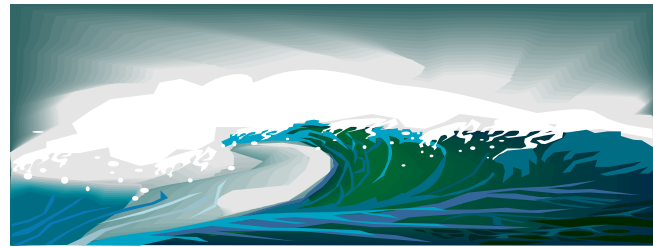




The *May 2020* Anchor

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

As we head into the month of May, we are still under a “stay at home order” by the state government in conjunction with the federal government as a result of the continuing spread of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We have been in this position now for a month. To date, no one in our church has been affected by the virus directly. However, we know that could change at any time. Thus, we need to continue to be safe at home by following the guidance of our health officials. If you need something from town and are concerned about your wellbeing, please know we have volunteers who can do some errands for you.

Meanwhile, during these unprecedented times, our church has taken extraordinary steps during the last several weeks to maintain both worship services and Bible study. While these services have been broadcast live over the Internet and over the phone lines reaching thousands of people, we know that some of you do not have Internet and are probably feeling isolated. We currently are making our sanctuary available by appointment for prayer or to watch a recorded version of the most recent sermon. The reason an appointment is currently required, is to allow no more than one family to be present at a time in the sanctuary. If this is something you are interested in, please call the church office.

During Easter, we had the privilege to serve 85 persons in a “curbside communion-by-car” service. This was a blessing for all of us. It certainly was not the same as serving communion in the sanctuary, but it was something aimed at being special for Easter. In my Christian life, it was only the second time that I can remember not being in a church building on Easter. I’m sure for many of you this was the same. As expected, our church board meetings have been canceled until things settle, with the exception of the deacons, who are meeting by phone due to the special needs of the church. I want to thank those of you who are continuing to give your tithes and offerings by mail, online through our website, and those who drop them off at the church curbside. It is refreshing to know that you understand that the church continues to have financial obligations even when we are not meeting in the building, and you all are helping tremendously. For those who typically give cash during the service, you can simply place that in a sealed envelope and bring it by curbside and we will submit it for you confidentially.

To that end, the deacons and I are striving to improve our church broadcasts. We are purchasing some equipment that will help us keep the message going out in a professional manner reflecting the positive image of the church. We realize the broadcast is not perfect, but it is improving. I want to thank Abbi Woods and Ann Johnson for joining me every service and providing worship music for our service. This is a lot of work and sacrifice for them during these difficult times and they have never wavered. I want to thank Kevin Woods, our deacon chairman for his relentless work on the technology end, working with the deacons to ensure we have what we need for the broadcast. He films the service each week. And lastly, I want to thank Rev. Bill Stewart for his technology assistance. Bill has helped us with the broadcast, provided us with Zoom technology for phone broadcasts, and oversees the Wednesday Bible Study technology. This ministry team loves the Lord as much as I do. I cannot thank each of them enough for stepping up to the plate to help bring you the service each week. When you see them, please let them know how much you have appreciated their help. They are volunteers, who despite the orders to stay home, come by each week in an effort to reach you and the community in this time of need.

I also want to thank those of you who are financially supporting the deacon fund that is helping with this broadcast endeavor. Your support is making a difference during this lockdown. Please know, Susan West and I are at the church throughout the week if you need to reach us. Most of you have my cellphone if you need to reach me directly. If you need to come by the office for prayer or to visit with me, you are welcome to do so. I will wear a mask and ask you to do the same. I can also accept Facetime calls on my cellphone or Zoom calls if you prefer to meet that way so we can see each other over technology. I miss seeing you all, I really do. I miss visiting with you the most. I want you to know that I am praying for you and your family. I pray for our church daily. My prayer is that we all remain healthy. Jennifer has not let me go inside of a store yet, so even I am being guarded. If cabin fever has set in, I understand.

In closing, I trust this pandemic will soon pass so that we can get back to normal operations. I miss all of you dearly. For some of you, this may be the first time in your life that you can remember missing this much church. So, please stay in touch with me. I need your prayers as we lead during these challenging times. Know that we are sending e-mails almost daily from the church with updates and even mailing letters occasionally. The weekly bulletin is being posted online but if you don't have Internet access, we will be happy to mail you one. Additionally, please know that you can now watch the most recent sermon on our website for those who do not have Facebook but have Internet access. Those services are posted online on Monday and Thursday. Please know that I love each of you and I am praying for you and your family.

In His service,
Pastor Toby



Hello Everyone,

I sure miss my kids! It seems like forever since we've had a chance to meet.

I have tried to stay in touch with our youth throughout this pandemic. When it's over, we'll make up the activities we had planned and more.

Ten students have signed up for Brother's Keepers: Nikki Nicholson, John Wagoner, Zack Graham, Aaron Wagoner, Brody Noble, Kaeleigh Grandon, Makenzie Grandon, Allana Reece, Hannah Wagoner and Holly Hord. This year is BK's 20th anniversary and they are planning big things for the kids. At this time, BK still has plans to continue. If plans change due to COVID-19, I will let all the kids know. I realize this will be a sad day for many of them. Helping others and being of service for Jesus, has been something they have looked forward to. Please keep them in your prayers.

I'm very proud of our group of seniors who are graduating this year. We have 11 who have finished their senior year in quarantine. They have missed many senior moments and I hope to be able to make it up to them in the coming month/s. Our graduating high school youth are: Crystal Archer, Deshone Cooper, Zack Graham, Kenley Hickman, Destinijane Hicks, Lucas Hodge, Samantha Legg, Victoria Legg, Alex Leonard, Nikki Nicholson, and John Wagoner. Letters have been sent to them to obtain their picture and some information about them. We will be recognizing each one in upcoming bulletins. Congratulations guys!

Camp Cowen is on the horizon. We will be releasing information on registration for each camp as soon as WVBC verifies the camps will be open. Stayed tuned.

I have placed a Word Find on the church Facebook page for the youth and will be trying to add more curiosities for them so they can stay connected to the church and Jesus. Please encourage your youth be involved with Pastor Toby's message each Sunday and to contact me to stay in touch. If they have a need, please let me know.

Please save your yard sale goodies for our (tentative) Youth Yard Sale scheduled July 9 and 10. We are hoping to get some large items to sell.

My prayer is that we will be able to get together as a group soon

Blessings,

Ann

We Remember and Honor

May is a month of remembrance when, on Memorial Day, we remember and celebrate those who have gone on to be with the Lord. During the last twelve months, we have lost 2 of our church members. We take this time to celebrate their lives and honor them.



James Rankin Roach

July 31, 1924 to December 11, 2019



Amanda Dawn Butcher

April 27, 1978 to February 19, 2020

Focus on Sunday School:

Ecclesiastes 3:1 *For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:5 *a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing.*

We are in a season of change. The months of March and April were times of implementing new ideas of outreach. If someone had told me in January, I would not be going to any church services for 2 months, I would have told them they were crazy. I love church, the messages, God's people and especially the Lord. Why would I stay away? Most of us, I'm sure, feel the same way.

However, things are different now. We are not sure, at this time, how long our social distancing will last. But that does not mean we should distance from God. We have many unique ways of reaching out to Him and for Him.

Our Sunday morning services have been on Facebook Live for over a month now. Our Wednesday evening Bible studies are on there too. And as an added treat, we now have lessons for the kids on Facebook. Many thanks to Talia Martinez with the Children's Department for gathering people to bring the message of God's love to our youngest people.

Sunday school lessons can continue too. By using Right Now Media, many lessons bring the word of Jesus directly to our home. During Easter, I was blessed and recommended to my Sunday school class to watch *The Easter Experience*. The messages were powerful and brought a unique perspective to the Easter Story. I hope you will check it out sometime.

When we are able to return to group worship, I pray you won't be "out of the habit". I would encourage each of you to set your alarms each Sunday - get up, get dressed and be prepared to be fed the Word of God.

For everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven. Be ready for the next season. We can again embrace and share our love of Jesus.

Susan



May Birthdays



Ann Johnson - 5/2
Nick Williams - 5/10
Kenley Hickman - 5/14
Hannah Wagoner - 5/21
Cole McGoskey - 5/22
Venisa Flesher - 5/25
Josh Mize - 5/27
Susan West - 5/27
John Wagoner - 5/30

Is your birthday name
missing?
Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month May 2020

Malachi



Right Now Media Link

For over a year, FBC people have had the opportunity to enjoy Bible Studies, Children's shows, a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want on *Right Now Media*. There is content for all ages and stages of life.

Some of you have already signed up for it. If not, I encourage you to register today. Here is the link:

[https://
www.rightnowmedia.org/
Account/Invite/
fbcravenswood](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/fbcravenswood)



As the United States and the globe deal with the death and devastation wrought by the coronavirus, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) and International Ministries (IM), also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society—on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA—seek One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) COVID emergency support to help families, churches and communities find relief and recovery across the United States, Puerto Rico and countries around the world served by IM.

The OGHS COVID RESPONSE is a two-part appeal: one part for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico; the second part for international relief.

Funds raised for relief across the United States and Puerto Rico will be utilized by ABHMS as part of an emergency strategic plan—COVID RECOVERY: Renewing Hope and Service—currently being developed to address the far-reaching needs created by the current pandemic. Moreover, OGHS contributions will support American Baptist regions and churches dealing with current challenges as well as those bound to follow in the weeks and years ahead.

Specifically, donations to ABHMS' OGHS appeal will assist with immediate needs, such as unemployment or loss of income, housing, hunger and access to healthcare. Donations will also fund programs supporting the well-being and mental health of faith leaders, congregations and communities. In the current context of social distancing, as churches seek to connect with members through online connections, the need for enhanced technology has emerged in many churches. ABHMS also seeks to support American Baptist regions, denominationally related colleges, universities and seminaries along with community ministries (Neighborhood Action Programs and other service organizations-**such as Weirton Christian Center**) that are serving families in marginalized settings. There are also emerging needs that are not known presently.

Please be in prayer for this offering and give as the Lord leads. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. Make your check to First Baptist Church; ear mark your checks OGHS. Thank you.

Living in Historic Times

Where were you when President Kennedy was shot? Where were you when man landed on the moon? Where were you when the Twin Towers fell? All these things were historical and changed the lives of everyone. But to the youth, they are blips in the history books at school. Well, this 'blip' today will be affecting us for time to come. So if you save any issues of the Anchor, this may be one you will want to save.

As you leaf through this month's Anchor, you will discover a LOT of pictures of our activities have been included—probably more than usual. FBC has continued to be active throughout the pandemic, reaching out, inviting 'in', and growing in Christ together.

However, new methods to reach, invite and grow have had to be developed. How do you reach out when you can't visit? How to you invite when you can't have anyone within 6 feet of you and then less than 10? How can we grow in Christ if the people can't hear the Word? How can we show the love we have for our people? Our deacons, our praise team and others are behind the scenes working on innovative ways to do all this.

Hopefully, you will enjoy seeing the many faces of First Baptist in action and reminisce with your children, grandchildren and, perhaps, great grandchildren. We are, indeed, living in an historic time.

Changes Came Quickly

- Our last Sunday School - March 8
- Our last open church service - March 15
- All committees meetings were cancelled beginning March 15
- Last Youth meeting March 18
- All evening services cancelled March 18
- Bag lunches only served at CommUnity Kitchen through March 28
- Holy Week Services cancelled
- Our first live online service - March 22
- Our first live online Bible Study with Zoom - March 25
- Maundy Thursday service prerecorded and online - April 9
- No Easter Sunrise Service
- Curbside Communion - Easter morning - April 12
- Easter Egg Hunt for the kiddos at their homes - April 12
- First God's Cadets/Children's Sunday School lesson done online - April 10
- Deacons and Pastor Toby met frequently to address issues as they came up

Behind the Scenes

It takes time, talent and effort to put together what we see on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Many thanks to **Abbi Woods** and **Ann Johnson** for bringing the music and adding their creative ideas to each service. Many thanks to **Bill Stewart** and **Kevin Woods** for set up, camera and recording. Many thanks to **Pastor Toby** for all the effort he puts forth to help bring God's message to us.



Palm Sunday at First Baptist

Keeping the importance of the Easter season foremost was a challenge. Visual images added to the services as well as letting people know we are celebrating by adding outside decorations.



The cross of Christ is visible on the steeple, in the yard, in the church - even in the shadows.

All telling the world:

We believe in Jesus Christ and His resurrection!



An on line message of love



Through Music and the Word

Sunrise Communion



Praying, Preparing and Serving

Offering the observance of Communion had to be done according to Health Department guidelines. Prepackaged communion servings were purchased. **Deacon Kevin Woods** and **Pastor Toby** were there in masks and gloves to offer the bread and cup with prayer as people drove to the curb.

John Wagoner helped guide people to the canopy where they were offered communion.



Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Hallelujah!



Children's Easter Egg Hunt FBC Style

Talia Martinez, Board of Christian Education Children's Department Representative, grabbed her Secret Bunny Helpers and did our annual Easter Egg Hunt - Pandemic Style. With all our families in quarantine, Talia wanted the kids to know they were not forgotten. Talia and her helpers secretly visited 17 families, over 25 kiddos, and brought some Easter surprises to each of them. They hid over 400 eggs in their own yards! Kudos for loving the kids!!!



This Easter egg is not empty, it's full of love for you, and we want you to know that Jesus loves you so much, he died and rose, leaving his tomb empty, for me and you.



Cass



Egg Stuffers and Hunters



Hannah Wagoner



Aaron Wagoner



Connor and Beckett



Aiden and Jazz



Emrie



Hunting More Eggs



Mason and Logan



Izzy and Kolton



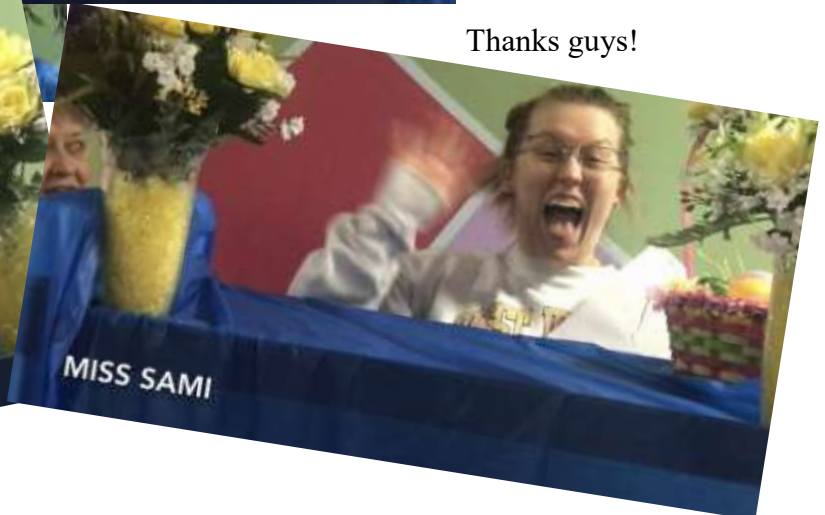
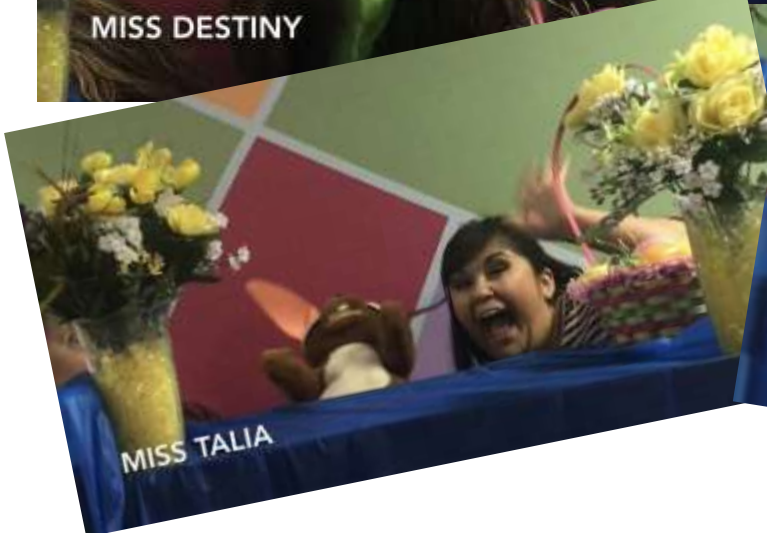
Sunday School and Children's Church - A New Way

Reaching out to the kids with Bible stories was a challenge. Some ladies gathered and began the journey of movie making on Facebook. Many thanks to **Talia Martínez**, **Sami Wagoner**, **Destiny Thomas**, **Connie Staats** and **Susan West** for their willingness to reach the kids



For two of our segments, we had guest stars - **Pastor Toby** with his magician tricks and **Ann Johnson** teaching the kids a song.

Thanks guys!



FBC Hosts Blood Drive



John Wagoner and Jon Moore registered and checked temperatures



Social distance blood giving



Sandy Confer snacks after giving

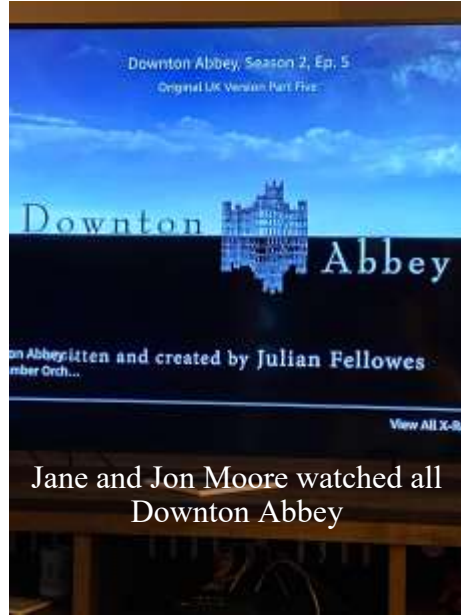


Katy Baltic stops in to give blood

What did you do during isolation?



Beth Wood. Took it easy



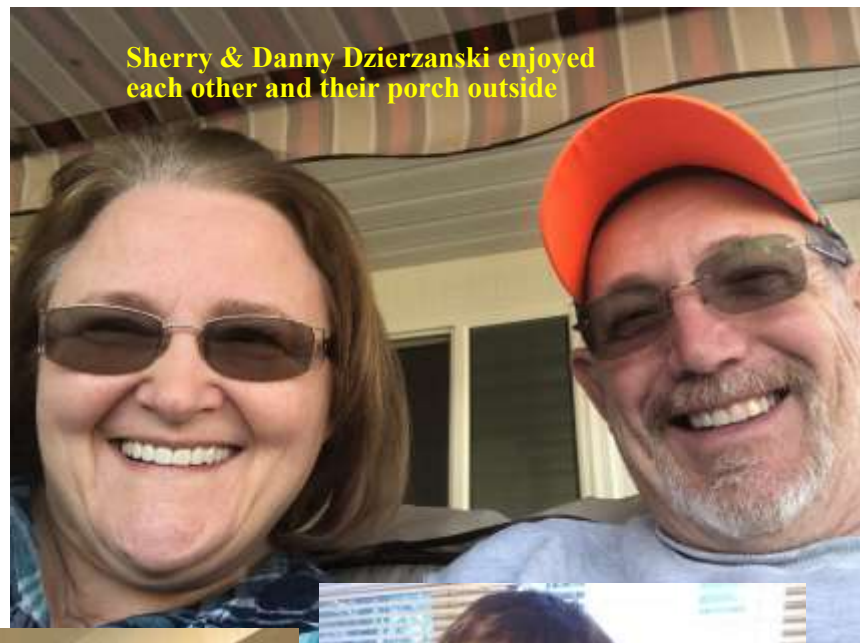
Jane and Jon Moore watched all Downton Abbey



Rhonda Ritchie Snuggled Beckham



Pam & Gary Balser. We had a new great granddaughter! Lilith Null



Sherry & Danny Dzierzanski enjoyed each other and their porch outside



Izzy & Kolton hunted for mushrooms



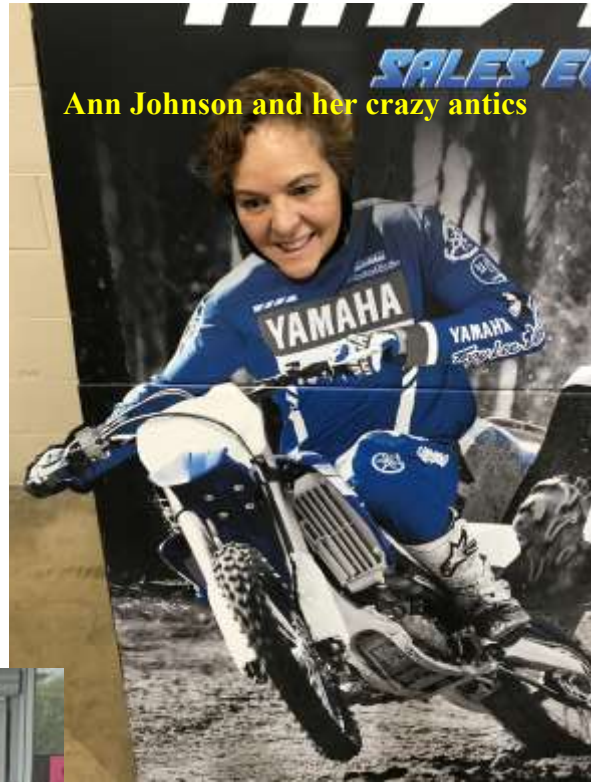
Michael Casto had a birthday!



Cass Bennett painted cactus rocks



John Wagoner entertained with the piano



Ann Johnson and her crazy antics



Jen Wagoner masks up to buy groceries



Gary Balser and Richard Massey worked around the church



The Morgan's cooked out



Ann became a You Tube star



Some watched a virtual mission trip to Chiapas with the Aragon's



Pastor Toby and Jen found a new way to visit shut-ins



More Than A Mother

When God set the world in place,
When He hung the stars up in space,
When He made the land and the sea,
Then He made you and me.

He sat back and saw all that was good,
He saw things to be as they should.
Just one more blessing He had in store;
He created a mother, but whatever for?

He knew a mother would have a special place
To shine His reflection on her child's face.
A mother will walk the extra mile
Just to see her children smile.
She'll work her fingers to the bone
To make a house into a home.

A mother is there to teach and guide,
A mother will stay right by your side.
She'll be there through your pain and strife,
She'll stay constant in your life.

A mother will lend a helping hand
Until you have the strength to stand.
She'll pick you up when you are down,
When you need a friend she'll stick around.
A mother is one who listens well,
Will keep her word; will never tell.
A mother never pokes or pries
But stands quietly by your side,
Giving you the strength you need,
Encouraging you to succeed.
A mother is one who can be strong
When you need someone to lean on.

You're more than a mother to me;
A reflection of Him in your face I see,
A love that knows no boundaries.
I'm glad that you chose to be
All this and more to me.
You share a love that knows no end,
You're more than my mother,
You are my friend.

By Kari Keshmiry

Submitted by Anna Vanderlaan



COPING

With all this madness and uncertainty with COVID19, the question I keep asking myself how will I cope during these time's. So, how do I cope with this invisible enemy as it's called .

This virus has spared no parts of the world. Everyone is touched by it. America as we once knew it has forever changed. Right now, fear and uncertainty is prevalent. One thing is for sure. No matter what, you must believe and trust in the divine providence of God. No matter what comes your way, just trust and have faith in divine intervention and you will find you can relax a little easier.

We need as a whole to remain grounded, clear headed and faithful during all this. I can do this for I gave my spiritual strength to Pastor Toby. He models his leadership skills on Jesus, empowering his flock to do good works. He speaks truth because the Bible is his lesson plan and most importantly, he speaks from his heart. He doesn't just say what you want to hear, he tells it like it is. He has shown me to seek God's presence in everyday life. He empowers me by telling me how God has impacted his life. I can relate to that. I always thought priest and pastors were some angelic entity. That they are above human nature or made any errors in their life's which made me feel different. Toby does not. Enough on Toby, don't want to swell his head, but he has been one way I'm coping listening to his sermons. AMEN

I ask every night for God to grant me His presence and His strength. I believe character is revealed by how you handle suffering and tough times. I always thought I was in control. We have learned thru this period we do not have control. Freedom can be harnessed.

I hope this pandemic will open some eyes. Everything we have taken for granted can be shut down and has been in a heartbeat. Freedom can be very limited. So my one truly way to cope at the end of the day; I submit myself to the divine providence of God – to do the best I can and release the control, fear and anger to God. AMEN

Burt Lyons



Celebrating Our Seniors at FBC

At the time of this article, we do not know when graduation will be. However, we still honor our high school graduates. They have had a difficult spring season, missing all the great senior memories. We are still proud of them and their achievements. Look for information about their plans in future bulletins.

Zack Graham



**Lucas Hodge
Kenley Hickman**

John 'Nikki' Nicholson



Alex Leonard

John Wagoner



Deshone Cooper



Destinijane Hicks



Crystal Archer

Victoria Legg

Samantha Legg



M&M Scoop

Sharing the Scoop on ABW-WV Missions and Missionaries

April 2020



Let's kick off MOP 2020

Camp Alpha!

It's time to start brainstorming and gathering ideas of how we can promote our Mission Outreach Project (MOP) 2020. Camp Alpha is a kid's church camp located in Ryazan, Russia. Thanks to the long-standing partnership between the Russian Baptist Union and the West Virginia Baptist Convention, the camp is being constructed in likeness to our very own Camp Cowen and Parchment Valley. The buildings may not look exactly the same, but the same goal is there...teaching kids about Jesus in a fun and exciting way. Last year, they had 65 kids attend their summer camp with ten students accepting Christ in their lives for the first time. It's exciting to think that God can use our \$6,000 to help kids in other parts of the world learn to grow as disciples of Christ. Put on your thinking caps, start brainstorming, and let the creative juices start to flow... **Camp Alpha needs our help!**



Rice, Rice Baby!

The 2019 Mission Outreach Project (MOP) was a huge success thanks to all of YOU! The creativity was flowing in the various ways you promoted the rice projects in your churches and your hard work paid off in the grand total of \$18,674.94!!!!!! You tripled the goal of \$6,000 by three times! Kim Brown is thankful for the ABW-WV prayers and funding for their rice program. We have helped feed many House of Blessing families in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The school continues to provide early education for these children as well as various parental and health training sessions for the parents. They had 16 children that graduated from the House of Blessing preschool and will be moving on to the local schools now. The other exciting news for House of Blessing is that the new missionary family has arrived in Thailand. Mark and Alise Juanes and their three children are now in Thailand and attending language school this year. Please continue to pray for Kim's stamina and health while she continues her work at the House of Blessing, House of Love, and the Center for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (CDPD).



Around the World

Have you been wondering what is happening with our ABW-WV Missionaries as they ride out this quarantine in their host countries? I reached out to each family and asked specific questions so that you could learn the latest news from around the world and know how WE can be praying and helping them.



Rhonda Reed - Bolivia

Q: What projects are you currently working on?

A: Our projects for the House of Hope are all on hold. Bolivia is in a complete lockdown. I have not been out of my house for 31 days. JD can walk to the store only on Thursday morning (based on last number of his ID card). We are not allowed to drive so none of our leaders can drive to the communities. We are trying to raise money to buy food for the many families in the communities because they are not working and do not have food.

Q: What is your favorite food item from the country you are living in?

A: My favorite food is a breakfast biscuit called cunapes. They are made with yuca flour and cheese.

Q: Is there anything special you would like us to be in prayer for?

A: Bolivia, the health system cannot handle this virus. Honestly, no third world countries can. Our city of almost three million has 26 ventilators total. We are just starting with cases and have very little testing. Please pray for protection for our family and leaders. Grace and Abie are both in WV. We are having many Zoom calls with colleagues and we are safe. All flights and borders are stopped so we are riding it out.

Debbie Myers - Mexico

Q: What projects are you currently working on?

A: Our main priority right now is putting together a Vacation Bible School curriculum and will be teaching it to the teachers hopefully in person but if not, we will video it.

Q: What is your favorite food item from the country you are living in?

A: Chilaquiles verdes (fried tortillas in a green salsa)

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: I enjoy walking the dog to the park, working with my flowers, and crafting.

Q: Is there anything special you would like us to be in prayer for?

A: That folks in our communities would not be affected by this virus. They do not have a means to get to a hospital. Please also pray that our kids will stay safe during this time in California.



Denise Aragon - Mexico

Q: What projects are you currently working on?

A: Women's Ministry and Leadership Core Group – Each congregation has chosen women representatives. In February, six CICEM representatives came for a two-day meeting where Debbie Myers and I gave an overview of women's ministry. It was a time of encouragement, fellowship, vision, and prayer. We plan to meet twice more this year for workshops where the congregation representatives will share how women's ministry has shaped up in their communities.

Literacy and After School Program – A Tsotsil church is piloting a literacy program that we are hoping to replicate in other CICEM communities. The literacy program starts with 18 adults and young adults and divided into two groups. Group A knows how to somewhat read, but they do not know how to write. Group B does not know how to read or write at all. The Pastor says that when these people are asked to serve in leadership roles in their community churches, they decline because they feel their reading and writing will be a hinderance. Group C consists of 27 children that go to school and need extra help with their homework. A goal is to eventually have Group A students helping with Group C and to build their skills to be able to serve in leadership roles in their churches.

One of the blessings of this project is that we do not have to be there. Thanks to your financial support, we were able to buy about four months of materials for this program. When the program first started, COVID-19 had not been a problem in Mexico yet. School has now been cancelled since March 20th, but Group A and B are still meeting under social distancing guidelines. We will have upcoming meetings to decide the future of the programs. Puppets and Youth Ministry – Another ministry that could use prayer is with the youth ministry from one of the CICEM churches in the Tzeltal area. Lubeck Community Church blessed them with puppets and volunteers that helped build a stage. The meeting we had scheduled with the Youth Pastor to train and deliver the puppets has to be rescheduled due to the COVID-19.

Medical Care for Pastors, Leadership, and Communities – This project has tugged on our hearts, but we felt hopeless since we don't have medical backgrounds. The people in the communities do not have proper medical care, sometimes requiring them to travel to other towns to be seen by a doctor. Many people do not have the money or means to see a doctor. Part



of this program designated funds for specialized medical attention for Pastors, their families, and/or church leaders. The funds cover the doctor's fees, medicine, travel expenses, medical exams, and sometimes lodging expenses. We have formed a relationship with the parents of one of Ziba's classmates. It turns out that both parents are medical doctors and we have been able to share about the ministry with them and they have shown interest in helping our communities. This project has also been put on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Q: What is your favorite food item from the country you are living in?

A: The favorite food for our kids would be Taco de Carne al Pastor, which is basically pork tacos. These tacos usually have pineapple on them, but my kids take it off but love the flavor of it. Juan likes those type of tacos too but when we go out for breakfast, he usually orders Chilaquiles Divorciados. It is fried corn chips with green and red salsa, sour cream, cheese, and an egg on top. As for me, I love everything and it's hard not to try everything but whenever I see Chicharron en salsa verde (pork rinds in green sauce), that is my go-to.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: Juancito and Ziba are very active kids and before COVID-19, our days consisted of taking them to soccer practice in which they both play very well. Juancito also had track practice and Ziba took gymnastics. Aside from the kid's games and practices, we like to watch a movie, play a board game, go for a walk downtown to get ice cream. The kids and Juan have also been riding their bikes but I still need to get a bike. For self-care, I like to exercise, garden, color, work puzzles, play board games, watch Nailed It (regular people trying to make fancy cakes) and try to cook healthy meals.

WVBC Special Project

Wheel Chair Accessible Restroom at PVCC

HE

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Star NEWS

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Brothers' Keeper to celebrate 20 years

By Barbara Layton
Reporter

Brothers' Keeper (BK), a service ministry through Parchment Valley Conference Center (PVCC) in Ripley, will soon be celebrating 20 years of service in Jackson County.

Every June for one week, BK brings local youth and adult leaders from churches around the state of West Virginia and surrounding areas together to help those in Jackson County who may need assistance with small projects or home repairs.

Through an application process, members of the Jackson County community are chosen based on the need or want of the project they request completed.

Roughly 225 volunteers are able to complete 40-45 projects each year.

PVCC director Frank Miller said it is amazing to drive through Jackson County and see projects that have been completed during BK.

"The impact that it has

upon the community is a great cause for celebration," he said.

Known as a ministry which allows youth to participate in a "mission trip" where a passport is not needed, BK20 is scheduled to kick off on June 21 and run through June 26.

This year's theme is "Change the World!" based on James 1:22, "We are doers of the word together."

Miller said they are hoping to get more local church involvement this year.

"We are working with the Jackson County Ministerial Association in promoting the brand, which is a great blessing," he said.

Veterans with home repair needs will be the focus of this year's BK, according to Miller.

"If you're a veteran and your house needs repaired, we want you to fill out an application so we can come and visit, and evaluate your scope of work and see how we can help you," Miller said. "We want to make sure our veterans

are aware of this great opportunity."

Also focused on supporting veterans, Jackson County Hunting Heroes have stepped up to provide their support for BK20.

With donations from local individuals and businesses, BK remains a free service; however, donations to assist with the cost of materials are accepted.

Miller said without sponsors, BK would not be possible and he is very thankful to get the support of the Jackson County community each year.

"We are doers and we want to do something in 2020," Miller said.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Brothers' Keeper or donating to the ministry, please contact Parchment Valley at 304-372-3675.

Brothers' Keeper applications are available through Community Resources, the Department of Health & Human Resources (DHHR), and online at brotherskeeperwv.org.



Barbara Layton / Reporter

Frank Miller (left) is pictured with Brothers' Keeper crew leader Al Arrington (right).



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.



May 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Joshua Bashaw, Sara & Luke	2 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Beau, Cass
3 Blake Bennett	4 Gloria Blackhurst	5 Peggy Boothe, Izzy, Kolton	6 Carolyn Brown	7 Jason Brown	8 CW & Mary Caldwell, Carly, Josie	9 Tom & Patti Calvert
10 Shawn & Tanya Cole	11 Brent & Sandy Confer	12 Jamison Cooper, Dalilah	13 Dave & Carol Crow	14 Bryan & Andrea Crow, Benjamin	15 Brandon & Anna Davis, Liam	16 Mike & Tara Davis
17 Marie DeLong	18 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	19 Gloria Easter	20 Rodney & Sheila Eskins	21 Jim & Mona Eubanks	22 Annabelle Flesher	23 Jeff & Venisa Flesher
24 Nathanael Flesher	25 Jim & Kathy Frazier	26 Wayne Fridley	27 Mark & Susan Gerstell	28 Holly Gerstell	29 Mike & Angela Graham, Zack, Jacob, Alli	30 Geraldine Gregorich
31 Terri Greenwood						

