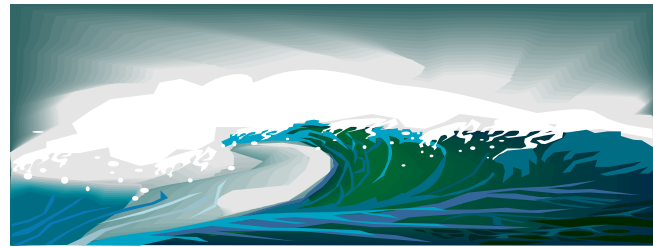




The *January 2019*
Anchor

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 ~ www.fbcraenswood.org**

The coming of the New Year makes me reflect on where First Baptist Church has come from over the years, and ponder about where we are going.

If you look at our church history, the “Ravenswood Baptist Church” was organized in 1866 with just 15 members. We had over 150 attending last week. The church moved several times back in the 1860s and 1870s and even met in homes. Sunday School flourished having an average attendance of 50 children back then. It was in 1875, that our church moved to the location where we are today, which was no doubt was a leap of faith and an expensive endeavor that took everyone giving to make it happen. I look at the Fellowship Hall we now have, and that endeavor was, by my understanding, a leap of faith on the church’s part, and who can imagine our church today without it. Isn’t it hard to believe, we just celebrated 150 years as a church a few years ago? Where we’ve gotten to today is impressive.

It’s highly doubtful, I’ll live to see the 200-year anniversary of the church in 2066 since I would be 92. We do, however, have many children in our church today, that Lord willing, will see it. For example, my kids alone all could see it --Andrea would be 72, Sami would be 69, Hannah would be about 58, John would be 64, and Aaron would be 62. Benjamin Crow would be about 60. Jazlyn Morgan would be 51, Mason and Logan Kerns would be about 55 and 52 respectively. Cari Mize would be 68. Conner Ritchie would be about 58. Little Beckett and Lincoln would be about 50 years old.

If you want to see how old you would be, just add 47 years to your age in 2019. The reality is, if you are reading this story in the anchor, you probably won’t be here. None of us are likely to be. We’ll be in heaven awaiting our loved ones and enjoying the time with those who are already there. This is why we must really begin focusing on what is ahead for the church. We should be actively thinking about legacy planning. God has really placed this on my heart after seeing several empty church buildings for sale in our community. None of those churches I believe ever saw their facility being placed up for sale. But, the reality is, numbers fell, the vision was lost, and resources dwindled -- it happened.

As we get older, we should begin thinking about when our time comes, what are we planning to do for the church? Have we considered the church in our estate planning? Do we want to do something for the church financially? I know many of our loved ones have left memorials over the years that have helped purchase much needed things for our church. We see Abbi playing the piano every week that was given by Anne Adkins in memory of her sons. We can enjoy the Jean Cale seating area outside of the Pastor’s office. The Roush home was aquired and removed. What can we do to help ensure our church is financially sound for another 150 years, or at least the next 47 years?

Church population across the United States has dwindled steadily but First Baptist has done well despite the trends. One of the reasons for this success has been due to your love for the church and your willingness to support the church with your tithes and offerings. This is how a church meets its budget. Unfortunately, we have had made several budget reductions to match our giving. I challenge all of us, myself included, to really think about what we can do for our church to safeguard its wellbeing for the next 47 years, and that begins with a recommitment to our personal tithing and giving in the New Year.

This is critical to help ensure our children and our grandchildren, and even those children and grandchildren we haven't even seen yet, to have a place to worship where sound doctrine exists, and the love of the Lord flourishes. But as each year goes by, we continue to see the challenges of an aging infrastructure, where our furnace units and air conditioning units are in need of frequent repair, and the roof has some leaks. Having a full time pastor takes resources to ensure longevity as the cost of living increases, as well as insurance premiums and retirement that are paid by the church. We are fortunate and blessed having a secretary, a youth director, and a janitor. Additionally, the parsonage will need repairs about every year, just like our homes.

Fortunately, First Baptist has been financially sound in the past, and a strong foundation has been laid. Now, it's our job to not become complacent with what got us to this point, but rather be forward thinking enough to move our church forward in membership growth, increase our financial revenue, improve our facilities, and continually move forward with modern technology, décor, and signage. All of this takes our commitment together to give liberally with our resources, be willing to volunteer where you can to make improvements, and of course, your prayers.

The Vision Committee has important work ahead. Everything in life seems to take time and money. We cannot afford to be last out of the gate. Let us look forward with great anticipation of what we can build, not for ourselves, but for those who are coming. Moses never entered the promised land, but, he prepared the way for Joshua to do so. John the Baptist never preached with Jesus, yet, he prepared the way for Jesus' ministry. Jesus prepared the way for us to follow Him. It's our turn as a church to prepare the way for Hannah, Mason, Logan, Beckett, and the others who will be our leaders of tomorrow.

It's our time, church family, to get excited about starting to fortify our foundation -- the foundation you have helped safeguard for so many years, where the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. I challenge you this year, to pray about your role in this important endeavor. Whether, it's moving forward with church membership and helping us make the decisions that move the church forward, volunteering to help the trustees work on projects such as painting or making repairs, or perhaps you make the commitment to simply invite and bring your children and grandkids to church more often.

For those of us of working age, we must begin investing into the church the same way we do in our homes and planning for retirement. Our children and grandchildren today will look back in time, 47 years from now, and remember this moment, saying mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, left us a church in good shape. I believe when we reflect on those who came before us, we would say the same about what got us here today. We can do this - together. I know all of you would do anything for the church that needs done. This is why, as we head into the New Year, it's important to have these serious conversations about how we move forward in giant strides. Great things have happened at First Baptist in the past, and our best days are still ahead.

May God bless each of you in 2019. May we be found growing closer than we have ever been before, loving the Lord God Almighty, whose mercy and grace endures forever. Happy New Year and let's get ready to work like there is no tomorrow.

Love and Prayers,

Pastor Toby



What a busy month! Captivate - both Senior High and Junior High - 23 in all - were active practicing for their Christmas play. Some performed with the bell choir. I was very proud of how they did. They gave their best.

The kids chose a project to help others - Samaritans Purse Wounded Warriors. There are many service men and women who come home broken - spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Wounded Warriors project helps transform injured veterans into empowered, employed individuals engaged in their communities. FBC youth set a goal of \$300 and collected \$311.

The youth still love to eat! We went to Tudors twice and cooked our own food 3 times at the church. They also helped put lights on the Christmas tree in the church yard.

We are looking forward to starting out the New Year with our own party on December 30 with a movie, food and games.

2018 was a year of changes and challenges with the youth getting used to new leadership, learning new things and growing in Christ.

2019 will be a year of challenges also as we make plans to grow in Christ together. Please be in prayer for the First Baptist Church Youth. We thank you for your continued support.

Happy New Year and Blessings to All!

Ann

Monthly Meetings & Activities

- Jan 1 Happy New Year! Office is closed
Jan 6 College Student Sunday
Jan 7 Deacons Meeting @ 6:00
Trustee Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Jan 8 Men's Fellowship @ 6:30
Jan 9 Annual Reports due
Constitution/Bylaw Review Committee
@ 2:00
Jan 10 Deaconess Meeting @ 6:00
Jan 11 Movie Night @ 7:00
Jan 13 Breakfast with the Wisemen 9:30 a.m.
Jan 14 BOCE @ 6:00
Jan 16 Annual Business Meeting
Jan 17 CIRCLE @ 7:00
Jan 18 Deadline for Registration Church Officer
Training
Jan 20 Sanctity of Life Sunday
New Officer Installation
Jan 21 Vision Committee Meeting @ 7:00
Jan 23 Anchor Articles Due
Jan 24 Game Day 1:00-3:00

Nursery Workers

- Jan 6 Jen Wagoner
Jan 13 Jane Moore
Jan 20 Lauren McGoskey
Jan 27 Leigh Ann Kerns

Children's Church

- Jan 6 Fred & Seth McGoskey
Jan 13 Deb Lyons
Jan 20 Richard Massey
Jan 27 Eugene Morgan

CommUnity Kitchen

- Jan 5 Burt Lyons
Jan 12 Episcopal Church
Jan 19 Lion's Club
Jan 26 Open - volunteers needed

Bell Ringers

- Jan 6 Hunter Moore
Jan 13 Connor Ritchie
Jan 20 Open - Volunteer Needed
Jan 27 Open - Volunteer Needed

Deaconess for Communion

Helen Johnson (Dec 31)

Focus on Sunday School:



Breakfast With The Wisemen

Many people may not realize the wise-men did not actually see the Baby Jesus in the manger.

Matthew 2:11 says "and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

Each year, here at FBC, we recognize the continuation of the celebration of the birth of Christ by presenting **Breakfast with the Wisemen** during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to come hear the summary in scripture of the our Savior's birth including the visit of the Magi.

Join us for this wonderful moment and then stay for a great breakfast! January 13 at 9:30. Come hungry— you will be fed both spiritually and physically.

Attend Sunday School this week!



THE HEART GOES ON

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid
John 14:27

This article is dedicated to my beloved dog Paxton. I lost him while in hospital. Not to be with him in his death, will always lay heavy on my heart. I guess the Lord decided He wanted to spend time with such a loving creature. One He made.

They say we are not suppose to value animals as much as humans doesn't make the grief any less real. How wonderful the world would be if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog.

I believe dogs give us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are their focus of love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is in my heart the best deal man will ever get. The dog is the most faithful of animals. Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest.

Dog's lives are short, way too short, but I realized that when I purchased Paxton. I knew the pain is coming of losing him. I always shared his joy of delight in his innocence. It was so easy to accept his love while always aware that it comes with an unbearable price.

To me, dogs are always good and full of unselfish love. They are vessels of joy who never, ever deserve anything bad to happen to them. Such short little lives they have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day.

Thank you Paxton for making my life a little brighter. You never wasted time being afraid of tomorrow. You proved you love me more than you loved yourself. Thank you my son for burying our friend. You buried him in the ground while I buried him in my heart. Paxton, I will visit you often in my thoughts. I lost my dog but gained a guardian angel. Those we love never go away, they walk beside us every day.



Burt Lyons

Happy Retirement Pastor Ken Miller



Members of First Baptist Ravenswood traveled to be a part of the retirement celebration for Pastor Ken Miller. Pastor Miller was our spiritual leader from 1993 to 2004. Under his leadership, we expanded our church by remodeling the sanctuary as well as building the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Ken was loved by many and all of FBC wishes him and Allison a happy and blessed retirement.

Those attending from FBCR were Bev Stephenson, Tim and Connie Staats, Don and Phyllis Michael, Allen and Holly Palmer and Susan West. Many others sent messages by video and cards.



Many of you may not realize that we have some marathon runners in our midst. **Anna Vanderlaan** is one of those runners. In November, she placed 5th in her category in one of the races in Columbus, Ohio.

Kudos to Anna!



Congratulations
to
Kenley Hickman
for making
Honorable Mention
Offensive Lineman
on the
All-state team!

Christmas in Review





Children's Christmas Play December 16



Full house for the play



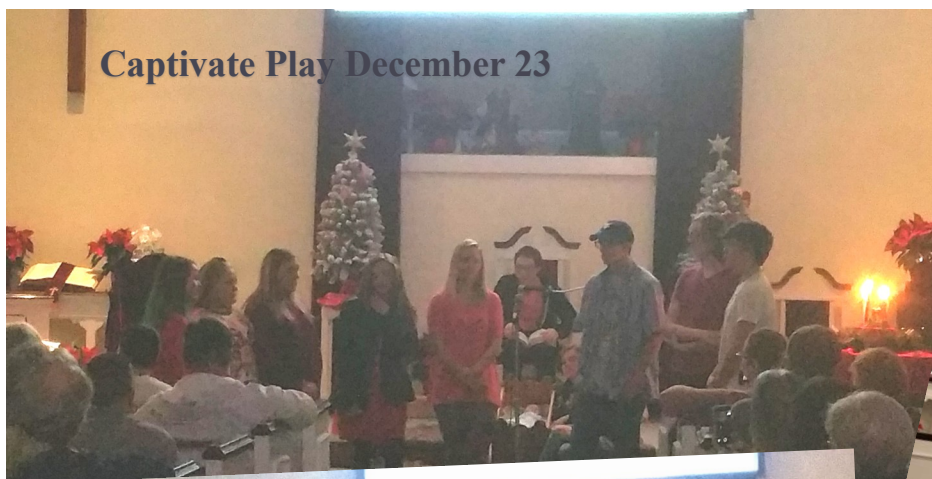
Bible Study in Fellowship Hall



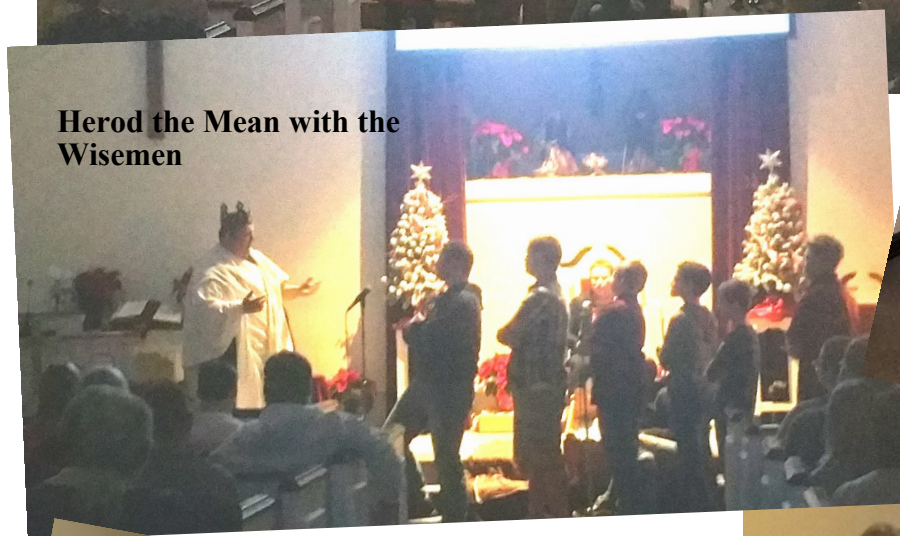
Reception after the plays



Captivate Play December 23



Herod the Mean with the
Wisemen



Captivate Bell Choir



Heavenly Host singing





Zach leading praise and worship



Worshipping the Lord through December



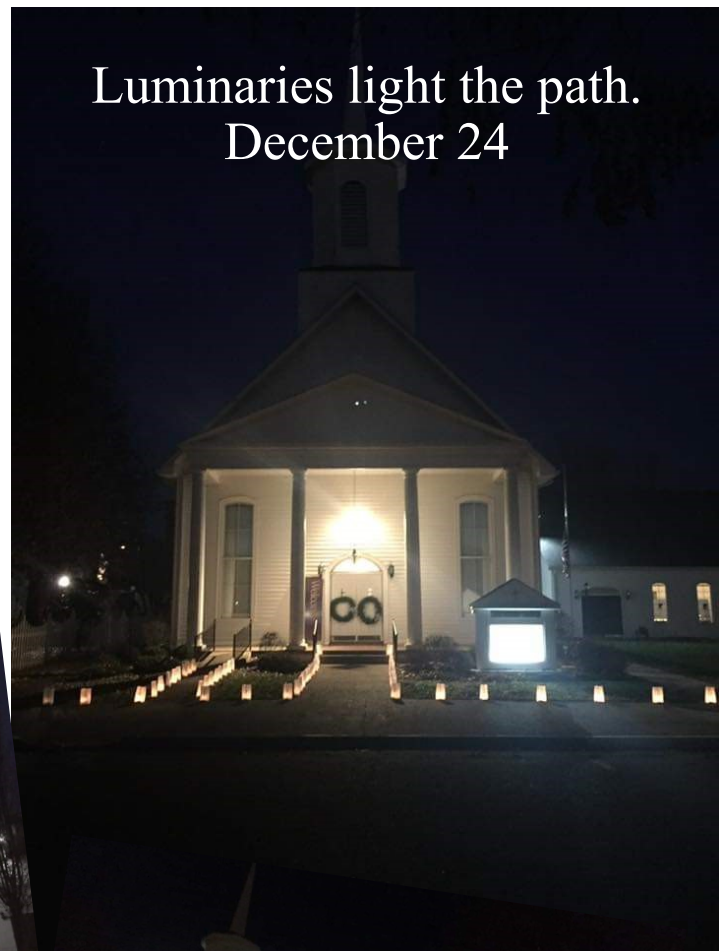
Cari Mize blesses us with a solo



Praise Band on Sunday Morning December 23



Luminaries light the path.
December 24

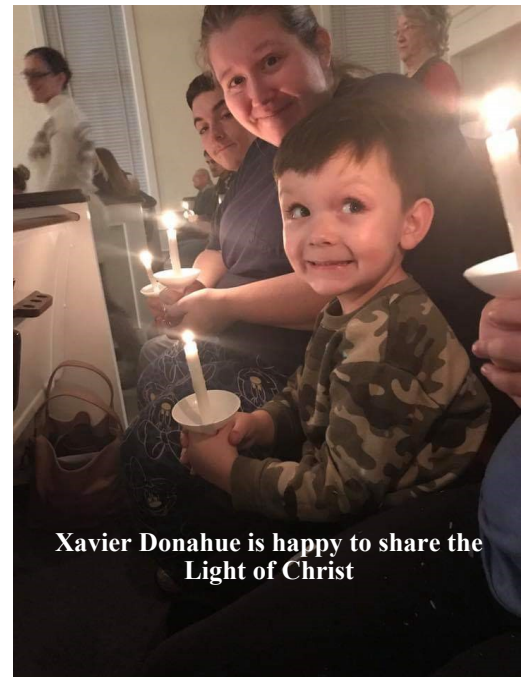


Christmas Eve Cantata





Lighting the Christ Candle December 24
Bob Johnson, Torren Johnson, Taylor Woods



Xavier Donahue is happy to share the
Light of Christ

FBC has a new activity for the kids under 12 - ringing the Big Bell every Sunday morning.

Here **Cass Bennett** pulls with all the joy that can be found!

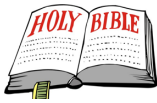
The bell sounds through out the community that Christ is alive!

The Christmas Holiday season ends with the Silent Communion on December 31. During that time all are welcome to come meditate and pray to the Lord for guidance through the New Year. The service will be from 6:00 to 7:00.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bible Book of the
Month
January 2019
Romans**



**Adult Game Day!!
January 24
1:00 to 3:00**



**Men's Fellowship
January 8
@ 6:30**

January Meetings 1/7

Deacons—6:00
Trustees—7:00

1/9
Constitution/Bylaw Review-
2:00

1/10
Deaconess—6:00

1/14
BOCE—7:00

1/21
Vision Committee 7:00

January Birthdays



**Ryley Thompson 1/6
Jennifer Wagoner 1/14
Deb Lyons 1/14
Belinda Rader 1/16
Pam Balser 1/17
Lisa Hoke 1/19
Jazalyn Morgan 1/21
Jacob Graham 1/23
Phyllis King 1/26**

**Is your birthday name missing?
Tell Susan**

College Students will
be doing our morning
service on January 6.



**Movie Night!
Yea!!
January 11 at
7:00.**



The Annual Business meeting is
January 16 at 6:30.
(Annual Reports are due 1/9)

Women's CIRCLE
January 17 @ 7:00
@ Kathy Hudson's home



**New Officer Installation
January 20**



**Breakfast with the
Wisemen
January 13 @ 9:30**

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.



January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Lisa Hoke	2 Kathy Hudson	3 Mark & Rhonda Hunt	4 Margaret Jones	5 Bob & Helen Johnson
6 Ann Johnson	7 Torren Johnson	8 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason & Logan	9 Chris & Shannon Kimes, Emma, Isaiah, Lilly, Omara, Cedor	10 Zella Kimes	11 Phyllis King	12 David Lehew
13 Emily Lehew	14 Debbie Legg	15 Wayne & Pam Legg Victoria, Samantha, Joshua	16 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	17 Burt & Deb Lyons, Philip	18 Peg Lyons	19 Robert Martin
20 Talia Martinez	21 Richard & Phyllis Massey	22 Robert McCauley	23 Fred & Robin McGoskey	24 Adam McGoskey, Taylor	25 Seth & Lauren McGoskey, Kian Hadleigh, Tyler, Cole	26 Theresa McKown
27 Cassandra McKown	28 Carolyn Mellinger	29 Ross & April Mellinger, Katie, Logan, Peyton	30 Ben & Christie Mize, Joshua	31 Cari Mize		

"For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended."



Isaiah 60:30