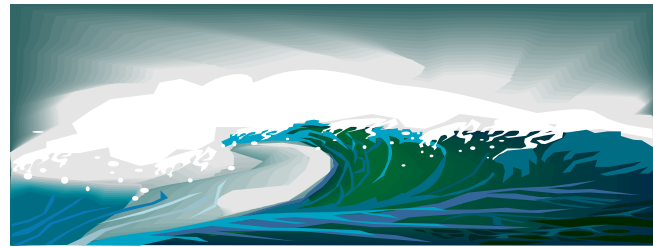




# The *March 2020* Anchor

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](http://www.fbcraenswood.org)

Church family, we are almost done with winter and if we need proof, daylight savings time will be here in a week to indicate that spring is just around the corner – and yes, that means you will lose an hour of sleep. Let this be your early reminder to set your clocks forward an hour on March 8, or you'll be late getting to church – and there is usually one or two people who forget about the time change. Nonetheless, for me, I can give up that hour of sleep without grumbling too much, because I enjoy watching nature start to come to life again. Soon, we will see those leaf-less trees start to bud and eventually bloom, as well as those little yellow daffodils that dot our lawns with color. Nature seems to be preparing to come to life as spring approaches perhaps reminding us of the Lord's resurrection. March reminds me that it is time to get ready for spring. I personally enjoy the robins chirping before my day even starts. Before we know it, March will give way to April, and then all of nature rejoices in creation with new plant life everywhere we look. This is the great anticipation we should have when it comes to knowing the Lord and awaiting the Rapture.

The NIV translation of Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us that we are to ***“spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, and all the more you see the Day approaching.”*** This scripture tells us we can be excited about loving and serving one another, being with one another in worship, and how we can find excitement in our lives, knowing we are only here on Earth for a little while. Brother Matthew tell us in his gospel, chapter 24 verse 42, that we are to ***“keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”*** This means we can live knowing He is coming, without fear, but to live better in anticipation.

I shared with the church a week or so ago about an older lady that I met once who was disheartened that the Lord had not returned in her lifetime. She had served Him for nearly 70 of her 80-plus years of life. She told me that she had given up on the Lord returning. Interestingly and oddly enough, she referred to me as “one of those”- her words for me being a Christian. It was sad to me, but I was respectful, and I have never forgotten that moment. Here was a healthy, older woman, who had lived a long life, had a nice home, a car, and was apparently blessed beyond measure, but was turning away from God -- in what proved to be her last few years on Earth. How sad this was. *She had lost her anticipation of Christ.* She had fallen for the schemes of the devil to convince her that the Lord was not doing as He said. What in the world do we say to those who

think like that? My answer was and is still pretty much the same – “Had the Lord come back 30 years ago, I would have ended up in hell, and so many others would have been right there with me – including my own family and friends.” I would have been eternally separated from God. But thanks be to God, He is longsuffering, which means He has restrained Himself with patience from returning, to allow more of us to be saved. This is how we should look at “His delay.” Second Peter 3:9 says, ***“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*** The KJV uses the words ***“not slack concerning His promise, but longsuffering.”***

The bottom line for us today, is look for Jesus with anticipation. Be excited, not fearful of that return. Let us always remember His waiting is not a dereliction of duty, but an act of compassion, love and mercy. As spring is around the corner, we have the benefit of knowing “when” it will be here, and we expect it. We can trust God’s Word in that He will be returning for us, but we just do not know when. For you and me, we can equate this “anticipation” with how we look forward to spring, or vacation, spending time with family, or even special events like Christmas or the birth of baby. Anything that gets you excited about serving the Lord is good. Let’s be the church that God has called us to be.

In His service,

*Pastor Toby*





The youth have met every Sunday and Wednesday through the month of February. Our average is 28 kids for each meeting. We were busy planning and working and learning.

On March 12, the youth are joining the adults in Game Night. This was so much fun when we did it a few years ago so we intend to have even more fun this time.

We are planning our Easter Sunrise program and have begun practice for it. I think it is exciting and everyone will enjoy it.

The youth cooked and served about 80 meals for our Valentine Dinner/Theatre. They did a super job and I was proud of them. Many thanks to our magician Pastor Toby and the Women of God Sunday School class for their performances. Everyone had a great time!

We are studying the wisdom God gave Solomon in Proverbs - learning how to be good friends and reach out to others who need a friend. Kindness is important. All teens today need a friendly face, a kind word.

The youth that went to Lazer Bowling had a great time with the families of FBC on Friday. Then on Saturday, we will be traveling to see Zack Graham in his play Sense and Sensibility. So proud of you, Zack!!!!

Thank you to all who have supported the youth program at our church. Kids are our future!

Blessings,

*Ann*

### Monthly Meetings & Activities

Mar 1 America for Christ Offering begins  
Mar 2 Trustee Meeting @ 6:00  
Mar 5 Game Day @ 1:00  
Mar 6 Movie @ 7:00  
Mar 7 Children's Spring Rally 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
Bible Conference  
Mar 8 Daylight Savings Time begins  
Mar 9 BOCE @ 6:30  
Mar 10 Men's Fellowship @ 6:30  
Mar 12 Game Day @ 1:00; Game Night @ 6:30  
Mar 15 SOUP to GO (after church)  
Mar 16 VBS Planning @ 6:00  
Mar 17 Financial Committee Meeting @ 6:00  
Mar 18 Anchor Articles Due  
Mar 19 Game Day @ 1:00  
CIRCLE @ 7:00  
Mar 22 Social Committee Planning for Holy Week  
Mar 26 Game Day @ 1:00  
Mar 27 Women's Camp;  
AB Men's Work Party at PVCC  
Mar 30 Deacons Meeting @ 7:00

### Nursery Workers

Mar 1 Destiny Thomas  
Mar 8 Andrea Crow  
Mar 15 Leigh Ann Kerns  
Mar 22 Lauren McGoskey  
Mar 29 Jen Wagoner

### Children's Church

Mar 1 Sami Wagoner  
Mar 8 Deb Lyons  
Mar 15 Leanne Thompson  
Mar 22 Open  
Mar 29 Richard Massey

### CommUnity Kitchen

Mar 7 Burt Lyons  
Mar 14 Men's Fellowship  
Mar 21 Lions Club  
Mar 28 Susan West crew

### Bell Ringers

Mar 1 Jakoby Moore-Mahone  
Mar 8 Maurice Knight  
Mar 15 Mary Beth Stewart  
Mar 22 Logan Kerns  
Mar 29 Riley Lathey Stewart

### Deaconess for Communion

Robin McGoskey

### Junior Usher

John Wagoner

### Focus on Sunday School:

***"Study to show thyself approved."***

*2 Timothy 2:15*

We are guided throughout the Bible to study, to learn, to immerse ourselves in the Word, to gain wisdom.

Throughout Proverbs, Solomon - the wisest king of Israel - encourages his people to gain the wisdom that only the Lord can give. To do so, will lead to a righteous and peaceful life. Anyone can gain knowledge, but only God can give wisdom.

One of the best ways to gain knowledge and wisdom from the Lord, is to attend Sunday School. From the stories we learned as children - Adam and Eve, Moses, Noah and more from the Old Testament to the beautiful stories of Jesus in the New Testament - we learn to live by the examples of faith shown by those that loved God.

It's amazing how many young people do not know these stories that most of the older generation learned in their youth. How can we ensure the faith stories and truths of Jesus are carried on?

We would like to see more people come out to Sunday School where you can study His word in depth and draw closer.

**Make the choice to join in our learning.** Bring your self, your spouse, your kids and your friends. ***Sunday mornings at 9:30! There's a class for everyone!***



## FAITH

***“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they walk and not be faint.”*** Isaiah 40:31

At times, I often feel like a basket case. Life come's flying at me from all directions. It's at these times I feel God drawing me back to His word. It reminds me that He provides the strength I need day by day. The Lord wants us to soar above the troubles and trials of this earthly life. This world we live in today is full of temptations to live for ourselves, to shove God to one side, and ignore the needs of others.

I know the Lord does not immediately pluck us from these, but He teaches us to trust Him and to live in ways that honor Him and bless others. This voyage of faith always begins on the same hill—the hill where Jesus hung suspended by nails to His cross. By His death and rising again, Christ redeemed us from the frailties of this world.

I realize miracles occur right in front of our eyes, but maybe we left God out of the picture and thus, fail to see what He was doing around us. He's the one that makes our lives possible. Too often we take the miraculous in all this for granted, making His greatness commonplace. With Jesus, we never fly solo. His presence and His power surround us.

Our Lord graciously gives us strength and renews it daily by His forgiveness, promises, and presence. When we realize this and count on it, we will be surprised at what we can and will do to fulfill our life's purpose in honor of the One who has given us new life, eternal life. In our Savior we live in victory, a grace-filled, forgiven life.

Christ lives victoriously!! But God wants even more. He wants us to be victorious. Faith and Trust in God will allow us.

*Burt Lyons*

## March Movie Night 2020



On Friday March 6 at 7:00, we will be watching *Breakthrough*. This is based on the true story of John Smith, a boy who falls through ice and drowns. After the doctors admit there is nothing more they can do, pray steps in!

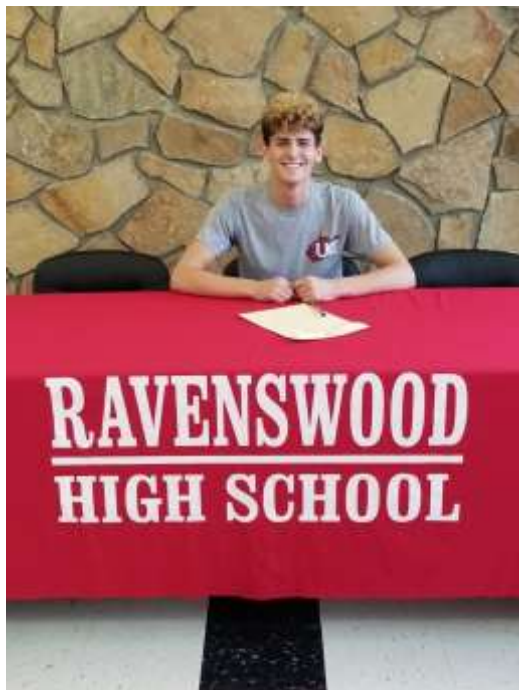
Come watch what can be done with the power of prayer and faith. As always, we will be treated to a movie, popcorn, pizza and drinks for free!

Bring your family and friends and be prepared to be blessed!



# FBC Around Town

***Deshone Cooper***



Deshone has signed a letter of intent to University of Charleston to run cross country. He is the son of Cara Williams and grandson of Amy and Ron Starkey. Congrats Deshone!!

***Beau Bennett***



Beau was one of 3 teens from Ravenswood chosen for the youth in government program. He spent 3 days seeing how our state government works. Way to go, Beau!

***Cass Bennett***



Who is that masked man! Just our own Cass Bennett recently chosen King of Mardi Gras at school.

***Ringo Star?***



## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The new finance committee held their first meeting of the year on February 18. They discussed several documents regarding church finance and reviewed the areas of growth and challenge in the 2019 giving and expense reports.

The members of the committee are:

Toby Wagoner, Pastor, Ex-officio Jane Moore-Board of Christian Ed  
Jo Hendricks-Treasurer Gary Balser- Board of Trustees  
Connie Staats-Finance Secretary Andrea Crow-At-Large  
Kevin Woods- Deacon Board Bob Johnson- At-Large

The highlights for 2019 were:

- \*Establishment of a Building Fund
- \*Purchase of 3 new heating/air units at \$24,000 without taking out a loan
- \*Increase in end of year bank balance to work toward a reality budget
- \*Requiring 3 estimates on purchases over \$1000
- \*Moving the \$25,000 CD into a higher interest bearing CD

The Lord has blessed us financially at FBC! Our prayer is to work together to grow in the ways that are pleasing to Him and to use our resources wisely.

## **BUILDING FUND**

To date, the Building Fund has **\$12,174.08**. Special thanks to all who are contributing to the growth of this fund which is currently ear-marked for a new roof.

The **change bottle campaign** for this fund is underway and several are close to filling their bottles. Some have already turned in bottles. We would like for all participating in this campaign to turn in what you have by the end of March so we can have a 1<sup>st</sup> quarter tally. We will return your bottle in the event you want to continue in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

# Saying Goodbye to Family

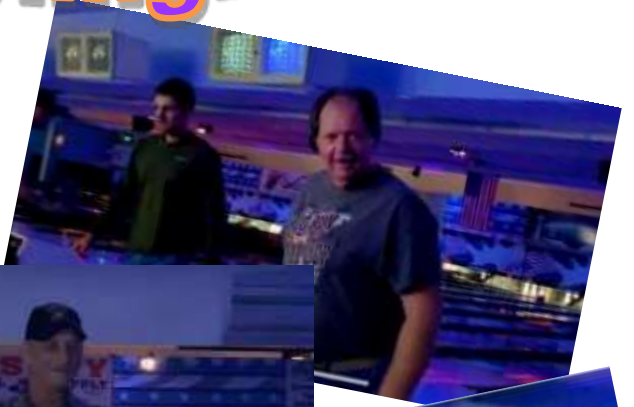
With tears and well wishes - and of course - food, FBC said goodbye to the Jeters prior to their move back to Texas. Charlotte, Bobby and Christian have become close to many in the church and they will be missed. Never fear though! We have their address and cell numbers and can keep in touch.

May God bless you greatly in your new home. With Love, First Baptist.





# Lazer Bowling!!





# Fellowship at the alley!!



Even the little ones had fun!!



### *The Ladies of CIRCLE Kneel in Prayer*

Many things have been happening to the ladies who participate in CIRCLE—happenings to our families, our friends and ourselves.

We felt the need to focus on the needs of our people. On January 31 through February 1, we held a 24 hour prayer vigil.

With requests in hand, and the Lord in our hearts, we took turns throughout the hours to lift up our requests to God. *The power felt was amazing!* Hearts were touched and we are now seeing the power of prayer in action as answers keep coming.

Are they all answered yet? No, not yet. But the Lord is working in the midst of our church and we are faithful to continue prayers and glorify God.

**Prayers are being answered!**





# Meet the Deacons Dinner at FBC



Deacon Chair Kevin Woods explained the servant role of the deacons in our church.

Deaconess Chair Deb Lyons introduced the deaconesses in FBC and how they wish to serve.

82 of our people attended the dinner and enjoyed the delicious meal.

Thank you, Deacons!





# Vacation Bible School Planning

A great VBS takes a lot of planning. We need teachers, cooks, crafters, helpers, gamers and decorators.

This year Leanne Thompson is heading up our VBS and it looks to be a super time! Knights of North Castle with dragons and knights and castles and all!

If you are willing to help IN ANY WAY, please come to the meeting on Monday March 16 at 6:00.

**Come help with the quest for the King's armor!!**



# America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

“You shall  
**LOVE** your  
**NEIGHBOR**  
as **YOURSELF.**”  
MATTHEW 22:39



Jesus teaches us to “**love your neighbor as yourself**” (Matthew 22:39). Our church follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors’ needs, physical and spiritual alike.

Our church’s efforts are supported by American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), which provides resources for cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing and transforming communities. Through ABHMS, we serve neighbors in Puerto Rico and other places in the United States in long-term recovery after natural disasters. Indeed, ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our many neighbors, near and far!

Our church supports this work through our generous gifts to the America for Christ (AFC) Offering. Each dollar given increases the ministry and impact of ABHMS to serve neighbors with ministries incarnating Christ’s love, justice and compassion. Further, a portion of this offering (28%) will be shared with our American Baptist Churches region for strengthening local church leaders through programming, pastoral search support and other efforts to help our local church thrive, especially in these times when North America is its own challenging mission field!

AFC 2020 empowers our local and national efforts to “love our neighbor.” I ask you to join me in giving generously to this year’s AFC Offering and help us to reach our goal, as we partner with ABHMS to love our neighbors and share the gospel!

Our goal this year is \$1300. Offering envelopes can be found in the pews and vestibule.

Thank you.

# Valentine Dinner Magic





# Valentine Dinner Music



The Mamaws and Papaws





# Kiddos in our prayers

Beckham Lance Mitchell Ritchie  
Born February 10, 2020



Blessings to the Ritchie family!

Trenton Smith  
Great nephew of Anna Vanderlaan



We prayed for a new heart for Tristan when he was born. Now at 5 years old, we prayed for recovery from pneumonia.

Thank you, Lord!

Evelyn Pearl Sailors  
5 month old granddaughter of  
Kathy Hudson



Evy without a lot of her tubes. Recovering from surgery on her **esophagus. She's still healing.**

God is good!

Mila Green  
5 month old daughter of friends of FBC



Latest report is she is gaining some weight! She is happy and has found her voice as she talks sweetly to mommy and daddy.

Thank you Jesus!



## Share Your Story at Women's Camp 2020

We are thrilled to be having the fifth annual Women's Camp at the West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen! We would love to welcome any woman 18 years and older join us for Women's Camp 2020.

The weekend is focused on uniting generations of women hearing God's word together, worshipping together, praying together and sharing each others burdens.

This year there will be fun, fellowship and Bible study for all including a special evening activity, interest groups, worship, campfires and more.

Our speaker for the weekend is Claire Cottrill, a daughter of the King from Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Please be in prayer for Claire as she prepares to bring the Word of God during the weekend.

The band leading us in worship is the same folks who have graciously led us in worship the past two Women's Camps, and we are excited for the mix of traditional and contemporary music they share with us each year.

We pray you join us for the journey that Women's Camp 2020 as we grow and learn and share our stories, the ones that God has given us to share in His mission.

- **Participants** – Women who are 18 years of age or older
- **Meals** – Served family style, includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks
- **Scholarships** – We want everyone to be able to attend, so if you need a little or a lot of help, just let us know by emailing us at [womenscampww@gmail.com](mailto:womenscampww@gmail.com)

### **Women's Camp 2020**

**March 27-29**

#### **Tentative Schedule**

##### **Friday**

6:30-7:30pm – Registration

8:00pm – Welcome & Snack

9:00pm – Campfire

##### **Saturday**

8:30-9:00am - Breakfast

9:15-11:30am – Worship, **Speaker Claire**

**Cottrill**, Small Group

Noon – Lunch

1:00pm – Worship & Women in Missions

2:00pm – Interest Groups

3:00-5:30 – Fellowship (Free) Time

5:30pm – Dinner

6:30-7:30pm – Vespers, **Speaker Claire**

**Cottrill**

7:45pm – Evening Activity

8:30pm – Campfire

##### **Sunday**

9:00-9:30am – Breakfast

10:00-11:30am – Worship & **Speaker**

**Claire Cottrill**

11:30-12:00pm – Departure Time



share  
your  
story

# Women's Camp 2020

## Official Registration Form

### Join us March 27-29, at the WV Baptist Camp at Cowen!

**\$45 for the Weekend\*, includes all meals, housing & a t-shirt!**

Please join us for a wonderful weekend uniting generations of women  
ages 18 or older as we focus on sharing the story God has given us!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs, request for handicap facilities, food allergies: Yes No

If yes, what: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer to share housing with: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give your permission for photographs to be taken during the camp  
and used for promotional purposes? Yes No

For Office Use:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Total Camp Fee: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid by Individual: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Paid by Church: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Needed? Yes/No

**Priority Registration: March 13, 2020**

\*\$45 if received by March 13, 2020 or \$50 at the door.

Register by March 6, 2020 to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

**Please Mail Registrations to:**

Women's Camp Registrar

3073 Wallace Circle

Huntington, WV 25705

**Please make checks payable to WVBC.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please call  
304-531-5466 or email [womenscampwv@gmail.com](mailto:womenscampwv@gmail.com).

**Bible Book of the  
Month  
March 2020  
Ezekiel**



*announcements*

**March Meetings**

**3/2**

Trustees—6:00

**3/9**

BOCE—6:30

**3/16**

VBS Planning—6:00

**3/17**

Financial Committee—6:00

**3/22**

Social Fellowship Committee—12

**3/30**

Deacons—7:00

**March Birthdays**



**Kathy Frazier 3/2  
Amy Williams 3/3  
Gusta Arrington 3/4  
Helen Johnson 3/4  
Amy Perdue 3/7  
Zach Graham 3/21  
Tina Wolfe 3/24  
Ross Mellinger 3/27  
Rhonda Ritchie 3/29  
Sharon Adkins 3/30**

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

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



**Movie Night!**

**March 6  
7:00.**



**Men's Fellowship  
March 10  
@ 6:30**

**Game Night!  
Thursday  
March 12 @ 6:30**

**All Adults and Youth Invited!**

**Men's Sunday**

**March 15**

**Guest Pastor  
Pastor Bill Stewart**

**Women's CIRCLE  
March 19 @ 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.



# March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Allen & Holly Palmer	2 Adam Palmer	3 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen, Isabella	4 Mick & Susan Price	5 Mary Proctor	6 Amy Perdue	7 Kay Pursley
8 Roger & Belinda Rader	9 Juanita Raines	10 Don & Melissa Raynes	11 Lee & Connie Reynolds	12 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie, Josh, Mary Beth	13 Rhonda Ritchie	14 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Conner, Lincoln, Beckham
15 David & Felisha Scott	16 Darrell & Camille Smith	17 Jim Speer	18 Bill & Liz Stewart, Michael, Riley, Mary Beth	19 Tim & Connie Staats	20 Cole & Diana Staats	21 Ron & Amy Starkey
22 Warner Stephens	23 John & Rose Stephenson	24 Tom & Beverly Stephens	25 Ralph & Jennifer Taylor, Kelly, Hunter, McKenzie	26 Destiny Thomas	27 Stephen & Leanne Thompson, Ryley	28 Randy & Carolyn Torris
29 Jared Torris	30 Kindsey Torris	31 Jody Tolbert				



May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
And rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

