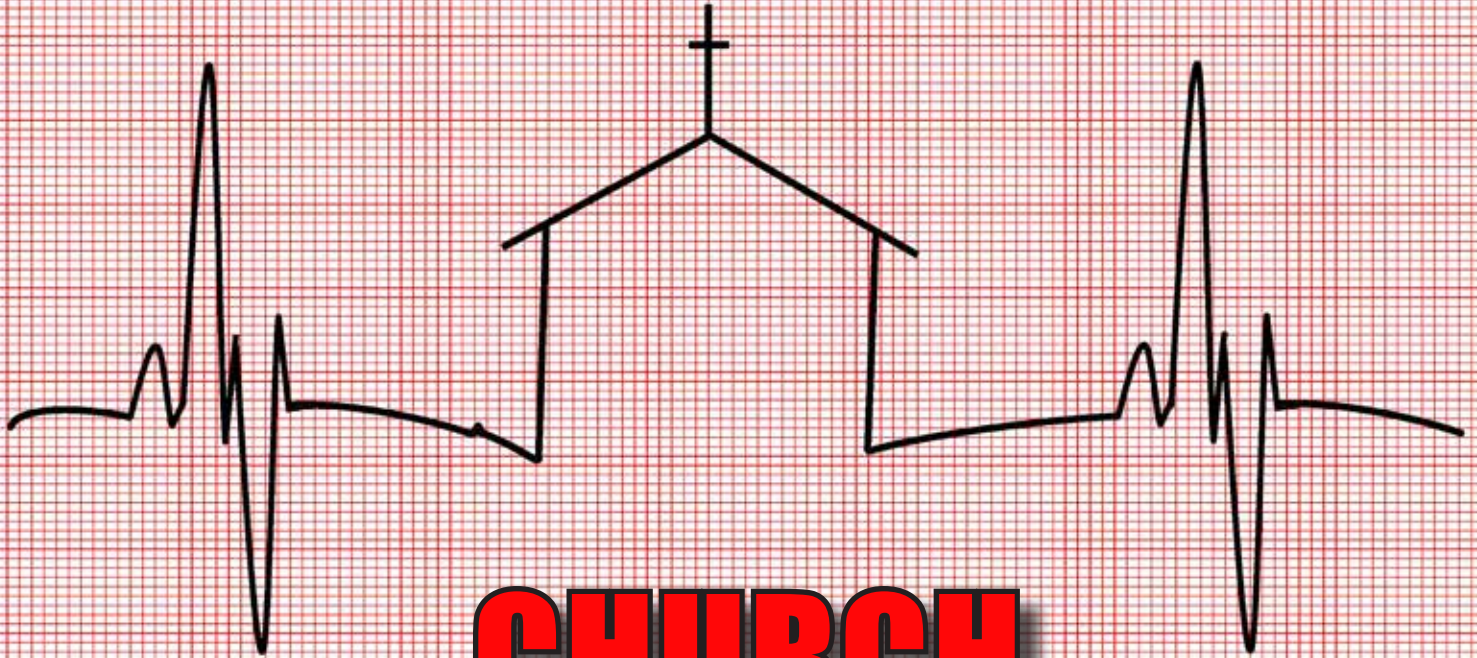


**JESUS IS AT THE
HEART OF**



CHURCH

Revitalization

The West Virginia³



Messenger

“Church Revitalization”



The National Association of Free Will Baptist held a Leadership Conference this past December in Nashville, Tennessee. It was one of the best I have attended.

It featured Rev. Dr. Harry Reeder as the speaker. The theme of the conference was “Church Revitalization.”

This theme can be substantiated by Scriptures from the Old Testament as well as the New. For this article I have chosen to use two very familiar verses as follows: Rev. 2:4-5, “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

It has been my experience over the past thirty-five years that most churches will go through downtimes and uptimes when it comes to attendance. When attendance goes down, it immediately affects the church spiritually, emotionally and financially. Jesus addresses the church at Ephesus first by commending them on the things they were doing right. He then instructs them on how to correct that which was lacking.

Jesus mentions three things to help this church to regain its first love. First,

remember the state from which you have fallen or where you once stood. The happiness, love, and joy you felt when your sins were forgiven. The zeal you had for God’s glory and the salvation of mankind as well as your obedient spirit, your cheerful self-denial, your fervent prayer life, and your separation from the world.

Secondly, He says repent from where you have fallen and humbly seek forgiveness from God and restoration to the fellowship of the church. Thirdly, do the first works i.e., resume your former love for the brethren, and diligence to the ordinances and attendance to the services of the Church.

Jesus adds a warning to the Church of Ephesus if they fail to follow His instructions on how to revitalize their church. He says, I will come and remove thy candlestick. The candlestick refers to the church itself, including its ministers.

Sadly, too many of our churches today are suffering from the same problem as that of the Ephesus Church. Each of our State Ministries stand ready in any way we can to help those churches in need. Please feel free to use the resources available.

Rev Carl Lilly

State Promotional Director

“Jesus must be our First Love”



Message from the Moderator

In the same line of thought as our National Association, I want to look at “Church Revitalization”. The dictionary says revitalize means - to give new life to, or to give new vitality or vigor to. I would guess as individuals or churches, we all could use some “REVITALIZING”.

I think what happens to us all at times is we get a little weary. Sometimes, we get a little lazy. Sometimes, we’re afraid of change. Whatever the reason, sometimes we just need a boost to get us back to the mandate of the Word of God. Paul told Timothy, “stir up the gift of God, which is in thee” For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. He told the Galatians, “let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, time is running out. We need to let the mind of Christ be in us. His mind was to do the Father’s will. He came to “seek and to save”. He told us to “go into all the World”, to “go into the highway and hedges” and compel them to come in. Jude said we could make a difference, we could even pull some “out of the FIRE”.

Edward Everett Hale said: “I am only one, but I am one. I can’t do everything, but I can do something. The something that I ought to

do, I can do. And by the Grace of God, I will”. We all know what we OUGHT to do; love, be faithful, pray, witness, let your light shine, read the Word of the Lord, pray for your pastor and church. James said it like this - God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

In the 51st Psalm, King David needed some “Revitalizing”. First, he had to confess his sin. Then he asked the Lord to wash and cleanse him. Then he asked the Lord to renew the right spirit and restore the joy. Then David said that he would; teach transgressors, sinners would be saved, and he would show forth the praises of the Lord. I ask us all as individuals, churches, and the whole State Assoc. to examine ourselves to see if we need some revitalizing. If we do, I have good news, God is in the revitalizing business. PLEASE HELP US DEAR LORD, TO BE ALL WE CAN BE FOR YOUR GLORY.....

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Meeting this year.

State Moderator
Rev. Earl White





Messenger Devotional

with Assistant Moderator, Bro. Mike Smith

“Right in the Sight of the Lord”

And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did. 2 Kings 18:3

Chapter 18 begins some with big changes for Judah. Hezekiah begins his reign at the age of twenty five years old and reigns for twenty nine years in Jerusalem. Hezekiah did something that some of the other kings left undone, he removed the high places, brake down the images, cut down the groves, and brake the brazen serpent that Moses had made because the children of Israel did burn incense to it. In that verse alone you can see what a terrible spiritual condition the people were in. There was a lot of work ahead for Hezekiah, not only did the images and groves need to be torn down, the hearts of the people needed repair. Notice how verse one started; “Now it came to pass. It was a much needed time for a King to be raised up like Hezekiah who would do that which is right in the sight of the Lord.” The scripture gave some background on him; his mother’s name was Abi the daughter of Zachariah. But what we would learn of him made him able to accomplish the task at hand. Verse five said, “He trusted in the Lord God of Israel.” Verse six said “He clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him.” Verse seven said, “And the Lord was with him.” Verse eight said “He smote the Philistines.” Before we can be victorious, we must first be faithful. It is no surprise when we are busy

with the work of the Lord that trouble will soon show up. In verse seventeen, the King of Assyria has sent messengers to Hezekiah with a threat. Ever notice that the devil has always been the same. Remember what the scripture said; he is as a roaring lion. Now he really isn’t a lion, he just roars like one. The messengers spoke some strong words with strong threats telling the people that the God that they serve wouldn’t be able to deliver them. The end of the chapter teaches us a great lesson, the people held their peace, and answered him not a word. In the next chapter we are still being taught what to do. Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread the letter he had received before the Lord and prayed. His prayer was a plea for their salvation, but also that all the kingdoms of the earth would understand where the victory came from so that God would be honored. When we do that which is right in the sight of the Lord, he will hear and answer. The Assyrian army met a force far greater than any army that Hezekiah could assemble; they were met by the angel of the Lord and destroyed. Isn’t it time for us to trust in the Lord God, to cleave unto him and not depart, to do that which is right in the sight of the Lord? And he will be with us. There are yet battles ahead that we will face, God has the victory.

Rev. Mike Smith

Assistant Moderator

“God has the Victory”

2016 WV Bible Music & Arts Festival

April 16, 2016

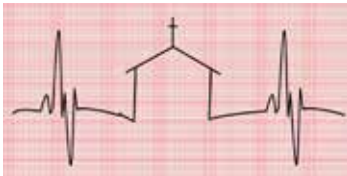
Held at Parsley Bottom FWB Church, near Lenore, WV!

Hosted by Big Elk FWB Church!



*****Don't Miss Out! Start Making Plans Now to Attend*****

“Church Revitalization” Conference July 30, 2016.



Speaker - Rev. Tim Campbell (Arkansas)

Location: Victory FWB, Pecks Mill WV

Pastor: Rosco Chafin

Classes from 10am - 2pm!

3 Classes - 50 mins Each with 10 min breaks

1 hour lunch provided at the Church!

All are welcome to attend!

Provided by the WV State Association!

2016 MARCH



Greetings from the MISSION BOARD
of the West Virginia State
Association of Free Will Baptist.

It is that time of the year when Churches and Individuals across our state are gearing up for the
2016 MARCH FOR MISSIONS.

The MISSION BOARD wants to thank every church, and every individual that has supported
- and will be supporting, our MARCH FOR MISSIONS effort.
HOWEVER.., on average there are only about 35-40 churches and a few conferences that partici-
pate each year. Therefore.., the article below . . .

WHAT IS “MARCH FOR MISSIONS”? AND WHY DO WE DO IT?

WHAT IS “MARCH FOR MISSIONS”?

I could give you my definition - - - But.., let’s look at what Webster’s Dictionary says . . .

“MARCH”

Webster’s Dictionary-- To move along steadily with a rhythmic stride and in step with
others; To move in a direct purposeful manner; To make steady progress...

“FOR”

Webster’s Dictionary-- Used as a function word to indicate purpose - intended goal - the
object or recipient of a perception, desire or activity...

“MISSIONS”

Webster’s Dictionary-- A ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate
its faith or carry on humanitarian work; A local church or parish dependent on a larger
religious organization for direction or financial support...

Therefore.., according to Webster’s Dictionary, the phrase “March For Missions” means . . .

“To move along steadily with a rhythmic stride, and in step with others; To move in a direct pur-
poseful manner; To make steady progress” ... to reach an intended “purpose” or “goal” ... that of
“financial support” of “a ministry” (or ministries - missionaries) “commissioned by” the Free Will Baptist
“religious organization to propagate its faith, or carry on humanitarian work” of said ministries or mis-
sionaries.

WHY DO WE DO IT?

Some 34 years ago, the MISSION BOARD of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will
Baptist set forth to do exactly what is set for above.

MARCH FOR MISSIONS was set up for the purpose of giving every Free Will Baptist in our
state the opportunity “to move along steadily” with other Free Will Baptist in our state - “in a direct

FOR MISSIONS

purposeful manner” - to reach the intended “purpose” or “goal” of MARCH FOR MISSIONS - that of raising the much needed “financial support” for those missionaries, “commissioned by” Free Will Baptist to reach lost souls with the gospel of Christ, and “to propagate” “faith” amongst non-believing people, both in West Virginia, and abroad, in other countries.

With That Said . . . It is the desire of the MISSION BOARD, that every church across our state would get involved, in the two great commissions set forth by Christ . . .

Matt 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

We can try and reach those around us . . . but what about those in others areas - those in other Countries - those that speak another language? How do we reach them? We can only reach them by supporting our missionaries, that are willing to go, where we can not.

The MISSIONS BOARD would like to ask., and encourage., those churches across our state that have not participated - to pray - and ask God what he would have you do.

March For Missions letters have been sent out to all churches listed in our state minutes book. If your church did not receive a letter - please call me (Rickie Holstein) at 304-595-4246.



Send your support for MARCH FOR MISSIONS to:
W.V. State Mission Board
% Rickie Holstein, Treasurer
P.O. Box 4624
Charleston, W.V. 25364

Mission Board Members (with phone numbers)

Rev. Rex Cox (304-684-9458); Rev. Rickie Holstein (304-595-4246); Rev. Raybon Cook (304-682-6168);
Rev. H.B. (Bert) Hall (304-400-4799); John Poling (304-684-3433); Jim Sturgill (304-683-3726);
Rev. Joseph Fortner (304-525-2280); Rev. John Hudson (304-342-2879)

2016 March for Mission Area Revivals

Day	Date	Facility Held At	Service Conducted by	Speaker
Mon	29-Feb	Nolan FWB - Williamson, WV	Unity Association	Rev. H.B. (Bert) Hall
Tue	1-Mar	Nolan FWB - Williamson, WV	Liberty Conference	Rev. Rex Cox
Wed	2-Mar	Nolan FWB - Williamson, WV	Tug River Conference	Rev. Rickie Holstein
Thu	3-Mar	Nolan FWB - Williamson, WV	Wayne County Conference	Rev. Josue Rivera
Fri	4-Mar	Nolan FWB - Williamson, WV	Christian Fellowship	Rev. Carl Lily
Mon	14-Mar	Maple Lane FWB - St Mary's, WV	Maple Lane FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Tue	15-Mar	Evergreen Hills FWB - Cottageville, WV	Evergreen Hills FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Wed	16-Mar	Hope FWB - Parkersburg, WV	Hope FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Thu	17-Mar	Mount Hope FWB - Marietta, OH	Mount Hope FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Fri	18-Mar	Good Hope FWB - Reedy, WV	Good Hope FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Sat	19-Mar	Beach Run FWB - Arvilla, WV	Beach Run FWB	Rev. Rick Bowling
Mon	21-Mar	Veto Lake Tabernacle	Veto Lake Tabernacle	Rev. Rickie Holstein
Tue	22-Mar	Bonds Creek FWB - Ellenboro, WV	Bonds Creek FWB	Rev. Carl Lily
Wed	23-Mar	Emmanuel Fellowship	Emmanuel Fellowship	Rev. Josue Rivera
Sun	20-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	First FWB	Rev. Daniel Kelly
Mon	21-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	Loudendale FWB	Rev. H.B. (Bert) Hall
Tue	22-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	Winifred FWB	Rev. Tim Cooper
Wed	23-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV		Rev. Oswald Wiley
Thu	24-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	Slaughters Creek FWB	Rev. Gary Smith
Fri	25-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	Crown Hill FWB	Rev. Carl Pomeroy
Sat	26-Mar	First FWB - Cheasapeake, WV	Dry Branch FWB	Rev. Greg Stover

All services start at 7:00pm and there will be a freewill offering each night. The monies from the offerings will go to the missions. Brother Rick Bowling serves Home Missions as the Director of Hispanic Ministries. He, and wife Linda, and their family served as foreign missionaries in Uruguay for seven years. Rick and Linda have a burden to work with the Hispanic ministry. They are applying a wealth of knowledge and know-how in working with the Hispanic people. Brother Josue pastured the Hispanic Church "Rock of Salvation" in the Eastern Panhandle for six years then in July 2014 relocated with his family to start a new work in Huntington, WV. Rev. B.H. (Bert) Hall is a former home missionary, and current pastor of Loudendale church. Brother Rickie and Brother Rex are Mission Board Members. Brother Carl Lily is our State Promotional Director. Brother Greg Stover is a pastor and State Assitant Clerk. Brother Daniel Kelly, Tim Cooper, Gary Smith, and Carl Pomeroy are all pastors in the state, and Brother Oswald Wiley is an evangelist. Pray the Lord will use these brothers in these revivals that we may see souls saved, sprits revived, and monies raised for missions!

Pastors are asked to have the devotionals. There will be plaques given to the top three churches and youth groups that raise the most monies for the month of March.

Food, Fun and Fellowship Night will be Saturday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bonds Creek Youth Center. Meat, potatoes will be furnished and door prizes will be given. Everyone please bring a covered dish. Come and join in all the fun and fellowship.



WAC News *with Sister Jody Sullivan*

I'll admit it – I have a Facebook page. While there are people who are adamant that it is a bad thing, there are many of us who use it for good.

The art of letter writing is almost extinct. Emails aren't used as much as in the past. Texting goes only to particular people – and in my case, is an extra charge. FB can include text and pictures or video and can be sent to all your friends and family in an instant at no charge.

I love being able to keep up with my family in Oklahoma and my missionary friends all over the world. Even better, I love scrolling back through their past posts and see the changes in their lives. Hopefully the changes are good. Last year, I was going through pictures that had been my aunt's and found a picture of my Grandpa Wilcox and all the Wilcox boys (my daddy and his brothers). I posted it on Father's Day and got responses from my cousins that they'd never seen that picture! Some of the people I grew up with at church posted kind responses about knowing those family members that have now all gone to heaven.

The Bible is like scrolling through past posts – we catch glimpses of people who lived thousands of years ago. We see their activities in daily life and many times we see the bad as well as the good. I'm glad the Bible even records the failures. David, King of Israel, started off good but later

in life hid as a fugitive, lusted after his neighbor, committed adultery with her and then had her husband killed. We read of David's confession and the consequences of his acts but we also see that he is known as a "man after God's own heart." We can take courage from these people. Our failures don't mean the end of our lives. Failures can often be the start of a new and better spiritual walk.

If your ladies group at church isn't a member of the WV Women Active for Christ, I'd like to invite you to come to our meetings and check them out for yourselves. These meetings are a wonderful way to become acquainted with some of the best women in the world. They love the Lord. They praise Him with their whole heart. They sing and pray. They support our missionaries and community work. You won't find any better group of women anywhere.

I'd like to invite every lady to come to our annual convention on Saturday, May 21st at the Sophia FWB Church in Sophia, WV. Our meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. Sis. Alice Smith will be our special speaker that day and she will share her heart with the thought, "Occupy 'til He Comes."

If you have any questions about our group or the meeting, please feel free to give me a call at 304-523-4417.

*Until He Comes,
Jody Sullivan*

www.facebook.com/wvfwbmessenger



LIKE, SHARE, AND FOLLOW!



Dear Friends,

Assured of your knowing the true meaning of Christmas, I'm sure your's was merry. I'm sending my best wishes to you in the New Year 2016.

While reading an old devotional book (*Streams in the Desert*, first published in 1925), John 10:41 and 42 caught my eye, "And many resorted unto him and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spoke of this man were true. And many believed on him there." So, what does this mean? You and I cannot perform miracles, but every Christian can tell others about Jesus. As we are faithful to do that, some will believe in Him. John the Baptist never performed a miracle. However, listen to what Jesus said about him. "among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist" Luke 7:28. According to John 1:8, "He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."

My friends, you and I may not have any special ministry gifts. But, like John the Baptist, as we go about our daily tasks, we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. We can "bear witness of that Light."

The world in which we live is in great turmoil. More than anything or anyone, people need the Lord. May we be faithful to "go" where He has placed us and tell the greatest story that has ever been told, the story of Jesus. And, as we "go" where we are, let us pray for those whom God has called to "go" and be "witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. May God help us to support them through our prayers and finances. Please be actively involved in March for Missions this year.

May God bless and keep you in His perfect will,
Sister Alice F. Smith
304-949-2713

War Ridge Free Will Baptist Church Christmas Play

"Success: A full Sanctuary!"



The children (left to right) are Dalton Kirby, Charlie Swiney, Caleb Long, Michael Swiney, Grant Fox, and Kindie Long.

This year the War Ridge Free Will Baptist Church decided to hold a Christmas Play for the first time in years. We are a small country church with a small congregation and one of our goals was to pack the church. On December 11th we managed to do just that! To help make our play a success we not only ran an announcement in the local paper, but sent out invitations to neighbors and members of the congregation that hadn't attended church in a while.

The adult play "The Cobbler's Guest" tells the story of an old cobbler in turn of the century France who hears the voice of the Lord telling him to expect a visit from the Lord on Christmas day. The Children's Play was our version of the speech that Linus gives at the end of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" where after Charlie Brown laments "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus responds with the Christmas story quoting scripture from Luke. At the end of the play the audience joined in the singing of "Joy to the World", followed by refreshments at the church auxiliary hall. Perhaps your church doesn't have a problem filling the sanctuary, but if it does you may want to try our method and send out some personal invitations.

Needed: “Delivery Men and Women”

By: Glenna Price
Good Hope FWB Church, Reedy, WV



The world desperately needs to find Jesus. Can your hands point and lead the way? Would you be fearful for your children to follow in your footsteps? Can God count on your mouth to speak the truth in a world full of lies, deception and misdirection?

Time is swiftly passing and the Lord needs messengers. There are countless souls walking past the outstretched arms of Jesus, shoving Him aside to pursue their interests. Can the Lord count on your willingness to tell the good news of the gospel? Is your mouth a well of spiritual knowledge, capable of extending righteous advice, or would your own words condemn you? The Lord can't use mouths that spit out accusations, hateful words, or lies. Those "fountains" are not fit to carry God's message. "...For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh," Matthew 12:34.

Look at your hands. Can the Lord put confidence in you to handle His Word; to reach out in compassion to His people? Can He trust you to lead by your own example? Look at your feet. Can He ask you to visit one of His sheep? Will you go at His bidding or will procrastination be your response? Will He find you running to do His bidding, or retiring to your recliner to watch your favorite show?

God searches for dependable, dedicated hands to extend, feet to obediently go, and men and women who can give sound advice and counsel to a dying world OR to a next door neighbor. Will you be available to be God's messenger boy or girl? Will you set yourself aside to be a trusted vessel that God can depend on? Special delivery messages are waiting to be carried to a dark world!

Seeking a Pastor!

**Pleasant Grove FWB Church
Anderson, Missouri**

Interested parties should contact:
David Bowers

71 Stogdon Hollow Road
Anderson, MO 64831
Phone: 417-845-6805

We are a small church, and
we just celebrated our 100th birthday.



90 Stanley Lane
Greeneville, TN 37743
PHONE:
423.639.9449
E-MAIL: info@fwbfm.com
WEBSITE: www.fwbfm.com

We have field representatives available to come and share about Family Ministries with your churches. Log on to our website for a list and contact info for our reps.

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Messenger Submissions

The West Virginia Free Will Baptist family loves reading special news & events from your local church and conference. Please email your articles to the.messenger@wvfwb.org.

Article deadline for the Summer edition is April 30, 2016.

By submitting material to The Messenger, you agree all submissions are property of The Messenger, and you agree The Messenger has been granted the non-exclusive right to edit, use, and reproduce any submission. Not all articles received will fit into the space given in each issue, therefore we will “try” to insert unused articles at a further dates.