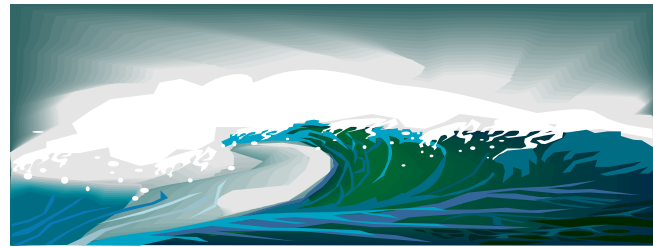




The *September 2020* Anchor

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



COVID-19 continues to have an impact on our community, state and nation – and even our church. Masks have become mandatory statewide when entering public buildings whenever social distancing is unable to be maintained. Church services like ours are held outdoor and online to bypass the mask requirement. However, we are still required to wear them inside the sanctuary. For most of us, it is no longer strange to see people walking by in our community wearing a mask. At first, everyone including me seemed to look twice or stare in awe at someone wearing a mask. Now, we seem to accept the fact that masks are a part of life today, even when we do not agree with them. Meanwhile, we all wonder if there is an end to the pandemic around the corner, even though none of us knows for sure. Perhaps it will take a vaccine or medicine to be readily available before we resume life “pre-COVID normal”. For me, as time continues much like post-9/11, I find myself finding it harder to remember life before restrictions. When I travel today and have extra security precautions, it is just a part of life. I wonder if the COVID-19 restrictions will continue after the vaccine is available. Looking back, March 2020 seems distant and thinking of life before the virus seems even more distant to me. The notion that a pandemic could change the way we live forever, is troubling. But, we will persevere regardless.

With that in mind, I was reading an article last week in Biblical Archaeology Review (Fall 2020) entitled “Pandemics in Perspective,” written by Sarah K. Yeomans. She claims that the pandemic we are experiencing is not unprecedented which is evidenced by looking back across the world’s history. She highlights as examples the plagues of Athens, Antonine, Cyprian, and Justinian as four that had significant impacts on life. She wrote Athens is the earliest eyewitness account of a pandemic when in 15 BCE 25% of the population died from the disease which occurred about the same time as a series of wars with Sparta. She wrote the constantly burning funerals caused the Spartans to retreat. **But** life got back to normal.

The Antonine Plague occurred in Rome more than five centuries later. Yeomans wrote, legions of the Roman army returned with both booty and a mysterious disease that was referred to as the great plague that killed an estimated 7-8 million people, or 10% of its population. **Yet**, life returned to normal. Then she explained the Plague of Cyprian which killed 5,000 leading to the “third century crisis” that created social upheaval and instability that lasted decades and led to its dissolution in the West. **But** eventually, life got back to normal. Lastly, Yeomans wrote about the Plague of Justinian in 541-546 CE, which involved a bacterium similar to that known as the bubonic plague. *The mortality rate of that pandemic was 50-60 percent.* **But**, once again, things went on, and life continued.

COVID-19 has hospitalized many in West Virginia and in our community and thousands across the United States; also we have seen deaths here at home and nationally. But as in all pandemics, *things get better*. Most of the time, at least in our generation, things will get better after a vaccine or medical intervention is introduced. While many of us in our church have not had COVID-19 to date, chances are you know someone by name who has had it. Some of you may know of someone who has passed as a result. Regardless, all of us have been impacted by the disease. Our sense of security, well-being, and fundamental rights to do as we please, have all been impacted. Let us hold fast to our faith during these challenging times. Let us look for how God can use this pandemic to bring about something good in the long run. My hope for First

Baptist, is perhaps the pandemic has allowed us to reach people through social media and streaming of our service online and on phone to tell people about Jesus, that may not have otherwise darkened our door. Can this COVID-19 lead us to the next great revival? If it does, will we be ready? *Let us be ready to share Jesus with someone who feels like their life is spinning in circles as a result of this pandemic.*

On a good note, First Baptist will be moving our worship service indoor as of October 1 and use our indoor service guidelines unless things change with the health department. When we go back inside, our services will move back to the normal 10:45 start time. We will be monitoring the COVID-19 virus and once we feel comfortable with where we are, we hope to reinstate Sunday School at 9:30. Our Wednesday service will continue online. We do hope to have communion that first Sunday in October. To that end, we have learned from history, there will always be another pandemic down the road until the Lord calls us home. We don't have to live in fear, but we do have an obligation to keep the most vulnerable among us safe. Let us all pause and thank the Lord continually for His mercy and His grace, even during times of a pandemic, knowing that "this too shall pass." **Thank Him for keeping you safe.**

In His service,

Pastor Toby



Let go of your concerns!
Then you will know that I
am God. I rule the nations.
I rule the earth.

Psalm 46:10 GW



We've been having a great summer! Our average attendance for Sunday and Wednesday night youth - even with vacations - has been 16. We've enjoyed our time of fellowship, Bible study and, of course, food.

Fifteen youth had a fun - but muddy - time kayaking last month. Both junior and senior high love the clean pool at Helen and Bob Johnson's home and continue enjoying swim fun each week there.



We are very proud of Dylan Pautz for completing his education and getting his high school diploma. On August 16, Dylan was acknowledged and presented gifts from First Baptist. Way to go Dylan!

I hope everyone joins in the prayer for schools on September 4. Pastor Toby and other Jackson County Ministerial Association members will be at the different schools around the county leading prayers. You can join the group in prayer at your child's school or join from your home at 6:00. Let's all lift up our teachers, support staff, bus drivers and, of course, the children as they face a difficult school year.

I am planning a back to school party for the youth that will probably be over Labor Day. We will be swimming and having a great time.

We continue our Bible studies as we look at Isaiah to see what the prophet can tell us about how God wants us to live today.

I'm going to miss those of our group that will be going away for college and life. But all the kids are great and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to teach them His word.

Blessings to all,

Ann

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER GATHERING

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER**

4th

6:00 pm

Join us as we
cover Jackson
County Schools
in prayer for
the upcoming
year!



Join us at one of the following locations:

- Ravenswood Middle/High School – Pastors Wagoner, Moales, & Skeens
- Cottageville Elementary – Pastors Smith & Cunningham
- Evans Elementary – Pastor Riggleman
- Fairplain Elementary – Pastor Sayre
- Gilmore Elementary – Pastor Carson
- HJK Elementary – Pastor Shirer
- Kenna Elementary – Pastors Howerton & Miller
- Ravenswood Grade – Pastor Arther
- Ripley Elementary – Pastor Perinne
- Ripley High School/BOE Office – Pastor Price
- Ripley Christian Academy – Pastor Gooseman
- Heritage Christian Academy – Pastor Parsons



In September 2006, then Youth Pastor Anthony Pratt began a new outreach ministry for FBC and the community youth - The End Zone.

Through the years, this ministry has continued to thrive and our Fellowship Hall became a safe haven for after game activities. We've hosted thousands of kids over more than a decade.

This year with Covid-19, however, this great ministry has been interrupted. Our End Zones will not be held due to the current restrictions and potential of spreading this disease.

We do hope to continue youth outreach in a different way/ways. Ideas and plans are in discussion to see how God leads us to reach the youth in our community this fall.

Please be in prayer as we discover the path the Lord leads.

If at first you don't succeed

Reschedule the Movie!!



Everyone is invited to come see

DOLITTLE

**Friday, September 4 at 8:30
(weather permitting)**

In the church courtyard

**Bring your chairs, blankets
(social distancing)**

Free movie, snacks and drinks!

Enjoy a FREE family evening out!



Red Cross Blood Drive

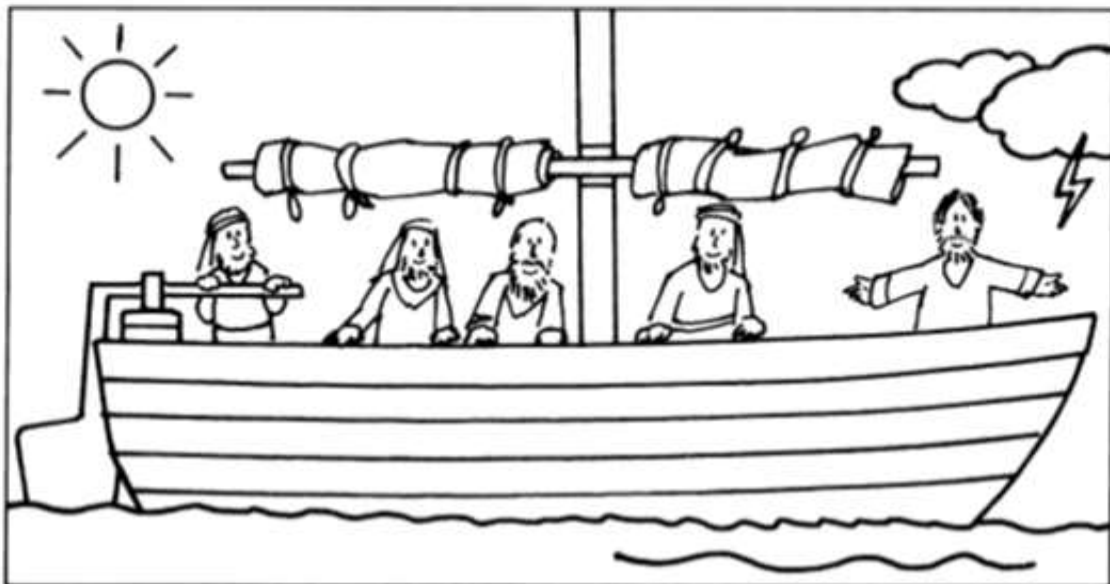
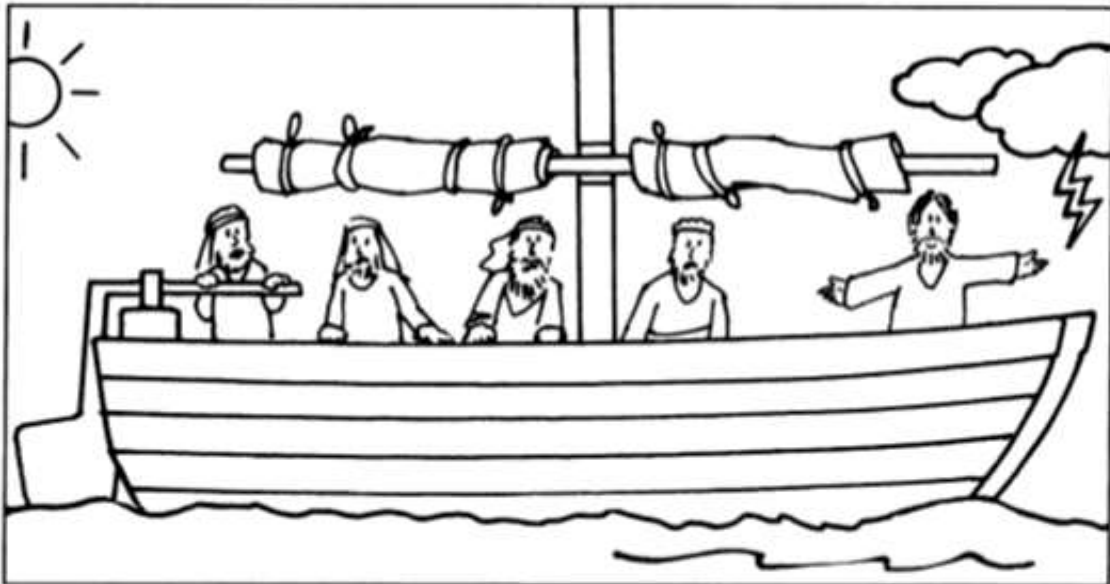
The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be October 5 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate, you can sign up at RedCrossBlood.org or call the office. Registration volunteers will also be needed. Call the office today!



"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

Circle 10 things that are different in the second picture.



How Do You Listen to the Sunday Morning Service?



Covid-19 has changed the way we hear Pastor Toby's message from God.

- Outside in the church courtyard
- At our kitchen table with a cup of coffee
- In our pajamas lying in bed
- On vacation at the beach on our cell phones
- On the couch with a laptop
- On the phone using Zoom
- At the desk with a computer
- With our families gathered around
- Or, as **Miss Emrie** above, with a toy over our face! :)

Anyway you hear it, it will still bless your day! Come in, tune in, listen to the Word of God! Sundays at 9:45.

Values Compared

Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it and make it worth \$6,000. - that's genius.

Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth a million - that's capital.

Uncle Sam can take silver, stamp an emblem on it, and make it worth a dollar - that's money

A mechanic can take metal that is worth only \$5.00 and make it worth \$50.00 - that's skill.

An artist can take a 50 cent piece of canvas, paint a picture on it and make it worth \$1,000.00 - that's art.

But....**God** can take a worthless sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity - *that's salvation!*

- The Compass



We will be collecting throughout the month of September

Prayerfully give as the Lord leads

**world
mission
offering** 2020

**i once was blind
but now i see**

mark 8:22-26

World Mission Offering September, 2020

This month, First Baptist Church will be observing the World Mission Offering (WMO). The theme this year, "I once was blind, but now I see." reflects on the story of Jesus' healing of the blind man in Mark 8:22-25. Jesus rescues us out of darkness so we can see Him and so He can use us to help open the eyes of others. Your gifts through the WMO supply the practical support needed by our 125 global servants, 900+ short-term volunteers, 35+home staff and 250+ international partners as we help others see Christ more clearly. Your participation now more than ever will help global servants and partners rebuild and re-establish ministries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and crisis.

Please consider prayerfully how your faithful giving and prayers could be used by God at this moment to impact the lives of many in need of Him around the world today.... until it is on earth as it is in heaven. Our goal is \$1,050. Offering envelopes are available outside the church office and in your church bulletins during church services. Thank you for your support.



Our missionaries to Mexico

Denise & Juan Aragon



Debbie & Keith Myers

i once was blind
but now i see
mark 8:22-26

Congratulations
To
Mr. & Mrs. Grant Chapman



Congratulations
To
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Hall



*Congratulations
To
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Nowery*



August Circle Outing



NATIONAL

FREE WEBINARS ON TOPIC OF ADDICTION (OFFERED THROUGH NATIONAL ABWM):

First Webinar – September 24

Topics will range from an overview of substance-related challenges, practical resources for supporting those affected by addiction, treatment, and recovery needs of women in addiction and equipping families. Link provided below for more information.

<http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=40>

PAINT AND SOOTHE YOUR SOUL WEBINAR: (OFFERED THROUGH NATIONAL ABWM):

Friday Evening – September 18

Friday night (September 18) – All ages welcome! Registration fee of \$20 by September 14. Use link below for more information.

<http://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=64>

GOOD HOPE ASSOCIATION – WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

The women from six churches of Good Hope Association (First Baptist Spencer, Gilboa Baptist, Grass Lick Baptist, Parchment Valley Baptist, Mill Creek Baptist, and First Baptist Ravenswood) provided needed school supplies to Weirton Christian Center for the upcoming after-school program. Sandy Confer and Kathy Hudson from First Baptist Ravenswood had the privilege of delivering the school supplies, touring WCC, and visiting with Kim Weaver on Thursday, August 6. It was the last day for their Summer Program with the children.



FBC WOMEN'S OUTING – BLENNERHASSETT ISLAND



Bev Stephenson



Connie Staats

along with Patti Calvert, Debby Bashaw, and Kathy Hudson. A beautiful afternoon on the river and historic island was enjoyed by all on Saturday, August 8. Ended the outing by singing "It is Well with My Soul" and "How Great Thou Art" before boarding the sternwheeler back to the mainland.



I absolutely love the theme "Boots on the Ground" that Sandy Foster Currey, Coordinator for ABWM State Conference, chose for our first-ever Virtual State Conference in 2020. Being a Christian in a hostile and broken world is much like being a soldier, sacrificing much for the greater good.

My dad served in the army as a foot soldier in WWII. From time to time, he would give me a glimpse of the sacrifice required to fight the battle against the enemy. He told me of marching through France when the days were so hot that the sweat would ooze from their boots and make mud with the dirt. The seasons changed bringing snow and the men in his unit would huddle together for warmth through the night without a fire so that their location would remain hidden. Especially hard for me to hear was that my dad and his fellow soldiers would sometimes go without food because their location was unknown. He said his commanding officer would always encourage them that the food was coming and to not give up. Yet, the battle continued, and the soldiers had their boots on the ground.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we, too, are in a battle of good versus evil. Should we be any less dedicated than our soldiers that fight for freedom around the world despite the hardships? We are either all in or not. There is no straddling the fence. Jesus sets the example. Ridicule, mockery, beatings, false accusations, temptations, betrayal, and the ultimate sacrifice of death on the cross were all part of what Jesus willingly faced in His battle to bring God and His message of salvation to the lost of this world. So, girls, keep your boots on the ground! The battle is not easy, but there is a world of broken and lost people that need to hear about Jesus and His Love through you!

The pandemic of 2020 could have stopped us dead in our tracks, but good soldiers find another way to fight the battle. As believers in Jesus Christ, our witness is ongoing regardless of what this world throws at us. The shutdown may have stopped us from meeting inside our churches for services, coming together for circle meetings, or renewing relationships with each other at our ABWM state gatherings, but God's army continues to serve. Satan always underestimates the strength of God's army!

I knew that ABWM of WV would not shut down spiritually even though many physical restrictions are in place to fight COVID-19 through the mandates of our leaders in government. The association presidents have shared how the ladies in their neck of the woods are still meeting the needs of others and spreading the love of Jesus at a time when hope is most needed. I am blown away at how busy and creative the women!

LOVE IN ACTION ACROSS THE STATE OF WV!

HANDMADE QUILTS
FOR GRADUATES

MEETING NEEDS OF
THE HOMELESS

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION
FOR GABRIEL PROJECT

DRIVE-BY
BIRTHDAY
PARTIES

MEETING NEEDS OF
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

YARD SALES FOR
MINISTRIES

MEALS

FINANCE NEWS

Building Fund

Congratulations on surpassing the halfway mark of the Building Fund established last year. The total to date is \$25,150.81 and is currently earmarked to replace the roof. The heavy rains during mid-August were an additional reminder of this need! The Trustees are dealing with leaky roofs and replacement estimates. One of the programs initiated to add to this fund was a collection of change.

The **Change Challenge** invited participants to fill an empty soda bottle with coins to add to the building fund. The two divisions were:

Quarter/Dime Club (17 oz bottle with either or both of these coins is ~\$100)

Change Challenge- can be a combination of any coins.

We want to THANK those that have turned in their bottles so far (especially since there is apparently a change shortage and the banks are more than happy to cash them in!).

Quarter/Dime Club:

John & Rose Stephenson- \$106.85

Bob & Helen Johnson- \$99.76

Jo Hendricks- \$95.00

Shawn & Tanya Cole- \$92.85

Tom & Patty Calvert- \$90.15

Change Challenge

Toby Wagoner & Family- \$84.25

Jo Hendricks- \$18.15

This is an additional \$587.01. If you have coins to turn in, we will gladly add it to the fund. It is not too late to participate (even if you haven't started yet!) We have a donor that will make a plaque to recognize those who participated in this program so show how collectively our small change can make a big difference. Let's get as many names on that plaque as possible!

2021 Budget

The Finance Committee has been working diligently on reviewing all the requests for funds and plans for individual budgets to develop a budget for 2021. First, we give Praise to the One from Whom ALL blessings flow for lifting FBC financially this year! Even in the midst of a pandemic, many have been faithful with their tithes and offerings and are working to be frugal with their expenditures. Together, we can move forward so that FBC can be a light in our community and the church that serves the Lord. The budget will be available for review in September so that the church may vote on it at the October business meeting.

Receipts

Those who are turning in receipts are asked to sign them and write the name of the account for which it is to be taken. Also, please check to make sure the name of the business, date of purchase, and the items purchased are identifiable. (If not, write it on the receipt). If the receipt is for food items, please include the number being fed if the food is not itemized. Most receipts submitted are good but if there is a question, having a name on them will help to know who to contact.

Focus on Sunday School:



Sunday School teaches us many things. There are exciting stories and people in the Bible.

What person became king of Israel when he was only 8 years old?

Josiah, son of Amon, became king at the young age of 8. Josiah loved the Lord (not like his evil father) and was one of the few kings who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

When Josiah had been king for 18 years (he was only 26), he ordered his secretary Shaphan to go to the house of the Lord and tell Hilkiah, the high priest, to count the money that had been brought to the temple so funds could be used to pay the workers to repair the temple. While counting the treasure, Hilkiah found the *Book of Law* and gave it to Shaphan.

When he took the book to Josiah, the king read it and was distraught and tore his clothes. He knew the wrath of God was against His people because the prior kings did great evil and the people had turned to other gods. King Josiah sent men to the prophetess Hulda to talk to God to find out what to do.

God loved King Josiah and because he was penitent and humbled himself before the Lord, He promised Josiah he would live in peace and not see the disasters that would be brought upon Judah and Israel.

Josiah repented and gathered all the people to him. He read the *Book of Covenant* that had been found and vowed to walk after the Lord and keep His commandments. All the people joined him.

Kids, we can all love the Lord and change the world with His help. No matter how young we are!

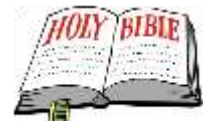
September Birthdays



Janyce Watkins—9/1
Helen Frank—9/2
Riley Stewart—9/7
Abbi Woods—9/7
Jim Frazier—9/9
Diana Staats—9/10
Alan Arrington—9/14
Philip Lyons—9/15
Angel Ritchie—9/16
Nathanael Flesher—9/17
Liam Davis—9/17
Sami Lawson—9/19
Gary Balser—9/19
Susan Gerstell—9/20
Jessica Morgan—9/21
Charolette Jeter—9/23
Christian Jeter—9/23
Bev Stephenson—9/27
Sandy Confer—9/27
Jonathan Morgan—9/27
Cass Bennett—9/29

Bible Book of the Month September 2020

1,2 Timothy, Titus



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> or

Text RIGHTNOW FBCRW to 41411

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.



September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Kerry Wines	2 Jennie Wise	3 Janet Wood	4 Kevin & Abbi Woods	5 Taylor Woods
6 Geraldine Wright	7 Brandon & Ashlee Wyant, Connor, Beckett	8 Sharon Adkins	9 Alan & Gusta Arrington	10 Micah Arrington	11 Anna Bailes	12 Gary & Pam Balser
13 Doug & Debby Bashaw	14 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Beau, Cass	15 Blake Bennett	16 Gloria Blackhurst	17 Thomas & Peggy Boothe, Kolton, Izzy	18 Carolyn Brown	19 Jason Brown
20 Mary & CW Caldwell, Carly, Josie	21 Tom & Patti Calvert	22 Shawn & Tanya Cole	23 Brent & Sandy Confer	24 Jamison Cooper, Dalilah	25 Dave & Carol Crow	26 Bryan & Andrea Crow, Benjamin
27 Brandon & Anna Davis, Liam	28 Mike & Tara Davis	29 Marie DeLong	30 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier, Violet			

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalm 96:12 NIV