



# The Baptist Bridge

September 2014

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.

# HAPPY LABOR DAY

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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 4 of an 8 week series entitled “Life’s Healing Choices” by Pastor Rick Warren!

*“Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8 (GNB)*

In week one of our discussions on Life’s Healing Choices, we discussed taking ‘The Reality Choice’ which had us all saying “I can’t!” as we realized we could not tackle our hurts, hang-ups, and habits on our own. In week two, we discussed taking ‘The Hope Choice’ which had us all saying “God can!” as we realized that God has the power to heal us and help us. In week three, we discussed taking ‘The Commitment Choice’ which had us all saying “Let him!” as we discovered the importance of choosing to give control of our lives to God. This week, we are discussing taking the ‘The Housecleaning Choice’ which directs us to openly examine and confess our faults to ourselves, to God, and to someone we trust. This choice is all about coming clean and admitting our failures. Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all experienced failure and sin in our lives and ultimately fallen short of God’s glory. We can probably handle confessing our sins to ourselves and to God, but now we are asked to confess them to someone else? This is the choice God wants us to make. We may fear the honesty required to make this choice, but know that freedom is the reward for truth. To be pure in heart, it is important to reveal our true hearts so Christ’s power may heal our wounds.

*“I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fullness.” John 10:10 (GNB)*

Jesus died so that we may live life in all its fullness, but we must first show him the truth in our hearts. Notice that Matthew 5:8 does not say “Happy are the religious...”. There are many who are religious who have not confessed their failures to themselves, God, or others. They may be saying “Don’t! You can’t! No!”. However, Jesus is telling us “Do! You can! Yes!”.

**OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.**

### **JESUS DOES NOT WANT ME TO BE RELIGIOUS, HE WANTS ME TO BE REAL.**

What miraculous event was taking place in John 11:43 – 44?

Think for a moment about the similarities between death and being bound. What did you discover?

What did Jesus ask others to do after he shouted for Lazarus to come forward? How is this significant to our life today?

According to Galatians 5:1, why does Christ set us free?

“Freedom” evokes many different feelings and images in each of us. What sort of “freedom” do you think Jesus had in mind?

Why do you think “freedom” is such an essential element to our faith and ministry?

John 8:36 tells us that we will be free only if what?

The verse states “If the son sets you free” which allows the possibility that other interests and entities could also capture one’s allegiance. What are other sources from which people might try to gain or experience freedom?

How does being free, truly free, liberate us from a life of wearing a religious mask to one promoting a life of authenticity?

Romans 5:8 reminds us that while we were sinners, God loved us. How did God express that love?

God is omniscient (all knowing) - he saw us while we were yet sinners while simultaneously seeing us as his saints. What significance is there in understanding that God knows us from beginning to end as you reflect upon his gift of spiritual liberation?

### **THE BASIS FOR A PURE HEART IS NOT HOW GOOD YOU’VE BEEN, BUT HOW GOOD GOD IS.**

According to Psalm 139:1, where does God look in order to know us?

Why do we need to be honest about who we are in order to have a pure heart?

Why is it important to rely on God’s character to receive a pure heart and not on our own?

In 1 John 1:9, we understand that God is faithful and forgiving if we do what?

What will God do when we confess our sins to him?

Considering it is impossible to hide from God, why then do we allow our sin to separate us from him?



What must we do, according to Lamentations 3:40, to “turn again to the Lord?”

Since we must acknowledge the presence of sin in our life before turning to God, why then do we need to search for the sins that must be confessed?

Is there still a consequence even after I have searched my heart and confessed my sin to God? Why or why not?

Philippians 2:12-13 tells us that we must do what in order to show the results of our salvation to others?

With obedience comes reward. If we are obedient, what promise can we look forward to?

Why is it important to live a life pleasing to God?

As stated in Psalm 32:5, what must we stop trying to do with our guilt?

When we confess our guilt, what does God do for us?

In James 5:16, what two things does Paul tell us that we must do to be healed?

In order to be truly healed, a wound must be exposed and cleansed. Is it ever too late to ask God for forgiveness and healing? Why or why not?

### **REMEMBER GOD’S KINDNESS.**

Read Romans 2:4 aloud. What does God’s kindness lead you toward?

Why do some believe that God’s kindness can sometimes lead us in another direction?

What are some examples how God’s kindness can lead us toward repentance?

According to Romans 8:1, for whom is there no condemnation?

Why is there condemnation for those who are non-believers?

What are some ways we can thank God for Christ and his kindness?

How has God shown his love for us in Romans 5:8? When did God show that ultimate love?

What are some other ways God loves us?

How can we show our love to God in appreciation for the sacrifice of his son Jesus?

### **REMEMBER GOD’S FAITHFULNESS.**

In Philippians 1:6, who began a good work in us? When will it be complete?

How do we know God is still faithful even when we make mistakes or appear to be stagnant in our growth?

What are some ways we see God’s faithfulness in our life and the lives of others?

According to the apostle Paul in Romans 8:38-39, what will not happen to anyone who is in Christ Jesus?

Why are believers still affected by some of the things referenced in the verses above?

While in the midst of trials, why can it be a challenge to remember God’s faithfulness?

In Hebrews 13:5, what does God say he will never do to us?

Like a parent with a child, how can it be beneficial to let some painful mistakes happen for growth?

Like a parent who is still faithful to their children, why can it seem like God has forgotten us when he lets painful mistakes happen in our lives?

### **REMEMBER GOD’S PROMISES.**

According to 1 John 1:9, when we confess our sins, what are God’s promises?

What are some reasons it can be difficult to confess our sins to God?

What does “purification from all unrighteousness” mean? What are some examples of unrighteousness in our society?



In Ezekiel 36:26, what does God give us and remove from us?

How can a new heart and a new spirit change us? How can it affect our daily lives?

What are some of the differences between a warm and compassionate heart, compared to a cold and hardened one?

Who is the “Yes” to all of God’s promises in 2 Corinthians 1:20?

Why don’t many people understand that Christ is the “Yes” to all God’s promises?

How can we share with others the importance of Christ? What are some ways we can demonstrate Christ’s power in God’s promises?

#### **PERSONAL APPLICATION AND COMMITMENT:**

It’s not easy to come clean. We carry around the guilt of our hurts and hang-ups everywhere we go. At times, we may feel like life is loading us up with guilt. However, Christ wants to *free* us up from the guilt. To allow Jesus to free you from your guilt, you must make ‘The Housecleaning Choice’.

To examine and confess your sins to yourself, take a moral inventory. Uncover the things you have kept covered for so long. Write them down. Be honest with yourself. Show the good choices and the bad ones. After you have completed your inventory list, accept responsibility for your faults. Don’t rationalize – be real. Don’t blame others – look to yourself. Don’t deceive yourself – see it for what it is. Remember, God wants you to reveal the truth in your heart.

To confess your sins to God, ask him for forgiveness. Pray together as a group like the prayer listed below:

*Dear God, you know our pasts – all the good and bad choices we have made and all the good and bad things each of us have done. Please give us the strength and courage to come clean and face the truth. Please open our eyes to the truths of our pasts – the truths of how others have hurt us and how each of us have hurt others. As we come clean, we ask for your forgiveness and thank you for your love and grace. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.*

To confess your sins to others, take some time to think of two or three people you trust. Write their names down. Commit to praying for the courage and strength to speak with one of them this week. Ask for God’s guidance in helping you choose the person you will call. Remember that when you risk honesty with another person, you allow God to work and set you free.

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The Board of Trustees is planning a work day at the church on Saturday, September 13th. Many small projects including replacing numerous florescent light bulbs, minor plumbing issues, hand rail repair, and other small repairs around the church need our immediate attention. We plan to start around 8:00 AM and hope to finish by noon. If you can help, please contact one of the trustees (Bob Boyer, Marj Campbell, Hayden Cottrill, Greg Mouser, Scott Springer, or Randy Moore) by September 7th so we can purchase supplies based upon the number of volunteers.





AB University, President Creehan,  
Faculty, staff, and students  
Code Blue  
Dennis Bolyard  
Connie & Gary Booth  
Jean Bowles  
Elnora Burton  
Bill & Julia Corder  
Eric Corder  
Gerald Cottrill  
Kayla Day  
SarahEllen Dillon  
Elsie Frye  
Betty Hoffman  
Jim Lewis  
Aaron Miller  
Debbie Mulneix  
Myers missionary family in Mexico  
Frank C. Oliver  
Duane Poling  
Dr. Shearer  
Elody Shrader  
Don Smith  
Sonya Stahl  
Judy Willingham  
Linda Wiseman

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



- 1- Skip Ervin
- 6- JD Long
- 13- May Lantz
- 19- Charlie Davis
- 22- Marj Campbell
- 26- John Hicks
- 26- Zvezdana Vlasic
- 27- Mary Boyer
- 27- Kathy Kratsas
- 29- Sarah Cobb
- 30- Elsie Frye
- 30- Nancy Stull



### **Talk about Busy!**

If you're looking for Rebekah Hicks at Philippi Baptist Church, you'll have to check in at least six locations. If it's a July day, look for her preparing for and co-chairing Vacation Bible School. If it's a Sunday evening, she may be at a meeting of the Board of Education. If it's early Sunday morning, on the other hand, she may be in the Koinonia class. Or, if it's during the worship service and she's not sitting with her husband, John, halfway back on the left side of the sanctuary, check the projection booth, where's she's one of the experts. Or check the Wee Church group, where she teaches, or the nursery room, where she may caring for a few of the little ones like Ella Noffsinger (pictured with her here).

On week days Rebekah is equally busy, walking her dog Bella at 5:30 each morning and then heading off to work.

Rebekah grew up in Morgantown with two sisters and a brother. One of those sisters still lives here in West Virginia, but her other sister and her brother live in the Washington, D.C. area. After attending public schools, including Morgantown High School, Rebekah entered and completed the Physician Assistant program at Alderson Broaddus. It was at AB that she met her husband. After graduation, she worked for a cardiology group in Clarksburg, but, she says, "After two years of doing stress tests all day, I decided to move on." Since then she has been with a psychiatric team made up of a psychiatrist, a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and two Physician Assistants. "We see between seventy and ninety patients every day, some of them on a weekly basis, some monthly, and some less frequently. Occasionally I also participate in a consultation in the psych ward at University Hospital Center, but most of my time is spent with out-patients in the office."

She and John, who teaches history at AB, are obviously dedicated to each other and to their families and to the church, but whenever they can find time, they like to travel. "For closer destinations, we like Florida, but we've also been to Hawaii and Italy and Austria," Rebekah says. "We're always looking forward to the next trip."

In the meantime, watch for Rebekah at the church. In her quiet, gentle way, she is a true leader and a constant inspiration.

# 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)  | 1pm                         |
| 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 September

|                      | September 7   | September 14            | September 21              | September 28  |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Nursery</b>       | Wanda Steele  | Christie Allen          | Rebekah Hicks             | Cheryl Wolfe  |
| <b>Wee Church</b>    | Rebekah Hicks | Koreen & Thomas Villers | Hayden & Heather Cottrill | Rebekah Hicks |
| <b>Junior Church</b> | Kelly Bracey  | Sara & Eddy Poling      | Pete & Sarah Ferguson     | Kelly Bracey  |

## 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  |

### COME SEE WHAT ABW HAS TO OFFER

**Who: Women of the Church**

**Where: Fellowship Hall**

**When: Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 9:30am**

**Program: Heart & Hand**

**Bible Book of the Month - Obadiah**



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

# Upcoming Events

Monday, September 1st– Labor Day– Church office closed

Saturday, September 6th– 7:30am– Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Sunday, September 7th– 10:30am– Communion & Deacon Relief Offering  
- New Life Quartet

2:30pm– Annual Union Association Picnic/meeting activities at First Baptist

Church of Grafton

7:30pm– Diaconate meeting

Monday, September 8th– Wednesday, September 10th–Fall Golden’eers Retreat

Thursday, September 11th– 6:30pm- Christian Men’s group meets at Farmers’ Market

Sunday, September 14th– 11:45am– Annual Church picnic

5:00pm- Board of Trustees meeting

7:30pm– Church Council meeting

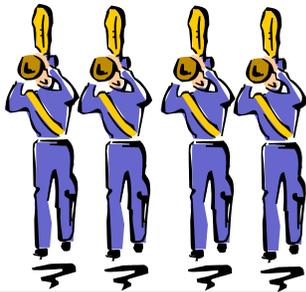
Saturday, September 20th– Fall Youth Rally

Sunday, September 21st– 4:00pm– Mansfield Place Chapel service

6:00pm– Board of Missions and Outreach meeting

Thursday, September 25th– Newsletter deadline

Sunday, September 28th– 2:30pm– Annual Union Association meeting at Simpson Creek Baptist Church



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: September 13th, October 11th, 18th, and November 1st, & 8<sup>th</sup>.



The Annual Union Association picnic will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at First Baptist Church of Grafton. Youth and adult events begin at 2:30pm. The picnic begins at 4:30pm and a concert featuring New Life Quartet will be at 6:30pm. More information can be found on the flyer in the entry.



**New Life Quartet**  
of Mineral Wells will be at Phi-  
lippi Baptist Church  
Sunday, September 7th!



The Board of Trustees is currently planning to replace our aging Church van in 2016. A restricted account has been set-up by the financial secretary to accept donations toward this vital Church activity. We encourage everyone to donate toward this worthy project when possible. Just a few dollars a week will help us achieve our goal.

# Small Groups to begin again September 6th.

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&  
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period of Financial Peace University, learn to:

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- Plan for retirement or college
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- Understand the world of investments
- Keep the American dream from becoming a nightmare
- And more



Philippi Baptist Church  
69 Church Street  
Philippi, WV 26416



The Union Association annual meeting will be September 28<sup>th</sup> at Simpson Creek Baptist Church. Registration begins at 2:30pm. More information can be found on the flyer in the entry.



### **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, September 6th @ 7:30am  
At the Medallion