



# 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.

September 2016

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



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You can give online at [pbcwv.net](http://pbcwv.net)



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

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

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

Emily Casto— Celebrate Recovery  
Ministry Leader

Michele Moore, Church Pianist  
Lucretia Moyer, Secretary

Marj Campbell, Organist  
Zvezdana Vlastic, Custodian



John the Baptist Grew Up! Jesus Grew Up! Paul tells us to Grow up! Church, we need to practice Resurrection! Those were the four powerpoint slides that John Hicks introduced to us on August 21, 2016. They were presented to be an invitation for a new 13 week Small Group Initiative we will be doing on Sunday Mornings at 9:15am starting on September 11<sup>th</sup>. More details on that to follow! Speaking of growing up.....

The start of school seems to mark times of growing up like no other! This is my seventh time to be with you as another school year begins! On a personal note, we have seen Caleb start and finish Alderson Broaddus being the first class to have University on their diploma. And then to move to Summersville in a position of ministry with his wedding to Maci on the tenth of this month! We have seen Allison start and finish her high school years at Philippi Barbour High School being on the State AA Cross Country Champion team all four years and to trade her cross country cleats for pom poms as she enters her junior year of college. And We have seen Bobby and Thomas two years at Philippi Middle School beginning on trombone there to then prosper through their high school band experience as they became part of the Pride of Barbour County – our PBHS Marching Band and then for them to spread their wings to their first year of college as well! It has been an amazing six and a half years of watching them grow up!

During that same time, there have been many opportunities for me to grow up as well! I am grateful to our church family and the community of Philippi and Barbour County for surrounding us with your love and support and we lead and minister here! And I am excited about another opportunity we have here at Philippi Baptist Church over the next thirteen weeks starting on Sept. 11 at 9:15am. Even as that particular day in the history of our country will always mark a fateful day to remember, we are going to do something recommended by writer Eugene Peterson of the paraphrase of the Bible called the Message. We are going to PRACTICE RESSURECTION! It is a great opportunity for you to invite folks you know to join us we begin this journey together! The strength of PBC is found in the diversity of ages, backgrounds, experiences that each of you bring to the table! We are more complete because you are here! We are called to be in community together!

### **Special thanks to Jeff Scoggins for the following book review of Eugene Peterson's Book!**

In his introduction to Practice Resurrection, Eugene Peterson is scathing—refreshingly so. The essence of his premise upon which the entire book is founded includes the idea that Christians have taken the biblical metaphor of spiritual birth to ridiculous lengths while effectively ignoring the metaphor of spiritual growth. In his words, it is “an outrageous perversion of the metaphor and responsible for an enormous distortion in the Christian imagination of what is involved in living in the kingdom of God” (3).

From this platform Peterson leaps into the book of Ephesians where he both systematically and poetically moves deeply into the apostle's intent for the book: Christian growth and maturity; and intentional, ongoing spiritual formation into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

walk in response to the call. “Implicit in each gift,” Peterson says, “is an assignment” (47). There is no getting away from it: if you are resurrected into new life in Christ you must do something with that gift. Moral behavior, while not the way to salvation, is the way of “giving expression to resurrection” (194).

In the course of his exposition on the book of Ephesians, Peterson tackles a wide range of subjects concerning the practice of resurrection: the way we worship, the function of good works, the way materialism has made us into “hybrid Christians,” even our preoccupation with serving God instead of growing in a relationship with Him.

Peterson's is one voice among a growing choir of Christians who are calling Christians back from lukewarmness into fervent relationship. “Life in the church is dangerous,” he writes. “[We have become] so diligent in learning about and working for Jesus that our relationship with Jesus erodes.... We take on a role, a religious role, that gradually obliterates the life of the soul” (190).

Throughout the book of Ephesians, Peterson extracts and delivers afresh God's plea to us for undivided relationship with Him—not a relationship of forms and rituals but a relationship as real as marriage— both the pleasant and the rocky sides of it.

Eugene Peterson is a poet, a master of words, and speaks in constant metaphor. I admit that I have difficulty getting through his books in their entirety. I must read with an intention of engaged study rather than relaxing review. I have found, however, that when I take Peterson's work in bite-sized pieces, a rich reward results every time.



### **Beginning at Home**

You have recently given to One Great Hour of Sharing, and you recently read about one of the recipients of your generosity—Weirton Christian Center. But did you know that both of these are part of a much larger cloud of blessing?

The American Baptist Home Mission Society was started in 1832 with the mission statement “to disseminate evangelical truth, and to inculcate sound morals.....” To accomplish this, the Baptist General Tract Society was organized. That effort expanded into work on the western frontier with settlers, Native Americans, and, later, “Freedmen,” African Americans who had been emancipated. That work in turn expanded to ministry to immigrants. And in the meantime, in order to continue to supply printed materials, the Publication Society was founded in partnership with the American Baptist Education Society.

Patterned after the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, the Home Mission Society has a glorious history that today includes a variety of outreach endeavors. Those include programs titled Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors, American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries, Church Planters, Education and Scholarships, and, yes, Christian Centers. The Weirton agency is one of about a dozen located all over the country—Kansas, New York, Puerto Rico, Ohio, Indiana, Montana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, California. Church Planter programs span almost as much territory.

The mission statement of the American Baptist Home Mission Society today is “Encouraging Life in Christ,” words which guide three major thrusts: preaching the gospel, establishing churches, and ministering to persons of special needs. Specific programs have been developed in evangelism, discipleship training, church growth and renewal, social justice, and facility planning.

So—the next time there’s a special offering for Home Missions—like One Great Hour of Sharing,—give generously. Your dollars go a long, long way as we work together to do the will of God.



AB University, Faculty, staff, and students  
 Barbour County Homeless  
 Phil Bowers and other local officials  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Code Blue  
 Irene Conrad  
 Ruby Cozad  
 Frank Field  
 Judi Funk  
 Charles Hinkle  
 Bill & Shirley Jacobs  
 Ryan Johnson  
 Jonathan Knotts  
 Bailey Larrison  
 Local ministries  
 Pearl Marks  
 Bill Morlan  
 Phillips family  
 Hannah Grace Price family  
 Elody Shrader  
 Tiffany & Zach  
 Jim Warfuel  
 Varughese family  
 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 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.  
 Amber Underwood  
 Major Kris Wood



Blair & Pearl Marks, Vangie Shaffer  
 (Mansfield Place), Germaine &  
 Austin Whitman



Margaret Salimi

*Happy Birthday!*

- 6- JD Long
- 7- Hannah Dixon
- 13- Mary Lantz
- 15- Emily Meader
- 18- Kenny Phillips
- 19- Charlie Davis
- 21- Hayley Dadisman
- 22- Marj Campbell
- 22- Michael Perry
- 26- John Hicks
- 26- Zvezdana Vlasic
- 27- Mary Boyer
- 27- Kathy Kratsas
- 29- Sarah Cobb
- 30- Elsie Frye
- 30- Nancy Stull

Jesus grew up

John the Baptist grew up

Paul tells us to  
"grow up"

church ...  
practice resurrection

Coming on Sunday, September 11, 9:15am

Call the church office for more information

Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated household cleaning items for the church. Your donations go a long way to help keep our budgets down.

~ Zvezdana and the Board of Trustees

We have raised \$17,000 of our \$26,000 goal for the new church van.



# Weekly Events

Sundays	Sunday School AM Worship	9:15am 10:30am
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 Practice	6pm 7:15pm
Saturdays	Abide Youth Ministry	6pm

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

	September 4th	September 11th	September 18th	September 25th
<b>Nursery</b>	Wanda Steele & Emily Meader	Rebekah Hicks & Margaret Salimi	Zvezdana Vlastic & Bonnie Daugherty	Cheryl Wolfe & Hannah Dixon
<b>Children's Church</b>	Kelly Bracey & Jennifer Weyandt	Koreen & Thomas Villers	Sarah, Pete & Sam Ferguson	Crystal & Wes Gray

# American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

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

'Helping Others' ~Cheryl Wolfe  
Hostess- Jody Sperry & Barbara Springer

**Bible Book of the Month - Amos**

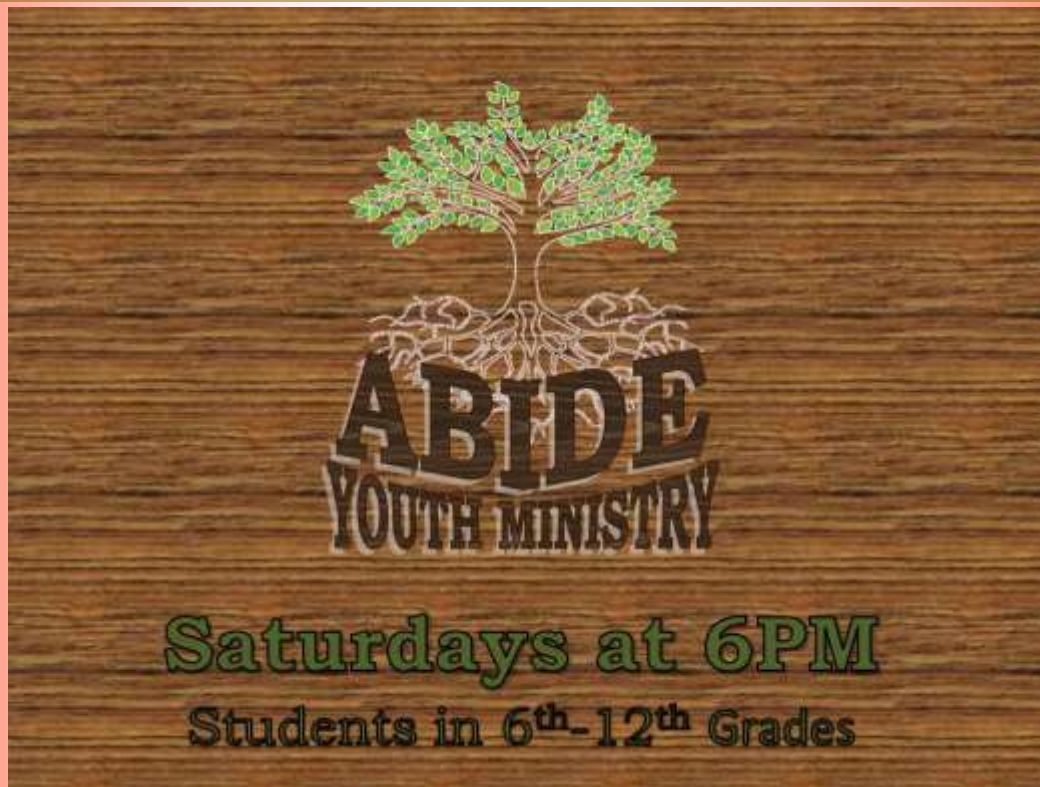
**We will be collecting Campbell's Soup labels and Box Tops for Education throughout the year.**

The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be on Sept. 10 at 7:30 AM at the Medallion. All Men and Boys are invited to come for some good fellowship, food and to talk about almost anything. Come and get to know someone you've seen, but never had a chance to talk to. And you might learn something.



# Upcoming Events

Friday, September 2nd– Sunday, September 4th– Camp Global at Camp Cowen  
Sunday, September 4th– 11:30am– Communion and Deacon Relief Offering  
6:00pm– Diaconate meeting  
7:30pm– Board of Missions & Outreach meeting  
Tuesday, September 6th– 7:00pm– American Baptist Women’s meeting  
Wednesday, September 7th– 7:15pm– Chancel Choir rehearsal resumes  
Sunday, September 11th– Wednesday, September 14th– Pastor Jon at a pastor’s conference  
Sunday, September 11th– 4:30pm– Board of Christian Education meeting  
5:00pm– Board of Trustees meeting  
7:30pm– Church Council meeting  
Saturday, September 17th– 10:00am– Celebrate Recovery Leadership training  
Sunday, September 18th– 11:45am– Annual Picnic  
Sunday, September 25th– 3:00pm– Union Association Annual meeting at Hepzibah Baptist Church



Suggested Heart & Hand donation for September  
**Stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, and  
dish washing liquid**



Greetings!

My name is Michael Perry and I am a recent graduate of Alderson Broaddus University. My time at ABU was spent acquiring two bachelors' degrees in Christian Studies with a concentration in Theology and Leadership and Ministry with a concentration in Church Ministry. I also acquired an associate's degree in Music with concentration in oboe. I am writing this letter to ask for help in God's mission for me. God has made it evident to me that my ministry is within international missions. Nicaragua was my first experience to dive into this ministry. In the last two years, I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit Nicaragua for mission work four different times. I believe, although God continues to do work there, I am now being called to a new location to further serve His Creation.

I had the opportunity to visit Green Lake Wisconsin in the first full week of July. There, I and hundreds of other believers from around the world, had the opportunity to worship God in all tongues. During my time there, I felt God calling me to a new field to experience Him in a new way. I met with a missionary and we had an opportunity to discuss in greater detail what is going on in the country they represent. I am glad to announce that God has called me to Monrovia, Liberia in Northwest Africa! There, I will be interning with Rick's Institute, a Christian boarding school located in Monrovia (for more information you can visit <http://www.ricksonline.org>). I will be working with the administration, teachers, pastor on site, students and playing a hand in the music department. I have also been informed that another responsibility of mine will be leading devotionals on a daily basis for the students. I am very much excited for this opportunity to allow God to work through me to touch the lives of so many boys and girls in Africa.

I feel God calling me to this wonderful opportunity, but I will need a little help. Dr. Menjay, president of Rick's Institute, has given me an estimated amount that will be sufficient for my time there. The sum of his estimation and a plane ticket for Monrovia adds up to \$7,000. This includes my visa, food, insurance, and communications while I'm out there. I will be provided a place to live, electricity, and possibly a car for travel, but everything else will be on my own accord. I am praying to God for the assistance and with your help we can make this possible! I am asking for help in ways of personal or organizational donations. I hope to achieve this goal by the end of August 2016 so I can purchase a ticket for the end of September and begin work in October. I am asking for any donations because any contribution right now would be beneficial to the Will God has placed upon me and with your help this is possible!

I am excited to help further God's kingdom in Monrovia, Liberia and bring the love of God to all corners of the earth. If you can help me in any way please contact me at [perrymr@battlers.ab.edu](mailto:perrymr@battlers.ab.edu) or call me at 304-488-1417. Thank you so much for your prayer and support and God Bless!

Sincerely a Servant of God,  
Michael R. Perry

Michael Perry will be coming to PBC September 4th. Our Deacon Relief Offering for that day will be used to support his mission. You can give directly online as well at [pbcwv.net](http://pbcwv.net)



Our numbers have grown tremendously in the last nine years, going from approximately 40 children in 2006 to **277 registered in 2015** for Afterschool, Summer and Preschool programs.

We have prayed for a new facility and explored many different directions.

God has heard our prayers and we are closer than ever to being able to build a new facility!! He is orchestrating our steps and our efforts.

1. The plans are developed for a 40x80 building at our current location.
2. We have purchased the property adjacent to the Christian Center on Elm Street. (We would love to break ground next spring!)
3. We have applied for assistance in the amount of **\$300,000** from a Charitable Trust that has supported us over the years and have been assured that funding will come through before December. We are just waiting on the final Project Budget from the architect and bidding contractors to determine the final amount.
4. Our Matching Funds of 40% up to **\$300,000** will happen when the other 60% is raised. (BASED ON \$750,000 TOTAL)

We are counting on our West Virginia Baptist Family of churches to help us raise the Project Goal of **\$150,000**.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT  
MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY.**

Every WVBC church has been challenged to give \$400! You can give online at [pbcwv.net](http://pbcwv.net) as well.

# WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

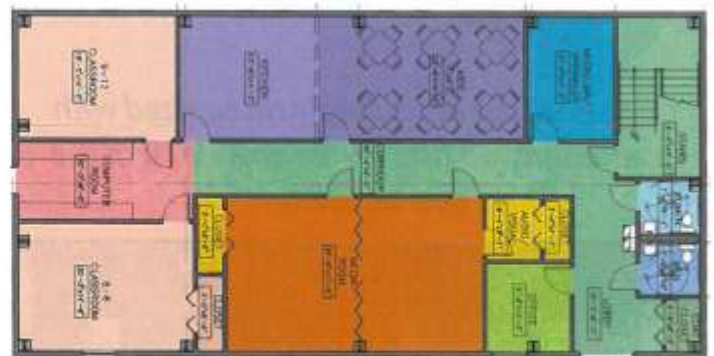
## BUILD A BUILDING PROJECT

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

They need a **SAFE Place ALL UNDER ONE ROOF** to learn about the power the Lord can provide for their daily situations, receive homework help, access to computers, healthy snacks and dinner, clothing, shoes, hygiene kits, groceries and the opportunities to learn valuable lessons about dealing with life.



Main Floor ELM STREET ENTRANCE



Ground Floor Alley / Parking ENTRANCE





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**

