to know if we continue to study Christ's Word? God's Word declares that studying it will set us free. How does the Word give us freedom?

##### 3. FOCUS ON MY GOAL, NOT MY HABIT.

Even though the apostle Paul says he has not yet attained all his goals, he focuses his attention on one thing. What is that one thing? See Philippians 3:12-14. If someone tells us not to think about a pink elephant, it seems all we think about is a pink elephant! Similarly, if we focus on our negative habits, it becomes difficult to focus on what God wants us to be. How does a person get out of the rut of holding onto negative habits? Name some healthy spiritual goals. How can we make sure these get our attention? We grow when we obtain a clear image of who God wants us to be and when we redirect our attention on that process. That means letting the past be past and setting goals for our future.

##### 4. FACE AND FORSAKE MY FAILURES QUICKLY.

What happens when we hide our failures from ourselves and others? What happens if we face our failures honestly and forsake them? See Proverbs 28:13. Why is it hard to look at our failures? Think of a time when you honestly examined a failure in your life and turned from it. What freedom was experienced as a result? What does God think about a person who honestly evaluates their shortcomings with a heart of repentance? Check out Psalm 103:3-4, Lamentations 3:40 and 1 Corinthians 11:31. What is the best way to get rid of guilt? What does it mean to forsake my failures quickly? How do I do that?

##### 5. FLEE TEMPTATION, BUT DON'T FEAR IT.

In Hebrews 4:15 what do we learn about Jesus and temptation? What is temptation? Is it a sin to be tempted? When does temptation become a sin? Read 1 Corinthians 6:18 and 1 Timothy 6:9-11. What principle do we find in these verses regarding our actions in the face of temptation? According to 1 Corinthians 16:13, what actions are we exhorted to carry out? Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. What does the verse say about our choice of companions? When we intentionally determine to grow in Christ, we face the fact that we will continually deal with temptation in one or more areas of our life. Identify an area of weakness where you are often tempted and pray for it now and get back on the path of growth.



#### 6. FORM AN ONGOING SUPPORT GROUP.

After reading 2 Corinthians 1:10, think about why we need to be connected with others in a small group. What steps should we take to support one another, according to Hebrews 10:25? Fellowship begins by example. By being transparent with others you open opportunities for connection. Is there someone you can get together with this week to increase accountability for your life choices? What will you do to make sure you are regularly connecting with other believers? Seeing God at work in the lives of those who commit to Him is essential for growth.

#### 7. FOLLOW CHRIST TO THE FINISH LINE.

Our ultimate goal, and the seventh way to maintain our growth momentum, is to follow Christ to the finish line. When the final tape seems way too far ahead of us—when our knees are aching and we can't go another step—we have this promise, like an ice cold bottle of water, to hold onto: "I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again." Philippians 1:6

Growth is not a smooth string of successes for anyone. It's jagged and full of missteps, often two steps forward and one or more steps back. Relapses are part of recovery. One way to measure our growth is to set faith goals. A goal is, in fact, a statement of faith. Try this acronym:

**Focused:** Specific, clear, precise. Goals with the words "more" and "less" aren't focused, but vague.

**Attainable:** Possible and practical. Your goals should be large enough to challenge, but not discourage.

**Individual:** Set goals for yourself, not for others! Your goals may affect how you relate to others, but must be personal.

**Trackable:** Can I measure my progress? "Where will I be by this date next month? In two months? Three?"

**Heartfelt:** Does the goal motivate me? Am I passionate about it?

What one growth goal will you set this week? Pray for one another to reach those goals on the way to the finish line. **Mission:** As we run this marathon of life, Christ has called us to bring others along. It is the one purpose we can only accomplish here on Earth. Who do you know who could benefit from the healing choices God wants each of us to make? Remember, your role is not to "fix" people, but to bring them to Christ. He does the healing when we do the choosing.

"So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time!" Galatians 6:9 (NLT)"

Shalom,

Pastor Jon

## Coming this fall to Barbour County:



Celebrate Recovery is a biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. It is based on the actual words of Jesus rather than psychological theory. 20 years ago, Saddleback Church launched Celebrate Recovery with 43 people. It was designed as a program to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ through a recovery process. Celebrate Recovery has helped more than 17000 people at Saddleback, attracting over 70% of its members from outside the church. Eighty-five percent of the people who go through the program stay with the church and nearly half serve as church volunteers.



AB University, President Creehan,  
Faculty, staff, and students

Joyce Anderson

James Bell fmaily

Code Blue

Dennis Bolyard

Connie & Gary Booth

Jean Bowles

Debbie Buntrock

Bill & Julia Corder

Eric Corder

Rev. Jim Crouch

Roconda Daugerty

Elsie Frye

Adam Gray

Betty Hoffman

Courtney Hundley

Cameron Kelley

Detra McVey

Aaron Miller

Debbie Mulneix

Myers missionary family in Mexico

Diana Our

Duane Poling

Jordan Price

Madison Riffle

Gregory Riley

Margaret Salimi

Elody Shrader

Everett Sperry

Tom Ware

Christina Wentz

Unspoken requests for family members, unsaved people,  
community concerns, job and home loss, financial diffi-  
culties.

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.



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



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

## Praises

Jud Bracey

Elsie Frye

Sonya Stahl



14- Bob Byrne

17- Pete Ferguson

18- Austin Whitman

19- Christie Allen

20- Stephen Lewis

22- Joan Hill

27- Jon Villers

28- Jom Kines

28- Mary Tamulitis

29- Georgann Davis



9- Danny & Melissa Franke



### PBC's Renaissance Man

The term “Renaissance man” has been defined as “someone whose expertise spans a significant number of subject areas.” That’s an accurate description of Bruce Blankenship.

Currently service as Vice President of Administration and Finance, Bruce has also worked at Alderson Broaddus University as Vice President for Planning, Research, and Technology. Before that he was Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and even before that, in 1993, he held the title of Director of Church Relations.

Previous to his tenure at AB, Bruce was for seven years Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where he was one of the founders of the Licensed Laypastor Training Program, still in operation. That pastoral position followed the earning of a Master of Divinity degree from Midwestern Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. And before that, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from West Virginia University. Born and raised in Richwood, Bruce had thought of becoming either a physician or a dentist, but his goal changed dramatically when he felt called to the Christian ministry.

It was at WVU that he met his wife, both of them members of the Baptist Campus Ministry group. Bruce was a student, and Cheryl was working for the university at the time. It was Cheryl who actually went into medicine, for after they came to Alderson Broaddus, she earned a degree in nursing. Interestingly, their campus minister at WVU was Dick Hepler, who later became the minister of Philip Baptist Church.

Here at the church, Bruce has served on the Board of Trustees and the Diaconate, and he has been the Moderator. He has also taught the high school Sunday School class and has served as youth minister and as a member of the Constitution Committee. On a statewide basis, he has served on the Board of Campus Ministry for the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

The Blankenships’ daughter, Abby, is following in her mother’s footsteps, for she is a freshman in the AB nursing program. Bruce and Cheryl and Abby are all athletes, Bruce focusing on golf, Cheryl on running, and Abby on swimming. Even though Abby has graduated, her energetic parents are starting their fifth year as coaches for the Philip Barbour High School swim team. When they can, they all enjoy traveling, especially visiting family on the east coast.

No question—Bruce Blankenship is a perfect example of a Renaissance man.

# Weekly Events

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

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

|                      | October 5               | October 12              | October 19                | October 26    |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>       | Wanda Steele            | Christie Allen          | Rebekah Hicks             | Cheryl Wolfe  |
| <b>Wee Church</b>    | Koreen & Thomas Villers | Koreen & Thomas Villers | Hayden & Heather Cottrill | Rebekah Hicks |
| <b>Junior Church</b> | Sara & Eddy Poling      | Sara & Eddy Poling      | Pete & Sarah Ferguson     | Kelly Bracey  |

## 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>    | Hayden & Heather Cottrill | Koreen & Thomas Villers | Hayden & Heather Cottrill | Rebekah Hicks |              |
| <b>Junior Church</b> | Pete & Sarah Ferguson     | Koreen & Thomas Villers | Hayden & Heather Cottrill | Kelly Bracey  |              |

### COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

**Who:** Women of the Church

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**When:** Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.

**Program:** Code Blue Youth Alliance

~Eddy Poling

Learn more about this program for youth in our community

**Bible Book of the Month - Ecclesiastes**

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



# Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 4th– 7:30am– Men's Prayer Breakfast at the Medallion

Sunday, October 5th– 11:45am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering

7:00pm– Union Association cluster service at Long Run Fellowship

7:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Thursday, October 9th– 6:30pm– Christian Men's group meets at the Garden Market

Friday, October 10th– Sunday, October 12th– ABW Ministries Spiritual Growth Retreat

Sunday, October 12th– 7:30pm– Church Council meeting

Thursday, October 16th– Friday, October 17th– West Virginia Baptist Convention annual meeting in Vienna

Sunday, October 19th– 5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting

6:00pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting

Sunday, October 26th– 10:30am– Invite a Friend Sunday

4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting

Monday, October 27th– Newsletter deadline



Dear friends at Philippi Baptist Church,

To all who attended our surprise 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration, we say THANK YOU. It was great to see you and spend an evening with you. We thank you for all the cards and good wishes. God has blessed us in putting you in our lives and for giving us 42 years to be a part of your fellowship.

God be with you and bless you in all you do for Him.

Gratefully,

George & Marija Sommer



Adopt-A-Highway cleanup schedule: Our next Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, October 4, 2014. We will meet in the church basement at 9 AM, and should be finished by about 10:30 AM. We will be participating in the AAH Statewide Cleanup, and volunteers will receive a free gift. Those participating for the first time, please report at 8:30 AM to view the mandatory safety video. Youth, 12 years of age and older can participate. All youth, 18 years old or younger will be partnered with an adult. Please wear leather shoes or boots and long pants, and jackets and hats according to weather conditions. Blaze orange safety vests and garbage bags, and work gloves will be provided. Our assigned highway is 2.2 miles of Rt. 119, between the Covered Bridge and the Rt. 57 intersection. Please contact Craig Cobb at 304-457-3467 if you have any questions, or email him at [crc1950@frontier.com](mailto:crc1950@frontier.com). May the good Lord bless those who help to keep His world clean.



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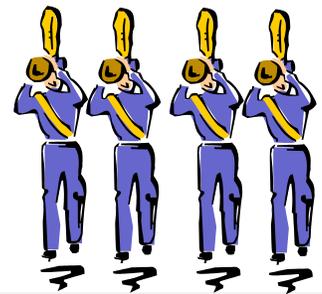


### Men's Prayer Breakfast

Sat., October 4th @  
7:30am  
At the Medallion



The Board of Trustees would like to thank Craig Cobb, Olin Campbell, Barbara Smith, Dianna & Clarence Wright, Bob Boyer, Scott Springer, and Randy Moore for accomplishing many work related tasks at the church on Saturday, September 13th. We appreciate all the time and talents from our church family.



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: October 11th, 18th, and November 1st, & 8<sup>th</sup>.