



# the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

July, 2019

## Experiencing God ... Again 2019

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### Steel Valley Picnic July 14 at Perkins Park

Join us for an association wide picnic July 14 at Perkins Park in Warren right-on Mahoning Ave across the street from the downtown Courthouse Square. The times are 3:00-7:00 PM.

#### Open to the Community

The entire community is welcome to join us for the picnic. We will have food, fellowship, music, games, and the gospel!

The picnic will be a great opportunity for you to bring your unchurched friends and relatives to a relaxed, enjoyable event that will contain a brief time of worship and a gospel presentation. We have the amphitheater reserved.

#### Block Party Trailer

Yes the Block Party Trailer will be at the park for the picnic. Come see many of the upgrades and see how you can use this tool to increase your church's outreach events.



#### Food

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and more will be provided. No need to bring any thing other than a desire for a great day.

### Special-called Exec. Bd Meeting

A Special-Called Business meeting is scheduled for July 22 at 7 PM to discuss and vote on the sell of the Tod Avenue property that allows the current congregation to remain for five years. This meeting will be held at Grace Place, 545 Commerce Ave. The only topic to be discussed will be the above mentioned topic. The guidelines for this business meeting will follow those of the Executive Board, not for an annual or semiannual meeting. Please be in prayer for God's clear direction.

### Celebration of Christian Unity

A special gathering of the body of Christ, Friday, July 19, 7 pm, at Cortland Trinity Baptist Church (2576 McCleary Jacoby Road, in Cortland. Music will be led by Rock of Grace Worship Team and from other area churches.

Speakers will be Pastor  
Everett Whiteside



and Pastor  
Mikel Lagaras



### Soul Maintenance

Associational Missionary  
Gary L. Frost



Recently I read a book by John Ortberg entitled "Soul Keeping: Caring For The Most Important Part Of You" that contained this powerful parable about the Keeper of the Stream. I was wonderfully challenged by this little story and I know that you will be impacted as well. Here it is:

"There once was a town high in the Alps that straddled the banks of a beautiful stream. The stream was fed by springs that were old as the earth and deep as the sea. The water was clear like crystal. Children laughed and played beside it; swans and geese swam on it. You could see the rocks

*see Soul, next page*

### Prayer and Planning Retreat

All SVBA churches are encouraged to participate in the Prayer and Planning Retreat at the Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly near Cambridge, Ohio. This



overnight stay will highlight the Kingdom Cohort emphasis, a long range focus to lead all our churches to be healthy. Leaders at the State Convention will lead this event. SVBA churches are encouraged to bring up to five church leaders. The schedule is 3 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday, August 16-17.

Participants need to register ASAP. Scholarships are available.

### VBS @ Memorial BC

VBS at Memorial BC in Poland will be held July 8-12 from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. "Amazing Encounters with Jesus"



## You Never Listen to Me!

Have you ever been told that? Do people in church ever think their pastor is not listening to them? Do pastors ever think the people in church are not listening to him? If you answered yes to any of those questions then you may need to learn something about communication.

Here is a good definition for communication. "Communication is the process through which participants create and share information with one another as they move toward reaching mutual understanding" (Rogers and Steinfatt, *Intercultural Communication*, 113).

Do pastors and church members need help to move toward reaching a mutual understanding? Could a better understanding of intercultural communication principles help solve miscommunication issues in the local church? Pastors need to set the example in growing as communicators. And communication is much more than preaching and teaching. Is this something that would be helpful to you?



All pastors need a good understanding of culture, contextualization and intercultural communication to help them lead a church through a healthy change process. Successfully leading a church through a healthy change process will take some time and some goals. Through all of the time it takes to reach any of the goals that are set their will be some type of communication taking place. How do we know if there is a mutual understanding in that communication?

*see Listen, next page*

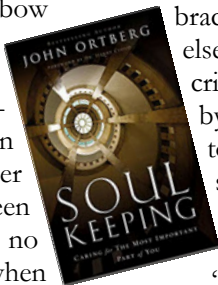
### *Soul, from page 1*

and the sand and the rainbow trout that swarmed at the bottom of the stream.

"High in the hills, far beyond anyone's sight, lived an old man who served as Keeper of the Springs. He had been hired so long ago that now no one could remember a time when he wasn't there. He would travel from one spring to another in the hills, removing branches or fallen leaves or debris that might pollute the water. But his work was unseen.

"One year the town council decided they had better things to do with their money. No one supervised the old man anyway. They had roads to repair and taxes to collect and services to offer, and giving money to an unseen stream-cleaner had become a luxury they could no longer afford. So the old man left his post.

"High in the mountains, the springs went untended; twigs and branches and worse muddied the liquid flow. Mud and silt compacted the creek bed; farm wastes turned parts of the stream into stagnant bogs. For a time no one in the



village noticed. But after a while, the water was not the same. It began to look brackish. The swans flew away to live elsewhere. The water no longer had a crisp scent that drew children to play by it. Some people in the town began to grow ill. All noticed the loss of sparkling beauty that used to flow between the banks of the streams that fed the town.

"The life of the village depended on the stream, and the life of the stream depended on the keeper. The city council reconvened, the money was found, the old man was rehired.

"After yet another time, the springs were cleaned, the stream was pure, children played again on its banks, illness was replaced by health, the swans came home, and the village came back to life. The life of a village depended on the health of the stream.

"The stream is your soul. And you are the keeper."

Let's commit to clear our souls from the debris that renders us ineffective for Christ. Commit to the constant and persistent maintenance of your soul.

## October Workshops

You have spoken! We have heard! (and if anyone would like to submit additional requests you can)

The day before our annual meeting will contain breakout sessions on a variety of topics requested by you to help our own churches. Bring many people from your church to attend so you can return to your church with a wealth of advice and material to use.

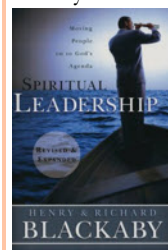
Topics include the following:

- How to Lead a Dynamic Prayer Meeting, led by Gary Frost
- Encouragement and Ministries for Pastors' Wives, led by Lynette Frost
- Parent Mentoring, led by Bella Women's Center
- Principles for Revitalizing the Church, led by Mark Parks
- Financial Planning for Retirement, led by Ron Brown
- How to Utilize Social Media, led by Brent Beck
- Resolving Conflict, led by Rick Blair
- Ministry to the Addicted & Mentally Hurting, led by Randy Langham

Workshops will begin at 9:00 AM on Friday, October 18 and continue until 2:30 PM. Lunch will be provided.

## 2019 Annual Mtg

Our guest speaker for the October 19, 2019 annual meeting will be Dr. Richard Blackaby, the oldest son of Henry Blackaby. Richard Blackaby received his MDiv and PhD from Southwestern Seminary. He will also speak Friday evening on Spiritual Leadership. His book, by the same name, is a very excellent resource.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Pastor Kevin Crum for his graduation from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters Degree!

## Listen, from page 2

Let me give you a clue; go as a learner, not as an expert! You will hear that phrase a few times during the seminar. Pastors need to go as a learner into their church in order to lead healthy change. They should also learn about culture, contextualization, and intercultural communication in order to help healthy spiritual growth take place.

As a part of my doctoral dissertation and research I will be offering a free seminar on how culture, contextualization and intercultural communication impact a healthy change process in the church. I cannot hold the seminar on July 20. The new date will be in the fall and it will be in the August Associational Newsletter. I hope you understand and I apologize for any inconvenience the change causes.

This seminar is for pastors and associational leaders. Some pastors have asked if other church leaders could attend. I would be glad to have you bring one or two deacons or elders with you as long as you register them. If you have any questions contact Bill Mazey at: Grace Baptist: 330-847-7577 or [gracebaptistchampion@gmail.com](mailto:gracebaptistchampion@gmail.com)

## Ohio NorthEast School of Theology

At the recent Executive Board Meeting Steel Valley approved the start of its own school to provide contextualized leadership development. The primary organization will be the ADVANCE program, a part of Gateway Seminary, one of our six SBC seminaries, located in Ontario, CA. These courses will be taught by local instructors for anyone who wants the quality of a Bible-college type degree without the long distance travel or the high expenses. There is a good possibility the first class will be held at the new office building, starting January 28, and will last 15 weeks, with three hours of class time per week. More information coming soon. Brochures will also be available soon.

You noticed the name correctly as the

O.N.E.  
School of  
Theology.



## New Churches ??

We rejoice there are at least three more churches considering joining the SBC and Steel Valley. The main thing is the desire to work cooperatively in God's kingdom work!

## Facebook Master

So what do you call the webmaster of Facebook? I don't know. Maybe he is an Admin? Maybe a FaceMaster?

Either way we rejoice in having Brent Beck to be the one to organize our Facebook page. Hooray! Oops, I should have said, 😊

## Upcoming Calendar

July 1, 6 PM - Admin. Team Meeting  
July 8, 7 PM - Executive Board Meeting  
July 14 - Picnic at Perkins Park  
July 22 - 7 PM Special-called Business Meeting  
Aug 5, 4:30 PM - M&M Team Meeting  
Aug 5, 6 PM - Admin Team Meeting  
Aug 16-17, 3 PM to 3 PM - Kingdom Cohort Prayer and Planning Retreat  
Sept 15-18 - OnMission Celebration  
Oct 18, 9 AM to 2:30 PM - A day of workshops at Rising Star  
Oct 19, 9 AM - Annual Meeting

## Small-Group Workshop

Strengthen your team and accelerate the health and growth of your small group ministry by attending "Accelerate!" Ohio Small Group Workshop. This is a 3-day strategic workshop designed for small group point people and their leadership teams. Violet Baptist Church in Pickerington OH. Cost is between \$175 to \$195. Contact Daniel Thomas at 423-534-9321. September 16-18.

## Progress in the Pulpit

This one-day learning experience for psators will be led by Pastor Rich Nathan, Dr. Jim Shaddix, and Dr. Don Whitt on "How to Grow in Your Preaching." Monday, Sept. 30 at FBC, Lancaster. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and books.

*We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.  
May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.  
Now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven  
With the saving strength of His right hand.  
Some boast in chariots and some in horses,  
But we will boast in the name of the Lord, our God.  
Psalm 20:5-7*

## The Steel Valley Churches and Missions

Austintown Baptist Church  
Beacon of Hope BC  
Carnation City BC  
Central BC\*  
Christian Community BC  
Community BC  
Cornersburg BC  
Cortland Trinity BC  
East Conneaut BC  
Faith BC  
First BC, Andover\*  
First BC, Garrettsville  
First BC, Newton Falls  
First Spanish BC  
Grace BC  
Grace Korean BC  
Grace Place Ministries  
Hope BC  
Howland Glen BC



Living Testimony Ministries  
\*Living Water BC  
Margaret Wynn Memorial BC  
Mercy Community Church  
New Birth-Kimmelbrook BC  
New Covenant BC  
New Hope BC, Windham  
New Hope BC, Youngstown  
Northside BC  
Rising Star BC  
Shenango Valley BC  
Solid Rock Community Church  
Southington BC  
Struthers Bible Baptist Church  
Unity BC  
Upper Room Ministries  
Youngstown Metro Church

\* seeking a pastor