



BRIDGES

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - February 2022

May the Lord Direct Your Heart To His Love

Have you ever noticed the prayers that are prayed for God's people in the Bible?

In both the Old and New Testaments,

prayers are voiced for the people of God. Some examples include Jacob praying blessings for his children, Moses praying for forgiveness for the Israelites, Gideon praying for guidance, Solomon for wisdom, Hezekiah for deliverance, Jehoshaphat for victory, Daniel for the fulfillment of prophecy, and most notably Jesus' prayer for his church. The Bible is full of prayers prayed for God's people. One person who prays a lot for the people of God is Paul the apostle. His prayers are not long or elaborate, often only one or two verses long, and

are found scattered throughout his letters. Yet, in his short prayers, there are some of the most profound, hopeful, and powerful prayers of the Bible. Paul is also not afraid to ask God's people (the church) to pray for him as we see in 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3, which reads, *"Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."* Paul then utters a short prayer for the people of Thessalonica; his one verse prayer is simply, **"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ (1 Thessalonians 3:5)."**

After reading this prayer, I had to stop, ponder, and be encouraged by what Paul is

praying. He is praying that the Lord himself directs the hearts of the people into the love and faithfulness of God.



**"May the Lord direct
your hearts to the love
of God and to the
steadfastness of
Christ."
(1 Thessalonians 3:5)**

Imagine visiting a foreign country and having reservations at a very nice hotel. After arriving in the foreign country by plane, you step outside of the airport, and you are overwhelmed by all the different people trying to get you into their taxi or to go with them. You feel lost, unsure of what to do, and a little afraid. But then, up steps a gentleman holding a sign with your name on it. He says to you, "I have been waiting for you, will you please come with me. I will take you directly to your hotel." And so, this gentleman leads you to a car where he too enters in and brings you directly to your destination. From the car, he guides you into the hotel, and it is

then that you learn that your guide from the airport is also this amazing hotel's owner. The owner himself guided you to his home.

This is what Paul is praying when he says, "May the Lord himself direct your hearts...." Paul is asking the Lord to be your guide that steers you directly upon straight paths into divine love." This is a prayer that we need today. I feel that our hearts are overwhelmed with weariness and fear over so many friends that have covid or other family emergencies. I feel that many are discouraged by the overwhelming voices of news and social media. I feel that many are lost, not sure where to go. Thus, my prayer for you is, **"May the Lord Himself direct your heart to Himself. May the Lord himself steer your heart into His love. Amen."**

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Trent

FEBRUARY
Birthdays

- 1 - Eli Eagan
Debbie Harman
- 2 - Gwen Caldwell
Chris Chaney
Curt Mann
Terry Smith
- 4 - Tyler Hampton
Ripley Haney
- 5 - Gary Norris
Amy Smith
Taryn Elise Wilson
- 7 - Alissa Stricker
- 8 - Jeremiah Cruz
Tammy Hager
- 9 - Carrie Brown
- 10 - Suzanne McCallister
- 11 - Leigh Frye
Debbie Weston
- 13 - Mary MacClellan
Gage Ross
- 14 - Marion Sansom
Taylor Ross
- 15 - Regan Alford
Carol Arkell
- 16 - Charles Bonecutter
C.R. Brown
- 17 - Nathan Welch
- 18 - Gavin Blake
Darrell Walden
- 19 - Pattie Baxter
Kim Day
Charlene Kendall
- 20 - Sharon Blankenship
Dave Gatrell
Joshua Sierson
- 21 - Roger Barcus
Greg Creasy
- 22 - Jim Benson
Brittany Kendrick
Myra Lydick
Paula Omer
- 23 - Karen Dailey
- 25 - Dolores Adkins
Ezra Brumfield
Lisa Caviani
- 26 - Madden Casto
Jim Daniels
Sarah Miller
Susan Skaggs
- 27 - Jean Spurlock
- 28 - Janice Mann
Betsy Wilson

Anniversaries

Mark & Jo Ellen Willett	2/1
Carlyle & Sharon (Sanborn) Logan	2/2
Ron & Lisa Caviani	2/6
Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock	2/6
Ronnie & Lanna Waugh	2/10
Bret & Pam Woodall	2/14
Fred & Linda Cummings (60 th)	2/16
Travis & Roberta Noble	2/16
Justin & Bethany Cox	2/19
John & Pat Baisden	2/22



Sunday,
February 20,
2022

MUSIC


Notes from Choir Director, Karen Dailey

While our choir may not be singing weekly specials with the continuing high numbers of COVID-19 and all its variants, we are thankful to have the praise band leading us in corporate worship! Curt, Zach, and I have been collaborating and, in the coming weeks, are planning to have some new songs with additional people leading the praise and worship portion of our service. Since our choir doesn't have opportunity to sing as a group, you, the congregation, are the ultimate choir. God fearfully and wonderfully made our vocal cords to be fully developed in the womb around the twelfth week. He not only designed us to speak but to sing. However, singing praise to our Savior and LORD is much more than merely engaging your vocal box to create melodious sounds. Like with talking, he gave us our minds to be actively involved in our singing. He gave us the ability to engage our intellect, our imagination, and our memory. Additionally, God formed our hearts to be emotionally connected to the sweet melodious truths of who God is and who we are because of Him. Some say "Oh, I can't carry a tune in a bucket" but if you can speak, you can sing. God gave you everything you need, and he desires for you to sing. Giving praise to God in song begins with the heart, not the lips. Ephesians 5:18b-19 says "...but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart..." Our heavenly Father cares about what we sing and whether we sing, but he doesn't care how we sound when we sing. The singing portion of our service is not meant to be mere bookends on the service nor is it to be an entertainment special being viewed by silent spectators. It is singing God's message of hope and the Gospel. It is giving the author and creator of the universe praise for blessing us with life. It is celebrating being together as brothers and sisters of Christ; one body in mind and spirit. It is worshipping the only one that is true and faithful and worthy to be praised! Let's Just Praise the LORD!



Some ideas paraphrased from Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church by Keith & Kristyn Getty





Training Annual Event

Saturday, February 5, 2022
Parchment Valley Conference Center

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Church: _____

*Note: Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies students are eligible to receive course credit for participating in two workshops. In order to get credit, please mark the program you want the credit applied to:

..... Congregational Transformation (Three-Year Program)
* Must take two discipleship workshops (marked with *)

..... General Studies (Two-Year Program)
* Pick any two workshops from the list

REGISTRATION FEE:

..... \$25 Annual Training Event Fee

..... \$27 Additional Fee for School of Christian Studies (SCS) or

..... \$37 Additional Fee for SCS Couple

If your church is planning to bring 10 or more individuals, contact our office to receive a discount.

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS FRIDAY, JANUARY 28
Registrations received after January 28 will not include lunch.

Make checks payable and mail to:
West Virginia Baptist Convention
P.O. Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102

Or register online at: www.wvbc.org

WORKSHOP LIST
Select one morning and afternoon workshop

Morning Workshops (10:15 AM)

..... Discipleship Pathway for Children and Youth *

..... Leading Intentional Engagement and Growth *

..... Intentionally Engaging College Students *

..... Intentionally Engaging Communities through Microchurches

..... Exploring a Call to Ministry

..... Community Ministry

..... Deacons

..... Church Clerks

..... Treasurers and Financial Secretaries

Afternoon Workshops (1:00 PM)

..... Disciples Making Disciples *

..... Church Remissioning

..... Growing Your Online Presence

..... Church Security: Grants and Resources

..... Re-launching Your Global Missions Program

..... Setting Boundaries When Dealing with Addiction

..... Leaving a Legacy: Estate Planning


..... Intentionally Mentoring Young Leaders

..... Trustees

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	Registration - Hill Hall
9:30 AM	Worship - Hill Hall
10:15 AM	Morning Workshops
Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	Afternoon Workshops
2:30 PM	Dismissal

2022 West Virginia Baptist Convention
Annual Bible Conference



Saturday, March 5, 2022
Parchment Valley Conference Center

The Book of Numbers: Life in the Wilderness


featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman
Pastor, New Baptist Church and
Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary

Conference Fee: \$25 per person
WVBC Pastor or Spouse \$12.50

Registration Deadline (with money enclosed):
March 2, 2022

Registration begins at 9:00am, instruction will
start at 9:30am and the event will end at
3:00pm. Fee includes lunch and snacks.

Register online at www.wbc.org



♥ "Forgiven and Free" is still our theme as we enter this winter month of February! Make this Valentine's Day extra special by focusing on the forgiveness and freedom that Are ours through the precious blood of Christ! What amazing love!

Ladies' small group Bible studies begin on **February 2 and 3**. "God of Creation" by Jen Wilkin will be led by **Gail Kelly, Barbara Meek, and Lois Merritt** on **Wednesdays** and by **Suzanne McCallister** on **Thursdays**. Both of these groups will meet at **9:30am** in the Bykota classroom.

Two **Wednesday** evening sessions will be offered, both beginning at **6:30pm**. "God of Creation" will meet in the Bykota classroom, with **Dolores Adkins** leading. "Gideon" by Priscilla Shirer will be led by **Kristi Haney** and will meet in the Radio Bible classroom. Modifications in the schedule will be made as needed due to weather or other New Baptist events.

Romans 6:23: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Let the truth of this entire verse sink in. Wages are what we earn, so death is what we deserve. A gift is something given to us and is totally undeserved. God loves us so much that He looks past what we deserve to give us what He wants for us...His GIFT of eternal life! What amazing love! ♥

For Good...
Dolores Adkins

the little things

I am often reminded by a Facebook friend that *"It's the little things..."* These little things make a big difference in our lives for either good or bad. I recently read the following story and I thought it important enough share with you.

Bobby Leach achieved fame and fortune when in July 1911, at the age of 53, he went over Niagara Falls in a barrel. After recuperating from his injuries, Bobby toured North America and the UK with the historic barrel in tow, recounting the experience for enthusiastic audiences in circus tents and lecture halls. Leach had been a lifelong circus performer, so daredevil stunts were nothing new to him. Even into his sixties he was attempting crazy things, such as swimming across whirlpool rapids. He was prepared for the big challenges in his adventurous life.

So how did he die? He was the victim of a banana peel. No kidding. He slipped on it, injuring his leg. The leg became infected, leading to gangrene, requiring an amputation, but it was too late. He died within a couple of months. It was a little thing that got him.

Here is the moral of the story. Is it strange that the man who could survive Niagara Falls in a barrel couldn't survive a banana peel? Actually, no. More often than not, it's the little things that beat us. It's because they catch us off guard. When you know you're going over the falls in a barrel, you're fully prepared and prayed up. Something as mundane as walking down the street, even a street littered with discarded fruit, you're likely to think you've got it handled. That's when we're likely to slip. The apostle Paul said, *Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall* (1 Corinthians 10:12). I wonder how that banana peel got to Mr. Leach. Did he see it and think that the mere skin of a fruit couldn't hurt him? Or was he simply not paying attention? Either way, the mistake proved fatal.

Think about the banana peels you encounter throughout the day. A missed devotional. A half-hearted effort at work. Spending without thinking. Carelessness in conversation. Neglecting those most important to you. If you're not careful, they can make you fall.

As a church we have some challenging days ahead of us. What will our church be like when we can move fully forward after covid. We are looking at some remodeling in the worship center. The Food Pantry is still feeding many families each week and more than 100 weekend backpacks of food are distributed each week. How do we best help families and individuals that are dealing with the effects of covid? These are just some challenges, and I am confident that we will be "prayed up" and ready for them. I wonder though if we will be derailed or distracted from doing and experiencing what God has for us because we did not take care of the little things. As we go through 2022 give attention to the little things that will allow us to accomplish big things for the kingdom of God.

Bring a big smile and a welcoming spirit on Sunday. Read the Bible through with us this year. Support our ministry with your presence and finances. Let us each strive to be faithful and then see just what God will do in and through us.




Mission Report from Bethany Cox

Haiti/Pastor Dasni Support: Thank you church for continuing to be so generous. This past Sunday we raised over \$1,000 for Pastor Dasnis with our bagged lunches. A BIG thank you to Honey Baked Ham for donating the ham. It was delicious!

2021 Mission Support: 2021 was an extremely good year in regards to missions..again this is because of your all's generosity. **Our total mission offerings and fundraisers totaled \$118,000 for the year!!!** Thanks again for continuing to give so we can continue to love our neighbors and share the gospel message with them.

2022 Mission Highlights: In 2022 we will be highlighting one ministry each month with info about them and ways to be praying for them throughout the month. Stay tuned for more info.

Prayer Concerns

(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)



Church Family and Friends: Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Nancy Adkins, Mickey Bane, Nancy Bane, Bill Bartram, Jim & Jenny Benson, Charlie Bonecutter, Dean & Cookie Caldwell, Pam Cole, Kyle Cook, Becky Davis, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Pam Fannin, Tracy Foster, Doris Halcombe, Minnie Harris, Joni Hill, John & Linda Hovey, Sandy James, Ron Jarvis, Pete & Anita Jones, Judy Lantz, Bill & Debbie Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Joseph Leggott, Myra Lydick, Roy Maynor, Mary McClure, Pat Meredith, Lois Merritt, Linda Miller, Charlie Morris, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Carolyn Powers, Lena Powers, Rebecca Powers, Vicki Rickard, Carol Richardson, Walter & Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Bill Snoddy, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, David Stevenson, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Richard Weston, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark & Jo Ellen Willett, Sharon Wimmer

Additional Prayer Items:

- our pastors
our community
our military personnel
our country
all affected by covid
unsaved loved ones
our government leaders
those trying to flee Afghanistan
the people of Haiti

Death in the Church Family



Rev. William Keith Creasy, 84, of Barboursville WV, passed away Saturday, January 8, 2022. Keith was a graduate of Marshall University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. He served in churches in Ohio and Kentucky before he returned to West Virginia where he pastored Beverly Hills Baptist Church for 19 years. He also served as chaplain at Mildred-Mitchell Bateman Hospital and St. Mary's Medical Center. Keith had begun attending New Baptist until he was too sick to attend. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Virginia, his second wife, Christina, and his beloved granddaughter, Sarah Beth Napier. Keith is survived by one brother, Dale (Martha) Creasy, a daughter, Kathleen (Mark) Napier, and a son, Rev. Greg (Robin) Creasy. He is also survived by five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. "To some Rev. Creasy was an unwavering example of faith and a rock who stood beside them in the best and worst of times. To some he was a playful Poppaw with a great sense of humor and gentle compassion. To some he was a mentor who helped guide them to their own callings. To some he was a faithful friend who showed up when he was needed most. He had a way of making whoever was with him feel totally accepted and important."



In order to eliminate confusion over our communion juice and bread set, we have decided to use the prepackaged gluten-free bread and juice option. This will make it easier to distribute communion to the entire congregation and not worry about having packages available for a gluten-free option.



Ladies,

Join us on Thursday evenings, 5:30pm, for some fun exercise and social distancing fellowship.

Doors open ant 5:15ish. We start dancing at 5:30pm and workout for 50 minutes. We follow with a short devotion and prayer time.

This exercise experience is for all levels of fitness. **Class is led by Stephanie Spencer and Carla Booth.**

If you have other questions we have a Facebook page

♥♥REFIT® with Steph and Carla.

or give us a call.

304.544.1467 Stephanie Spencer

304.617.7289 Carla Booth



For more on ReFit, check out this site:

<https://refitrev.com/>

Biblical love notes

(from The NewsletterNewsletter)




The following compliments from the Song of Solomon may not go over well on Valentine’s Day: “I compare you, my love, to a mare among Pharaoh’s chariots” (1:9). “Your hair is like a flock of goats, moving down the slopes of Gilead” (4:1). “Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes that have come up from the washing” (4:2). “Your neck is like the tower of David, built in courses” (4:4). “[Your] eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set” (5:12). “Your navel is a rounded bowl that never lacks mixed wine. Your belly is a heap of wheat” (7:2).

On the other hand, how about this one: “You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you” (4:7).

No regrets! (from The NewsletterNewsletter)

If you’ve ever regretted a big purchase and wondered if you could return it, you’re familiar with the nagging feeling of buyer’s remorse. Thankfully, our Redeemer never experienced that. As a church sign proclaims, “When Jesus bought you, he never had buyer’s remorse. And he never will!” To Jesus, the payment of suffering and death was well worth the payoff. “For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2, NIV).



The heart of a friend

Big-hearted friendliness comes from generously serving others.

Directions: Start with the first D and move according to the arrows beneath the blanks. Then fill in the letters to complete 1 Peter 4:8-10.

U	D	P	L	Y	G	D	G	F	T	B	R	V	E	C
R	E	B	C	S	E	N	G	L	F	N	M	G	R	A
I	S	S	V	O	R	L	N	B	R	V	O	E	C	
N	Y	R	E	A	T	U	M	G	P	R	A			
S	H	O	S	P	Y	G	R	V	O	E	C			
L	M	S	B	C	J	K	V	O	E	C				
O	Q	B	C	J	K	V	O	E	C					

Above all, love each other , because love over a multitude of . Offer to one another without . Each of you should use whatever you have received to others, as faithful stewards of God’s in its various forms.

1 PETER 4:8-10, NIV

Answer: deeply, covers, sins, hospitality, grumbling, gift, serve, grace

Thoughts from our Family Life Pastor, Lee Boso



We don't talk about Bruno.... but maybe we should. WARNING! This may contain spoilers so if you have not seen Disney's Encanto, you may want to return after watching it, but if you don't mind or have already seen the movie or have the song now stuck in your head as an ear worm, proceed.

Amidst family scandal in the movie Encanto, Bruno uses his gift to shine light on unfortunate happenings with his family. When things have reached their limit to handle, he is cast away to make life easier on everyone else. But the reality is that he never leaves.

Often times this is the way we handle tough topics as the church or as families, it's just easier for all of us if we don't talk about them. But the reality is that even if we don't talk about them, they remain, and often times, can cause more trouble ignored than if they are brought into the open. We believe that God is light and truth and through Jesus darkness flees. We don't have to hide from sinful topics, but can trust God to shine light to reveal the truth as we seek Him. And if sin is revealed in us or others, we can trust Him to purify us from it. (see 1 John)

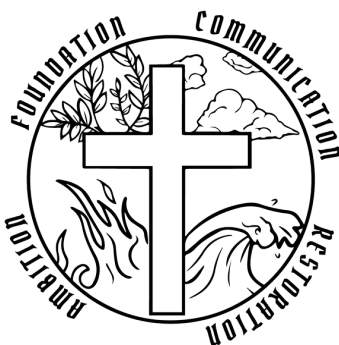
I have been reading recently about young people who have walked away from the church or their faith. A Sticky Faith survey found that 70% of former youth group kids had significant questions about faith while they were in high school. As you read this, you may resonate or you may feel ill equipped to answer those questions, but findings show that those exploring their faith don't need answers as much as they need the space to explore their questions.

I believe this is why Deuteronomy 6:6-9 urges parents to impress the foundations of faith (the law) on their children with consistency. This isn't always formal teaching, but discussions when you're sitting, walking (or driving), with your mouth and with what you do. Ask questions and invite your kids to ask questions about life and faith.

Throughout Israel's journey from slavery to the promised land, they set up pillars, or reminders that would spark questions from their kids to ask "why is this here?" What are those reminders or question starters for your family? What space are you making for your kids to ask questions? Even if you don't know the answer, you can say "I don't know... but let's explore this together, or ...but I do know that God knows, or God is good, or God is faithful because..."

When we don't talk about hard things, the questions don't go away, they just simmer and doubts brew. But if we allow the light of God to shine on those conversations and invite them, we trust God with the outcome and ultimately with the faith and formation of our kids.

What are the things you don't talk about? Why is that? How can you open the door to questions your kids may want to ask, but are afraid to? What visible reminders are you placing in your family's path that causes them to ask about God? Do your kids see you read your Bible or pray? Do they hear how you process difficult situations? Do they notice that God has made a difference in your life and have opportunity to hear about it? My prayer is that the light of Christ shines in your family's life and that the Bruno-like questions aren't stashed away, because even if you don't say them out loud, they are likely looping like a catchy song in your kids minds.



Senior High Convention – New Baptist Church – February 25-27, 2022

Senior High Convention is an annual gathering of students grades 9 through 12 who want a weekend of fun and fellowship.

This year's theme is: **Elements (John 16:33)**, which recognizes that Christ offers us peace in the midst of whatever we face, whether joys or struggles. The Elements (**foundation, restoration, ambition and communication**) help us process our past, inform how we live in the present and guide our future!

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



New Baptist Church

610 28th Street
Huntington WV 25702

Office Hours:

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday thru Friday

Phone:

304-523-3355

E-mail:

newbaptist2008@gmail.com

On the Web:

www.newbaptistchurch.com

Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman
(trente@me.com)

Rev. Lee Boso
(leeboso@gmail.com)

Rev. Robin Crouch
(rlcrouch1948@gmail.com)

Service Hours:

Sunday

- 9:30 Radio Bible Class
- 9:45 Sunday School for all ages
- *11:00 Morning Worship
Kid's Church/Nursery

*Service is also live streamed on
Facebook
([@NewBaptistChurchWV](https://www.facebook.com/NewBaptistChurchWV))

Wednesday

- 6:00 Awana Youth
- 6:30 Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

NBC Food Pantry Hours

Tuesdays 10am – 2pm

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH
610 28TH STREET
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION 2022

ROB ELY



RENDER THE HEARTS



FEBRUARY 25-27 | GRADES 9-12

NEW BAPTIST

610 28TH STREET HUNTINGTON, WV

- Bible Study
- Worship
- Mission Projects
- Girl/Guy Time
- Games
- Interest Groups

Register online at
senior-high-convention-2022.eventbrite.com

\$40 PER PERSON
(\$50 AFTER FEBRUARY 15TH)

Contact kayla@wvbc.org with questions.