



# The Baptist Bridge

October 2015

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.

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

## October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

<http://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>

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

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

Alicia Noble– Interim Praise Team Leader  
Michele Moore, Accompanist

Lucretia Moyer, Secretary  
Emily Casto– Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



Welcome to a recap of the lesson I gave in September at Celebrate Recovery Barbour County! Come join us to see what it is all about!!

We'll review the principles we have already covered and connect step 5 with the truth found in Principle Four. Blessings to you all!!

Principle One says: REALIZE I'M NOT GOD; I ADMIT THAT I AM POWERLESS TO CONTROL MY TENDENCY TO DO THE WRONG THING AND THAT MY LIFE IS UNMANAGEABLE.

Principle Two says: EARNESTLY BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS THAT I MATTER TO HIM AND THAT HE HAS THE POWER TO HELP ME RECOVER

Principle Three says: CONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE TO COMMIT ALL MY LIFE AND WILL TO CHRIST'S CARE AND CONTROL.

Principle Four says: OPENLY EXAMINE AND CONFESS MY FAULTS TO MYSELF, TO GOD AND TO SOMEONE I TRUST

During a Celebrate Recovery seminar, a man approached a leader to express his frustration. He stated quite adamantly that he didn't need recovery. His pastor had paid for him to make the trip to "check out this Christian recovery thing," and he just didn't understand why he had been selected. The leader responded by explaining that everyone has a hurt, hang-up or habit and can find healing by working through the principles. The man angrily stomped away, convinced that he was wasting his day.

Weeks later, the man sent a message to the leader that began with three little words: "You were right." He went on to explain that the seminar had opened his eyes to the fact that he did have hurts, hang-ups and habits that he needed to face. He admitted that he had a problem with trying to control everyone in his family, his neighborhood, his workplace and his church. He took the first step to freedom by admitting his problems to another person. This took tremendous courage. As a result, this man worked through the principles and started a Celebrate Recovery program at his own church so that others could begin the healing process by admitting their secrets.

This courageous step of admitting our past, and especially our secrets, to another person as we complete our spiritual inventory will be the turning point in our recovery. As we complete Principle Four – "Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God and to someone I trust" – we'll begin to feel freedom from a past that has held us in bondage to our guilt and shame, and we'll look forward to completing the four remaining principles.

The fifth step of the Christ-centered 12 steps relates to this part of Principle Four.

#### **STEP FIVE:**

We admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

**"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."** James 5:16.

Some people feel that if they ADMIT their sins to another they have everything to lose and nothing to gain. Following is the truth about four things we have to lose and three things we have to gain by sharing our inventories with someone we trust:

We lose:

1. Our sense of isolation. Our feeling of aloneness will begin to vanish.
2. Our unwillingness to forgive. When people accept and forgive us, we start to see that we, in turn, can forgive others.
3. Our inflated, false pride. As we realistically see and accept ourselves, we begin to gain true humility, which involves seeing ourselves as we really are and God as he really is.
4. Our sense of denial. Being truthful with another person begins to tear away at our denial. We begin to feel clean and honest.



We gain:

1. Healing that the Bible promises. Look again at James 5:16. The key word here is “healed.” Notice that the verse doesn’t say, “Confess your sins to one another and you will be forgiven,” although we hope this will be so, at least in terms of the other person. God already forgave us when we confessed our sins to him. Now he promises that we’ll begin the healing process when we confess our sins to someone else.
2. Freedom. Our secrets have kept us in chains – bound, frozen, unable to move forward in any of our relationships, either with God or with others. Admitting our sins snaps the chains so God’s healing power can be released.
3. Support. When we share our inventory with another person, we gain support. Our partner can help us stay focused and provide valuable feedback.

An important part of Celebrate Recovery is for each of us to have accountability relationships. Don’t attempt to work through this fourth principle alone. We need sponsors and/or accountability partners for the following three reasons:

1. Having someone fill this role for us is a key part of our recovery program. By walking alongside us on the road to recovery, a sponsor and/or an accountability partner keeps us on track as we complete the eight principles. Proverbs 20:5 says, **“The purpose of a man’s heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.”** We need a man or woman who understands both us as an individual and what we’re going through in order to help us in our recovery.
2. Having a sponsor and/or accountability partner is Biblical. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 tells us: **“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!”** And Proverbs 27:17 points out that, **“as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”** The phrase “one another” is used in the New Testament over 50 times.
3. Having a sponsor and/or accountability partner is the best guard against relapse. By providing feedback to keep us on track, a sponsor and/or accountability partner can see our old dysfunctional, self-defeating patterns beginning to resurface and quickly point them out to us. This person can confront us in a spirit of truth and love without piling on shame or guilt.

Ecclesiastes 7:5 states: **“It is better to heed a wise man’s rebuke than to listen to the song of fools.”**

The trouble with most of us is that we’d rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.

As we complete Principle Four, we need to remember that no matter how bad our past actions may have been, we can hold on to the assurance offered by Romans 8:1: **“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”**

Principle Four can be summed up in one verse, Isaiah 1:18: **“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”**

#### **PRINCIPLE FOUR PRAYER:**

Dear God, you know my past; you’re familiar with all the good and bad things I’ve done. In this principle, I ask you to give me the strength and courage to list them so I can come clean and face both my past and the truth about my present and future. Please help me reach out to those special persons you’ve placed along my road to recovery. Thank you for providing them to help me maintain balance as I work on my inventory. In Christ’s name I pray, Amen.

#### **TAKE A LOOK:**

1. What’s holding you back from sharing your Principle Four inventory?
2. How do the above lists – the four things you have to lose and the three things you have to gain by sharing your inventory – help you want to complete Principle Four?
3. If you’ve already shared your inventory, what are some negative things you’ve lost?
4. If you’ve already shared your inventory, what are some positive things you’ve gained?

Shalom – Pastor Jon



Elaine Abram  
 Elaine Abram's Daughters  
 Elaine Abrams Father  
 AB University, President Creehan,  
 Faculty, staff, and students  
 Barbour County Homeless  
 Keith Bragg  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Savannah Champ's father  
 Code Blue  
 Perry Collins  
 Ruby Cozad  
 Vicky Cummings  
 Bruce "Pap" Daniels  
 Todd Heineman  
 Hinkle Family  
 Pat Johnson  
 Jonathan Jones's brother's mother-in-law  
 Sherry Jones  
 Local ministries  
 Men's Step Studies  
 Rich Noble  
 Michael Perry's grandfather  
 Michelle Phenix  
 Philip Barbour High School  
 Diana Pratt  
 Jack Rollins  
 Margaret Salimi  
 Dr. Shearer  
 Elody Shrader  
 Phyllis Straughman  
 Liam Varghese  
 Women's Step Studies  
 PBC 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



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



Jud Bracey  
 Greg Kennedy

*Happy Birthday!*

- 6- Jason Meader
- 14- Bob Byrne
- 17- Pete Ferguson
- 18- Austin Whitman
- 19- Christie Allen
- 20- Stephen Lewis
- 22- Joan Hill
- 25- Heather Cottrill
- 27- Jon Villers
- 28- Tom Kines
- 28- Mary Tamulitis
- 29- Georgann Davis
- 29-Bill Klaus



9- Danny & Melissa Franke





### **Brand New Member**

Chances are that if the doors of Philippi Baptist Church are open, Hannah Dixon will be inside. Having joined the congregation in early September, she is a member of the Chancel Choir and the Praise Team, and she attends the young adult Sunday School class, and she is a leader for Celebrate Recovery and is a singer for that group, too.

Born and raised and having attended public schools in Gladesville, Preston County, Hannah enrolled at AB as a music major. As such, she was a member of the Chamber Choir and, for three years, a member of the West Virginians. She played clarinet in the Concert Band and for six years played in the handbell ensemble. “I started out intending to be a jazz singer, but I realized that jazz was not one of the most popular forms of music in West Virginia. Besides, and more importantly, I knew that I worked well with people, and I decided that I was being called to a service vocation, so I changed majors to Family Studies and felt much more comfortable there.”

Since graduating from AB in 2013, Hannah has worked for Mountain Heart Community Services headquartered in Grafton. She is a caseworker and service coordinator for children from birth to three years old, particularly those experiencing developmental delay. In her professional role, she makes home visits and consults with parents and other family members.

Now living in Philippi, Hannah reports, “I spend my time at work, here at the church, or playing with my two dogs, a dachshund and a pit bull.” When asked how the dogs get along, she says, “They love each other!”

No doubt about it, new member Hannah Dixon is a great addition to the PBC family.

# Weekly Events

Sundays	Men's Step Studies Sunday School AM Worship	7:30am 9:15am 10:30am
Mondays	Celebrate Recovery Praise Team Practice Celebrate Recovery Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4:45pm 6:30pm 7:15pm
Tuesdays	Women's Bible Study (@ Sarah Cobb's house)	12:45pm
Wednesdays	Women's Step Studies Midweek Service	5:30pm 6pm
Fridays	Code Blue (ages 13-17)	6pm-9pm

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

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda & Jim Steele	Rebekah Hicks	Zvezdana Vlastic	Cheryl Wolfe
<b>Children's Church</b>	Kelly Bracey	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson	Crystal & Wes Gray

# American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for August:  
**Canned Vegetables & Fruit**

## COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

American Baptist Women's Ministries will meet  
at 7:00PM on Tuesday, October 6th

Special Needs  
~Linda Long

Hostess Martha Rose Roy

**Bible Book of the Month - I & II Timothy & Titus**

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



Heart & Hand Christmas box donation suggestions:  
**Canned Green Beans & Corn**

# Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 3rd– Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Medallion  
Sunday, October 4th– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
4:30pm– Diaconate meeting  
6:00pm– Union Association Cluster Service at Hepzibah Baptist Church  
Tuesday, October 6th– 7:00pm– American Baptist Women’s meeting  
Sunday, October 11th– 4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting  
7:30pm– Church Council meeting  
Thursday, October 15th– Friday, October 16th– West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Meeting at Hurricane First Baptist Church  
Thursday, October 15th– Pastors 4 Pastors at Hurricane First Baptist  
American Baptist Men’s Day at Hurricane First Baptist  
American Baptist Women’s Day at Hurricane First Baptist  
Sunday, October 18th– 6:00pm- Board of Missions & Outreach meeting  
Saturday, October 24th– 11:00pm– “Fall in Love With Philippi



## Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sat., October 3rd @  
7:30am  
At the Medallion



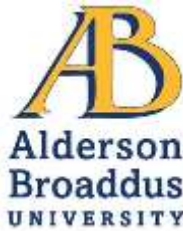
We have raised \$9,542 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



Pictured above are six of Philippi Baptist Church’s Adopt-A-Highway volunteers who came out on Saturday morning, 9/26/2015, to help with our fall cleanup effort, left to right: Scott Springer, Wesley Gray, Clarence Wright, Jason Meader, Josh Gilpin and Barbara Smith. Not shown is Craig Cobb who took the photo. Together we cleaned up 14 bags of trash and litter from our assigned section of highway, along Rt. 119, between the Covered Bridge and the Rt. 57 intersection.



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\$2,431 was given for Alderson  
Broaddus University on ABU  
Sunday!

**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**