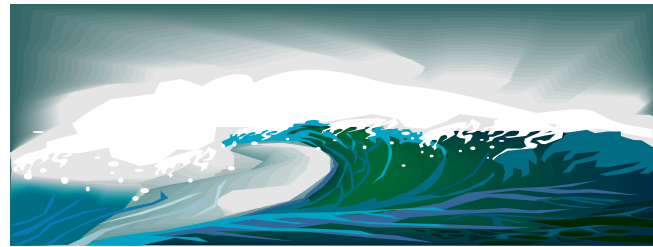




# The *January 2018* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



**First Baptist Church , 215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164 ~ 1-304-273-9910**  
**Pastor Mark Gerstell ~ 1-304-377-2812 ~ [www.fbcraenswood.org](http://www.fbcraenswood.org)**

During this Christmas season many familiar carols have been sung and enjoyed by our congregation. Most of what we sing reflects our prayers of what we hope for and envision for our futures.

This is most common as we approach a New Year. What are you hoping for and praying about? What lessons can we take with us into the New Year? On the street, *Merry Christmas!* is now replaced with *Happy New Year!* I can't think of any way to make it happier than to fall into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I find comfort in knowing that *one day every knee shall bow for the second coming of Jesus Christ*. Many times we refer to the baby New Year. Jesus explained to Nicodemus that he must be born again. What does this mean? Jesus was talking about a spiritual rebirth. *This rebirth can happen at any time; however it must be desired and sought.*

So what is your New Year's resolution? There are many worthwhile ones from which to choose. Getting physically more fit, stopping a bad habit, ***but the most important is walking with a firmer grip, hand in hand with Jesus Christ.*** There are many people who just don't feel worthy or they just don't take time to think of their relationship with Jesus.

One great New Year's resolution would be to become more inviting to those people who are unchurched. At FBC we have a great church family. A family to be proud of which is doing many things right in advancing the message of love and friendship. People will want to be a part of something when they see it making a positive difference in the world around them. Are you making a positive difference in the life of a friend, co-worker etc.? Let's be excited about this baby New Year with all its potential. I think it is easier to share Christ with people in which you have things in common. Take advantage of these inroads and be sure your friends know you are a Christian.

Within walking distance of our church we most likely can find many people in need. Many simply just need to be noticed. Our church has a wonderful card ministry, take time to send a card to someone recovering from a recent surgery or illness. FBC has special outreach with its CommUnity Kitchen. This is a ministry in need of volunteers and there are blessings waiting to be realized for those who volunteer in this effort.

2018, like any year, is experienced one day at a time. **Serving Christ together, let's be all Christ intended each of us to be.** A body has many parts which performs many tasks. If not for the tiny muscle that lifts the eyelid we would not be able to see. The church body is much the same. *As your new year matures, be sure to take full advantage of opportunities to serve in the advancement of His kingdom here on earth.*

*Happy New Year!*

*Pastor Mark*



The New Year is a reminder of a new and better way forward. *When I think of the New Year, I think of the power of forgiveness and a re-do in life when we accept Jesus as our Lord.* I've never found anyone who says, "last year was great and there's no way this one will be better". In fact it's almost always, "I hope next year is better".

We can make next year better and more spiritual if we want. It's not hard like losing weight or quitting smoking. *It's simply agreeing to put God in the forefront of our lives.* Here's what we can do: We can pledge to pray more, read our Bibles more, invite people to church more, pledge to serve more than be served, and to love more this year than last year. These are pretty simple things that have a tremendous return on investment in our walk with Jesus. **The Holy Spirit empowers us to be the light of the world.**

As parents and grandparents we are the Bible that our kids read. They see us every day. Are we genuine in our walk? When we fall, do we demonstrate how we say we are sorry to the Lord and press on?

**As we move into 2018 I challenge each of you to let your light shine before your kids.** Let them hear your goals for including God in your life. Ask them what *they* can do to have a closer walk with the Lord in 2018.

These conversations are extremely valuable. Don't miss the opportunities the New Year allows for talking to your kids about Jesus and what they think they can do more of to honor him.

As far as youth groups, I want to thank you all for allowing your kids to be involved in our youth programs. ***For those of you who volunteered your time last year to help our youth programs in any way, I want to say thank you!*** It means so much. You may not get much recognition on Earth for what you're doing, but in heaven they are taking note.

Please consider volunteering for the nursery, junior church, and youth programs. ***You don't have to be a theologian, just someone who loves kids and the Lord. It's not hard, just let your light shine.***

In His service,

**Pastor Toby**

### Monthly Meetings & Activities

Jan 1 Happy New Year - Office Closed  
Jan 7 College Student Sunday  
Jan 8 Trustee Meeting @ 6 pm  
BOCE @ 7 pm  
Deacons @ 8 pm  
Jan 9 Men's Fellowship @ 6:30 pm  
Jan 10 Annual Reports Due  
Jan 14 Breakfast with the Wisemen 9:30 am  
Jan 17 Annual Business Meeting @ 6:30 pm  
Jan 18 CIRCLE @ 7 pm  
Jan 19 Movie Night @ 7:00 pm  
Jan 20 Church Safety Meeting 4-7 pm  
Jan 21 Sanctity of Life Sunday  
New Officer Installation  
Jan 22 Vision Committee @ 7:00 pm

### Nursery Workers

Jan 7 Bev Stephenson  
Jan 14 Connie Staats  
Jan 21 Jessica Morgan  
Jan 28 Leigh Ann Kerns

### Children's Church

Jan 7 Eugene Morgan  
Jan 14 Deb Lyons  
Jan 21 Liz Stewart  
Jan 28 Jennifer Wagoner

### CommUnity Kitchen

Jan 7 Burt Lyons  
Jan 13 Susan West Crew  
Jan 20 Lion's Club  
Jan 27 Wagoner Family



### Focus on Sunday School:



***I would like to encourage all parents to come to Sunday School AND bring your children and/or grandchildren. Make Sunday morning a habit of learning and worship.***  
**Susan**

### ***Making a Habit***

I read an article, *18 Tricks to Make New Habits Work* by Scott Young. The New Year is upon us and we can all think of habits we would like to start. Scott's habit makers are geared toward things like exercise and studying on a daily basis. But some of the tricks could be used to other good habits we should make like attending Sunday School and evening church services.

1. *Commit to a length of time.* 1 month of faithful attendance or even 2 months.
2. *Make it daily.* Hmm. Can you pray daily for God to give you the tenacity to stick to your new habit?
3. *Remind yourself.* Set an alarm the evening before. Set an alarm an hour before it's time to leave for Sunday School or church.
4. *STAY CONSISTENT.* *The more consistent your habit the easier it will be to stick to.*
5. *Get a Buddy.* I like this one! Bring a friend. Bring your parents. Bring your kids. Someone to motivate you if you lag behind.
6. *Use 'But'.* If you start thinking negatively about Sunday School or church, add a "but" to the thought and add a positive thought about it.
7. *Associate with a role model.* Maybe someone who attends regularly.
8. *Know the benefits.* A closer walk with God. My grandmother used to say "If you don't go to church on Sunday, you'll have the devil in you all week." You really do feel better attending services.
9. *Be Imperfect.* It may take you a few attempts to get in the habit. Difficulties may come up. But don't give up! Keep starting over.

There were more tricks listed. This is just a few. But the idea is still important:

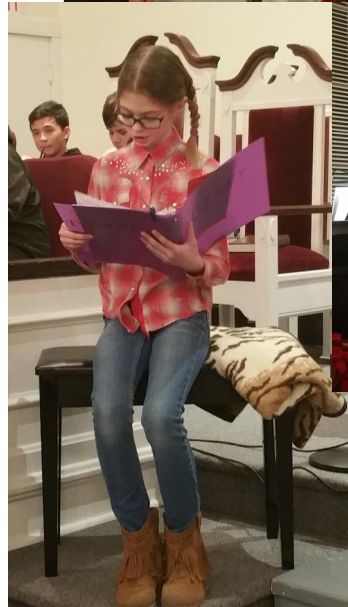
***Make Sunday School and ALL church attendance a habit in the New Year!***

Submitted by Susan West



# Youth Praise Band and Kids Christmas Program

was on  
December 17.  
Great Job  
Everyone!





## PURE LOVE

*The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon waters.*  
Psalms 24:1-2

I would like to start off the New Year light heartedly. We've all experienced within the last year so much hatred and sadness in the world. The God of God, the Lord of Lord, has so much more to offer us. His whole intention was to show us true, purer and un-relinquished love. We, as human beings, have fallen short.

The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son and daughter that he reared with loving care may become ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those who we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. Man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees and do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our head.

The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his DOG. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be near his master's side.

He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a Prince. When all other friends leave, he remains. When riches take wing and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master as an outcast into the cold friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him - to guard him against danger, and to fight against his enemies.

When the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all others' friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness - faithful and true even to death.

There is so much we could learn from man's best friend. Maybe, we should all act like a dog; they seem to have it right on what the Lord wanted from humans. I dedicate this to another man and his best friend - Boø

***Happy New Year!***

Submitted by Burt Lyons



*Written in secret.*  
**EVERY** hair *Counted.*  
*Valued above rubies.*  
a life known by **GOD.**



## *Sanctity of Life Sunday*

*January 21, 2018*

Life is the most precious gift God bestows upon us—new birth as a baby and rebirth as a believer in Christ. If our life is so precious to the Lord, who are we to overlook it or ignore those in need?

In Jeremiah 29:11 we read, ***“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”***

Over half of the pregnancies in the United States are unplanned. We need to support those women who find themselves in fear, are anxious or stressed due to a pregnancy.

It is our responsibility as Christians to help those in crisis who may be thinking of abortion. One way we can help is by supporting the Women’s Crisis Center. We have baby bottles available for you to collect coins or bills as you decide what is best so that we can help with this ministry. You can also designate an amount and put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Let’s help give a hope and a future to those waiting to be born. Give as the Lord leads.

### **College Student Sunday**

As tradition, our college students will present the service on Sunday, January 7.

Mark DeLong will be bringing the message, *“Who Is the Greatest?”* Some others who will be helping are Cari Mize and Grant Chapman, Sami Wagoner, Holly Gerstell, Nathanael Flesher.

Everyone is invited to come support our college youth as they bring the word of the Lord to us on Sunday.

### **New Officer Installation**

With the New Year comes a new group of church officers, those who have been chosen to help our church in the ministries of God.

On Sunday January 21, these officers will be presented and installed before the church during the morning worship service.

As always, be in prayer for our church and those in leadership as we strive to follow the path that Christ has shown us.

## Christmas Happenings Around First Baptist



## Caroling!!



## Evening Shop and Movie Night!



## The FBC Tradition of Breakfast with the Wisemen

After Pastor Ken Miller left in 2004, our interim pastor Gerald Morgan made a request to Rick Garavaglia, FBC Youth Pastor, to come up with an idea to help the people come together after the Christmas holidays. January is generally a lower attendance month and he felt it would be good to encourage the congregation to keep up with church activities; especially Sunday School. Rick spoke to then Sunday School Superintendent, Susan West to see if she had any ideas.

Thus the first Breakfast with the Wisemen began in January 2005. The attendance that year was about 95! The story remains the same every year - the scriptures never change in the Word of God. The message is always the same. Jesus Christ was born to save His people from a sinful nature. Yet, even with the repetition, each year starts fresh as we hear again the synopsis of Christ's birth, the angel's message, the shepherd's adoration, the visit of the magi.

Only the faces change each year. Some past toddlers who portrayed Jesus have been Josh Mize, Marcus Williams, Benjamin Crow, William West, Mason Kerns, Simon Poff, even Jaz Morgan filled in when we had a sick 'Jesus' last year. Many have participated as readers and wisemen. The program has become an annual event loved by many.

This year's Breakfast will be on January 14 and starts at 9:30. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the program and the breakfast following. Come be a part of an annual First Baptist tradition. You will be blessed.



Breakfast with the Wisemen  
January 14 at 9:30



## HAPPENINGS AT FBC



The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. Many thanks to **Jane and Jon Moore** for the time spent putting the decorations in place. Also, many thanks to all who donated poinsettias to make our church a lovely place to worship.

### Joshua Legg is Baptized



On Sunday, November 19, **Joshua Legg** following the ordinance of baptism. **Pastor Mark** performed the service for **Josh**.

Welcome, **Josh**, to our family of believers!

### Rolling Bandages for Missions

**Carolyn Brown** joined **Susan West** and **Kathy Hudson** for an afternoon of rolling bandages.

The bandages will be sent to the mission hospitals in Africa.

**Carolyn** led the group in rolling. All together 74 rolls of 5 yard bandages will be mailed.



### Beckett James Wyant is Dedicated



Little **Beckett** was brought forward for dedication by his mom **Ashlee** and father **Brandon Wyant** during the service on December 17. Beckett was joined by his grandparents, **Jon and Jane Moore**, and his older brother **Conner**.

**Pastor Toby Wagoner** performed the beautiful service as the parents agreed before God to bring **Beckett** up in a Christian home.



### Thanks Richard Massey!

In the picture to the left, you can see the roller device that was used by the women to roll bandages for the mission hospitals.

Many thanks to **Richard Massey** for making 3 of the rollers for us to use!

It took a few tries for us to figure out the best way to use them, but then we were able to work quickly to roll the bandages.

## Author and Time of Writing

The book of Proverbs bears the inspired title: Proverbs of Solomon, son of David (chapter 1:1). Solomon is also mentioned as poet in chap. 10:1 and 25:1.

In chapter 22:17 and 24:23 the proverbs (contained in the sections following these verses) are called "words of the wise". Finally chapters 30:1 and 31:1 mention Agur and Lemuel as poets of the proverbs. We do not know anything, however, about their identity.

As David was the greatest poet of Psalms so Solomon was the greatest poet of Proverbs. First Kings 4:29-34 states: "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country (JND: sons of the east), and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men, than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about. And he spoke three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springs out of the wall: he spoke also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom."

Only around a thousand of Solomon's proverbs are collected in the book of Proverbs and were maintained by divine inspiration and preservation. King Hezekiah's men collected some of Solomon's proverbs only 200 years later (compare Proverbs 25:1). Also Solomon has probably not compiled all proverbs but taken over already known proverbs by the wise (compare chap. 22:17; 24:23). The same implies for the "appendix" in Proverbs 30 and 31 where the name of Agur and Lemuel appear. Solomon has therefore more likely collected the words of these men than just added them later. Solomon reigned around 970 to 931 BC and Hezekiah (in whose time many ancient things came to honour) around 716 to 687 BC. This fixes the beginning and the end of the book's origin.

## Purpose of Writing

Maxims (or aphorisms) played an important part in antiquity. This is still the case in the Orient. In a time when not everybody was able to read or to write, the learning or knowledge of proverbs was a special form of instruction.

One has found a certain similarity between Proverbs 22:17-23:11 and the Egyptian book of knowledge of Amenemope. This discovery on the one hand confirms the spreading and popularity of collected proverbs in the Orient. At the same time an enormous difference comes to light: The worldly, heathen maxim is a mixture of moral philosophy and thinking by chance whereas the book of Proverbs of Solomon in the Holy Scriptures considers the fear of Jehovah as aim, which is the beginning of wisdom.

The book of Proverbs shows what the god-fearing man in this world shall seek and what he shall avoid. The book also teaches that man irrespective of his spiritual blessings under the government of God will reap what he has sowed. It contains the advice of divine wisdom for daily life of a god-fearing man in all his difficulties, trials, dangers and joys of his way over this earth.

The Proverbs (written by Solomon, the king of peace) also bear certain parallels to the principles of the kingdom of God as the Lord Jesus has set them forth in the so-called Sermon of the Mount in Matthew 5-7. The divine wisdom, which is so often mentioned in Proverbs, and which in chap. 8 and 9 even speaks to the reader in personified manner even finds its perfect expression in the NT in the Person of Christ, the Son of God (1 Cor. 1:30).

## 3. Peculiarities

a) **The Fear of the Lord:** The *fear of the Lord* is the key word of this book. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (chap. 1:7) and of wisdom (chap. 9:10; 15:33). The fear of the Lord is to hate evil (chap. 8:13; 16:6) and it is a fountain of life (chap. 14:27; 19:23). Besides compare the following references: Proverbs 1:29; 2:5; 3:7; 10:27; 14:2+26; 15:16; 22:4; 23:17; 24:21; 31:30.

b) **The Name of God :** The name of *God* only appears five times in Proverbs whereas the name of *Jehovah* (Jahwe) appears around 85 times. Jehovah is the name, which expresses God's relation to His creatures, that is men, and especially to His people Israel (compare with Overview on Genesis, 3. Peculiarities).

c) **Poetical Form:** The book of Proverbs is written in poetical form also (compare explanations to the Psalms). Chapter 31:10-31 however is written in acrostic form that is the first letter of each verse is identical with the sequence of the Hebrew alphabet.

### January CIRCLE

The January 18, 2018 CIRCLE meeting will be at Kathy Hudson's home, 1263 Park Ave, Ravenswood. The gathering will start at 7:00. Our Bible Book study this month is Proverbs. All women are invited to come have fellowship together as we begin our New Year of mission service.

## Being a Friend

By: Norm Prenger

### Scripture Reading — Proverbs 18

**An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends ... But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:1, 24 —**

Think of the ways God could have saved us. He could have dazzled and overpowered us; he could have convinced us with absolute proof. Why didn't God do that?

Well, as we can see even in the unusual case of Enoch (Genesis 5:24), God prefers to save us through the dignity of friendship. God befriends the lost. When guilty Adam and Eve hid themselves in the bushes, the Creator didn't first tranquilize them from afar. He walked out to them in the cool of the day, like a friend looking for a friend. Jesus Christ is the ultimate friend who sticks closer than a brother.+

But now Christ invites us to practice the same selfless friendship with those who need his love. Recently I sat in a pastry shop drinking blueberry tea with an old acquaintance. For decades he has resisted committing his life to Christ, and yet he admits that he recently lost his sense of direction. After listening to him share his disappointments, I invited him to talk to God about helping with his next steps. He didn't immediately take me up on the offer, but I will not abandon our relationship, for God's love reaches out to this person, and I am a part of that.

Too often we take pride that all our friends love Jesus. Perhaps it's time to enlarge our friendship circle. Is there someone who needs the kind of grace-filled friendship that Proverbs celebrates?

### Prayer

**Holy Spirit, lead us to people who are strangers to your love. We offer to you the time and energy to befriend them. Amen.**

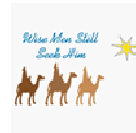


## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bible Book of the  
Month  
January 2018  
Proverbs**



Do you  
know  
where this  
is in the  
church?



**Breakfast with  
the Wisemen  
January 14 @ 9:30**

**VISION Committee  
Meeting January 22  
@ 7:00**



### Meetings

**Trustee 1/8 @ 6  
BOCE 1/8 @ 7  
Deacons 1/8 @ 8**

### FAITH CUP



By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.  
— ROMANS 5:2 KJV

### January Birthdays

**Ryley Thompson 1/6  
Jennifer Wagoner 1/14  
Deb Lyons 1/14  
Belinda Rader 1/16  
Jaz Morgan 1/21  
Jacob Graham 1/23  
Phyllis King 1/26**

**Movie Night!  
Yea!!**

**January 19 at  
7:00.**



**The Annual Business meeting is  
January 17 at 6:30.**

**College Students will be doing our  
morning service on January 7.**

***Men's Fellowship resumes January 9  
at 6:30.***



**Circle will be at  
Kathy Hudson's home  
January 18 at 7:00.**

**Have you checked out the prayer calendar today?**

## CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.

Happy  
New Year!

January 2018

Happy  
New Year!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Mark & Susan Gerstell	2 Holly Gerstell	3 Geraldine Gregorich	4 Rhonda Hall Nathan, Libby	5 Mike Hall	6 Jo Hendricks
7 Kyle Hickman	8 Crystal Hickman, Destijane, Tara	9 Kathy Hudson	10 Mark & Rhonda Hunt	11 Margaret Johns	12 Bob & Helen Johnson	13 Ann Johnson
14 Torren Johnson	15 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason & Logan	16 Phyllis King	17 David Lehew	18 Emily Lehew	19 Debbie Legg	20 Pam & Wayne Legg, Victoria, Samantha, Josh
21 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	22 Burt & Deb Lyons, Philip	23 Peg Lyons	24 Talia Martinez	25 Richard & Phyllis Massey	26 Robert McCauley	27 Fred & Robin McGoskey
28 Adam McGoskey, Taylor	29 Theresa McKown	30 Cassandra McKown	31 Carolyn Mellinger			

*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*

Matthew 21:22

