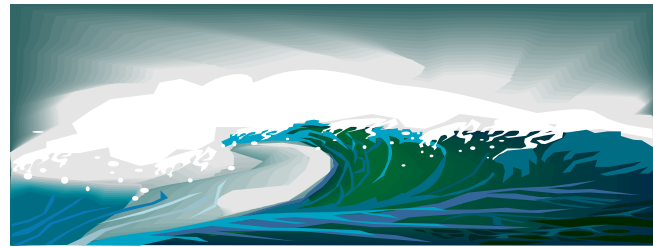




The *January 2020* Anchor

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



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As the year 2020 is upon us, I find this month's article a time of reflection. We have to decide within ourselves what we want most out the New Year. Are we longing for health or a relationship with someone? Are we longing for a renewed commitment to the Lord, or do we want to lose weight or stop smoking? Perhaps, we really want to read our Bible more and pray more. All of these things are good. Take the first step by setting a goal. Having a reset date, like January 1, can help grow our faith. For example, most people will reflect on 2019 and say it was a tough year. Some may go as far as calling it miserable.

Maybe this feeling of angst was the result of health issues, the passing of a loved one, family or financial problems, or it could be a plethora of other things that you have never shared. The truth is, life is hard and often unfair. As we reflect, we seem to focus only on the challenges we faced, not the fact that we persevered. God was with us all of the time and through every disappointment. Focusing on knowing God was with me and I made it through, can give us new perspective. We can have hope and this perspective matters most in growing our faith. I like what Edith Lovejoy Pierce is credited with saying regarding a restart on New Year's Day. She says, "'We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.'" Let's write a story for 2020, that has God written all over it, in every chapter. When we do this, the ending will take care of itself. The Bible says in Matthew 6:25-34 that we don't have to worry about tomorrow, because it will take care of itself. What we are told to do in those verses is to first, seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We can write our story with the Lord or without Him. For some of us, we have been on the pathway of life a long time. For others, our life's journey has really just begun. Regardless, we just do not know how much time we have left on this earth. But, we do know we are supposed to redeem the time, or make the most of it. Ephesians 5:6, tells us to use our time wisely because the days are evil. There is sin everywhere we look. While we try to exalt the name of Jesus, someone somewhere, is trying to quash it. The world has its focus on the "here and right now," instead of eternal things. Karen Kaiser Clark said, "'Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.'" We have a choice to make in 2020, which boils down to the question of, will I be more available to the Lord's calling on my life or will I do things my way?

As a church, we are called to be the light to our community. Whatever your New Year's plans or resolutions, I trust that you will make the Lord Jesus a priority. We all have room to grow closer in our walk with Him. I believe our church has great things ahead. God has richly blessed us during the past year. There is so much love in the atmosphere, that I honestly cannot wait until the next service. When we all keep our focus on loving God and each other, being in worship together is special. In fact, there's nothing like it. May you and your family have a blessed New Year. I'm excited to see what the Lord will do in your life in 2020. My prayer for you is that you be granted peace, love, joy and good health in the New Year. May your relationship and trust of God, be strong and unwavering. Lastly, please pray for me and our family, that we will always be found doing what the Lord wants us to do, so we are not in His way. If I can be of help to you or your family, please let me know. May the Lord bless you now and forever and may be always be available to His needs.

In His Service,
Pastor Toby Wagoner



FBC's Youth group had a super Christmas holiday! I hope everyone was able to come to the Christmas play. We had 32 youth participate in the play that told about the birth of Jesus through the eyes of Joseph. The kids did a great job on their parts and their songs! I was really proud of them.

We celebrated Christmas and New Year's on Sunday night after Christmas with gifts and food. Then we watched and cried through the movie *I Can Only Imagine*. About 27 people (including the helpers) were there. Thanks to all the adults who helped make the evening a success.

Looking forward to January, we will be having a Hot Chocolate Competition on January 19. All the kids are to come up with their favorite or invent a terrific taste with hot chocolate. You will be our judges and choose which one is the best. Make sure to come out and give them a taste!

We have had a super busy year but I am thankful for every moment I have had with the youth. Please keep the group and me in your prayers that we may all look to the Lord more in 2020.

Blessings, Ann



Monthly Meetings & Activities

Jan 1 Happy New Year! Office Closed
Jan 2 Game Day @ 1:00
Jan 5 College Student Sunday
Jan 6 Trustee Meeting @ 6:00
Deacons Meeting @ 7:00
Jan 8 2019 Annual Reports due to the office
Jan 9 Game Day @ 1:00
Jan 10 Movie @ 7:00
Jan 12 Breakfast with the Wisemen @ 9:30
Jan 12 Communion Sunday
Jan 13 BOCE @ 6:30
Jan 14 Men's Fellowship @ 6:30
Jan 15 Annual Business Meeting @ 6:30
Jan 16 Game Day @ 1:00
CIRCLE @ 7:00
Jan 19 Sanctity of Life Sunday
New Officer Installation
Hot Chocolate Competition @ 6:30ish
Jan 22 Anchor Articles Due
Jan 23 Game Day @ 1:00
Jan 30 Game Day @ 1:00

Nursery Workers

Jan 5 Jane Moore
Jan 12 Talia Martinez
Jan 19 Destiny Thomas
Jan 26 Andrea Crow

Children's Church

Jan 5 Leanne Thompson
Jan 12 Charolette Jeter
Jan 19 Deb Lyons
Jan 26 Sami Wagoner

CommUnity Kitchen

Jan 4 Broken Chains Ministry
Jan 11 Burt Lyons
Jan 18 Episcopal Church
Jan 25 Susan West crew

Bell Ringers

Jan 5 Jazalyn Morgan
Jan 12 Kian McGoskey
Jan 19 Connor Wyant
Jan 26 Hunter Moore

Deaconess for Communion

Deb Lyons

Junior Usher

Conner Ritchie



Focus on Sunday School:

Breakfast with the Wisemen

In January 2005, 15 years ago, we held the first *Breakfast with the Wisemen*. At that time, Pastor Gerald Milhoan was our interim pastor after Pastor Ken Miller left and Rick Garavaglia was our youth pastor. Pastor Gerald had asked Rick to come up with something after Christmas to help with our attendance in Sunday School. I was Sunday School Superintendent at the time and Rick contacted me.

Now 15 years later, we continue the tradition of BWTW each 2nd Sunday of January. The program hasn't change but our toddler who portrayed Jesus - Josh Mize - is now in college. Many look forward to this tradition.

Some who are new may wonder what it's all about. Some may not realize that the Wise Men of old did not see Jesus in a manger but in a house. Our Savior was just under 2 years old (remember King Herod had all Jewish boys 2 and under killed).

Breakfast with the Wisemen tells a summary of the birth of Christ and ends with the visit of the Magi at His home in Bethlehem before Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

Traditions continue and so does this small performance at First Baptist. Everyone is invited to come on January 12 at 9:30, hear the reading of scripture, be a part of the music, and enjoy a wonderful breakfast.

You may also get to meet a Wise Man!



Christmas may have been Too Busy but it was also T000 CUTE!



An Evening of Lights and Music



Christmas Eve Beauty



Luminaries brighten the path



Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 19



“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

The picture above shows a baby's hand at 12 weeks after conception. All fingers are formed even though tiny next to the mother's hand. Many may say just a cluster of cells. The Lord says I knew you.

January 19 is **Sanctity of Life Sunday**. The baby bottles for collection are available outside the office. Please take time to pray for the unborn. If you feel led to support the Women's Care Center, take a bottle and collect your change and return them by the end of the month.

Thank you for caring for this ministry.

Game Dayers out for a Lunch Date

Ladies who gather at the weekly Game Day at FBC left early on Thursday before Christmas to enjoy a lunch at Mary Bee's in Parkersburg.

The ladies meet each Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 for board games, cards, dominos, etc. But more is brought to the table than games - fellowship, love, fun and more.

If you would like to join in, everyone is welcome. They meet in the Fellowship Hall. Come prepared to have a great time!





Congratulations Coach Mick Price!

Mick Price was recently inducted into the Legends of the Game High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

We knew he was great! Now everyone does!



The Ritchie Family was one of 5 families/groups who helped celebrate the Advent Season by lighting the advent candles on the Sundays before Christmas Eve.

Others were the **Jeter Family**, the **Rader Family**, **Jo Hendricks**, **Sharon Adkins**, **Sandy Confer**, **Jennifer Ortt** and the **Stewart Family**. Many thanks to all of you for your participation.

Rankin Roach



FBC lost a faithful servant on December 11. Rankin Roach went on to his heavenly mansion at the age of 95.

Rankin served for over 70 years in ministry both in churches and out. He filled the pulpit when needed here at FBC and lead many to the Lord throughout his ministry.

Well done, Rankin, well done. Be at peace.

Movie Night 2020



On Friday January 10 at 7:00, we will be treated to a movie, popcorn, pizza and drinks for free!

Bring your family and friends and come watch *The Overcomer*.

College Student Sunday

Our college students will be presenting the worship service on Sunday, January 5.

Please come out and support our young people.

Sami Wagoner will be giving the message.



Hot Chocolate Competition

The Captivate Youth Group will be having a unique competition on January 19 during their evening meeting and we will be able to participate in it.

The youth will be making their favorite hot chocolate drink for everyone to try. Then we get to vote on our favorite recipe.

Sounds like delicious fun! Come out and enjoy it!



Annual Reports Due

All annual reports are due to the office by Wednesday January 8 in order to have them included in the Annual Business Meeting report.

All officers and committees please be diligent and punctual with your submission.

This includes: Deacons, Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Sunday School Superintendent, Men's Fellowship, American Baptist Women, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Church Clerk, CommUnity Kitchen, Youth Director and Pastor.

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held the following Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30.

**Bible Book of the
Month
January 2020
Acts**



announcements

January Meetings

1/6

Trustees—6:00

Deacons—7:00

1/13

BOCE—6:30

1/15

Annual Business Meeting—6:30

(reports due 1/8)

1/21

Financial Committee—6:00

January Birthdays



Ryley Thompson 1/6
Blake Bennett 1/7
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
Destiny Thomas 1/24

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

**Adult Game Day!!
Thursdays
1:00 to 3:00**



Movie Night!

**January
10 at
7:00.**



**Breakfast
with the
Wisemen
January 12
@ 9:30**



**College Students will be doing our
morning service on January 5.**



**Men's Fellowship
January 14
@ 6:30**

**New Officer
Installation
January 19**

**Women's CIRCLE
January 16 @ 7:00
@ Rhonda Ritchie's home**



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 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier Violet	2 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	3 Gloria Easter	4 Rodney & Sheila Eskins
5 Jim & Mona Eubanks	6 Annabelle Flesher	7 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	8 Nathanael Flesher	9 Jim & Kathy Frazier	10 Wayne Fridley	11 Mark & Susan Gerstell
12 Holly Gerstell	13 Mike & Angela Graham, Zack, Jacob, Alli	14 Geraldine Gregorich	15 Terri Greenwood	16 Nathan Hall	17 Mike Hall	18 Jo Hendricks
19 Kyle Hickman	20 Crystal Hickman, Destinijane, Tara	21 Lisa Hoke	22 Kathy Hudson	23 Bobby & Charolette Jeter, Christian	24 Margaret Johns	25 Bob & Helen Johnson
26 Ann Johnson	27 Torren Johnson, Shaelynn, Emrie	28 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan	29 Chris & Shannon Kimes, Emma, Isaiah, Cedar, Lily Omara	30 David Lehew	31 Debbie Legg	



But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.
John 1:12