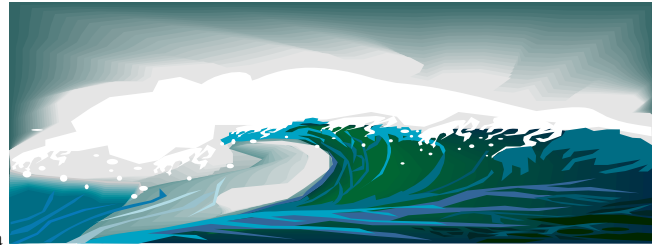




The *February 2021*
Anchor

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



Most everyone loves a romantic comedy, where the goofy guy ends up with the beautiful young woman at the end of the movie. We leave the theater saying, “love won.” As Christians, we have our Bible which tells an amazing love story, of God sending His one and only Son into this the sinful world, to become the final sacrifice for mankind’s sins. His life was blameless and He knew no sin. But His death on the cross was cruel and humiliating. But, love was demonstrated when Jesus said, “It is finished,” meaning the plan of salvation – that end-all sacrifice. However, the story continued; it was far from over. Jesus was raised from the dead, and the victory was ours who believe. Just like those old love story movies, the hero was down but not out. It was our Lord and Savior who saved us from the penalty of death – by extending love toward us. It was because of this love for us, we can be with Him forever in heaven. Can we accept the gift of love that was extended? What a beautiful love story. It might not sound like the love story you are used to hearing or seeing on television, but friend, it’s a love story of all love stories. That’s because it was not only real but the consequences are eternal.

As a pastor, I see love extended in many places. I see them in the eyes of a new mom holding that precious baby. I see love in the young girl about to walk down the aisle on her wedding day or watching her gaze at her father as they enjoy a dance together. I see love in the eyes of moms-and-dads as they watch a son or daughter being baptized. We all love when our church family rallies around another in the church who has fallen on hard times. And we see families demonstrating love and support for each other at the funeral home as they lay a loved one to rest. Love is all around us. We can see it, if we look for it.

The Bible tells us that it is “Love” that covers a multitude of sin (1 Peter 4:8). God is love (1 John 4:8). When you and I were given the ability to love from God, it’s another example of how we are made in His image. Because we can love, we know love. Because we can love, we feel love. Who do you know that needs to feel loved? Who in your circle of influence needs to know that you love them? When we forgive someone, we show them love. When we send a card, we say I love you and I’m thinking of you. When you pray and worship in church, you tell God you love Him. Can we strive to be filled with love during the month of February?

Getting back into the sanctuary for worship has been wonderful. Sure, the masks are uncomfortable, but being around other people is nice. Our crowds are still very small. But, we see love in the eyes of those who walk through the door. Their love for the church and their love for one another is evident. For those watching the services at home, we feel your love. Having you being online or on Zoom demonstrates to others your love for God and for those brothers and sisters who watch alongside you. The world is filled with enough hate and frustration. Let’s look to the Lord for His love and watch care. Let’s look at one another with love, as souls that God has redeemed.

Let us use the “Love Month” - February 2021 - as a reminder that as disciples of Christ, we are commanded to love one another (John 13:34). **Jesus said, when we love our brothers and sisters the world knows we are His disciples** (John 13:35). My hope is you have a wonderful and healthy February! I’ll leave you with a question. *When is the last time you told someone I love you?*

In His service,

Pastor Toby



YOUTH IS BACK!!

We are meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 for fellowship and lessons. Also, we are planning ahead for activities for when we are COVID free.

If you have any child in grades 6 through 12, we would love for them to join us.

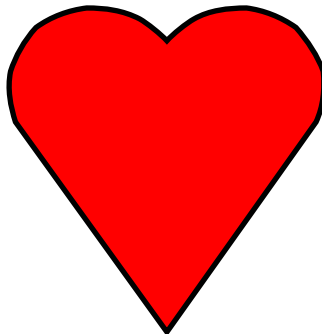
Please start saving items for our yard sale in July. It's coming up faster than you may think!

Our first meeting back yielded 13 kids (We have lost 15 kids to families moving and graduation.) Hopefully God will send us more young families with a BUNCH of kids.

Be in prayer as we get going in 2021. We have a lot of souls to reach and kids to love on!

Blessings,

Ann





And the Walls Came Tumblin' Down!

New internet and phone lines were run throughout the church and Fellowship Hall. This will give us better wifi and internet connection. We will let you know the new password for use when it's completed.



Welcome 2021 Officers

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The new officers of FBC started their work January 1. With a daunting 2020 behind us, we strive ever more to do the Lord's work in 2021.

Tasks are somewhat different than past years. We look hard for ways to *Reach Out, Bring In and Serve Christ Together*....especially when together has meant 6 feet apart and no hugs. But with prayer, we continue to love our friends, neighbors and community in unique ways. Please be in prayer for our church officers as they ask God's guidance to find ways to draw us and our community closer to Him.

DEACONS



KEVIN WOODS



RICHARD MASSEY



BEN MIZE



JON MOORE



DANNY DZIERZANSKI

DEACONESSES



DEB LYONS



ANDREA CROW



DEBBY BASHAW



KAY PURSLEY



ROBIN MCGOSKEY

TRUSTEES



JEFF FLESHER



GUSTA ARRINGTON



GARY BALSER



WAYNE FRIDLEY

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



JANE MOORE
CHAIRPERSON



DENA WILLIAMS
ADULT REP



SUSAN WEST
FAMILY LIFE REP



LEANNE THOMPSON
YOUTH REP



TARA DAVIS
MISSION REP



TALIA MARTINEZ
CHILDREN'S REP



SANDY CONFER
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

FINANCE COMMITTEE-AT LARGE



JOHN STEPHENSON



PHYLLIS MASSEY

NOMINATING COMMITTEE-AT LARGE



TOM STEPHENSON



RHONDA RITCHIE

SS CLERK



BEV STEPHENSON

CHURCH CLERK



MARIE DELONG

FINANCIAL SECRETARY



CONNIE STAATS

FINANCIAL TREASURER



JO HENDRICKS

MUSIC DIRECTOR



ABBI WOODS

2021 First Baptist Church Officers

Deacons

2022-Ben Mize
2022-Richard Massey
2021-Kevin Woods
2021-Jon Moore
2023- Danny Dzierzanski

Deaconesses

2022-Kay Pursley
2021-Robin McGoskey
2021-Debbie Lyons
2023-Debby Bashaw
2023-Andrea Crow

Trustees

2022-Open
2022-Wayne Fridley
2021-Gary Balsler
2021-Gusta Arrington
2021-Jeff Flesher

Board of Christian Education

2022-Jane Moore (Chairperson)
2022-Leanne Thompson (Youth)
2021-Dena Williams (Adults)
2021- Susan West (Family Life)
2023-Tara Davis (Missions)
2023- Talia Martinez (Children)

Sunday School Superintendent

Sandy Confer

Sunday School Clerk

Bev Stephenson

Church Clerk

Marie DeLong

Financial Secretary

Connie Staats

Treasurer

Jo Hendricks

Care and Concern Committee

Amy Starkey Peg Lyons
Mary Jo Moore Carolyn Mellinger

Moderator

Ben Mize

Social & Fellowship Committee

Tim & Connie Staats Pam Balsler
Bev Stephenson Jennie Wise
Christie Mize Sharon Adkins
Carol Crow Sherry Dzierzanski

Finance Committee

At Large John Stephenson
At Large Phyllis Massey
Financial Secretary Connie Staats
Treasurer Jo Hendricks
Deacon Chairman Kevin Woods
Trustee Representative Gary Balsler
BOCE Representative Jane Moore

Nominating Committee

At Large Tom Stephenson
At Large Rhonda Ritchie
Deacon Representative Ben Mize
Trustee Representative Wayne Fridley
BOCE Representative Talia Martinez

Ushers

Jon Moore - Head Usher
Richard Massey
Mike Hall
Burt Lyons


Flower Committee

Susan West Jane Moore

Music Director

Abbi Woods

When Did You Meet?


As our thoughts turn to love  as we get closer to Valentine's Day, I thought it would be interesting to ask some of our people when and where they met the love of their life.

John and Rose Stephenson met in high school many years ago. They got married in 1958. They've been married for 62 years.

Pastor Toby and Jen met through a salesman. Jen cancelled their first date when they would actually meet but later went with Toby to dinner and to buy a shower curtain for Toby's house. They have been married 21 years.

Gary and Pam Balser met at Gary's best friend's house. Pam was friends with his sister. They have been married for 45 years.

Tim and Connie Staats knew each other but carpooled with Tom Stephenson to college. The rest is history. They have been married for 41 years.

Ben and Christie Mize met at Marshall  when Christi was a freshman and Ben was a sophomore. They have been married for 30 years.

Jon and Jane Moore met in junior high school; Jon is her sister's age. They have been married 40 years.

Alan and Gusta Arrington met at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois in 1973. They have been married for almost 45 years.

Doug and Debby Bashaw were in the same grade in school. They have been married for 48 years.


Jim and Kathy Frazier met in high school in Columbus.  They have been married for 42 years.

Eugene and Jessica Morgan met in a chat room on the internet in Yahoo. They have been married for 18 years.

Burt and Deb Lyons met at the wedding of a former student of Deb's and Burt's nephew in Flagstaff, AZ in 2001. They were in the bridal party and paired up and hit it off. They were married the following year. They have been married for 18 years.

Ron and Amy Starkey had best friends that were brother and sister. Ron never noticed Amy because she hadn't grown up yet. Then one day after she graduated high school, they both ended up at their friends' house. The rest is history! They have been married for 49 years.

Brandon and Ashlee Wyant met in Mr. Rectos' math class in high school. They have been married for 8 years this May.


Randy and Carolyn Torris met in Morgantown while she was going to WVU. They were working at the same job in the summer of 1984 and got married on his birthday in 1986 in South Carolina. They have been married for 34 years. 

Dale and Anna Vanderlaan met at Tech. They have been married 29 years.

Brent and Angel Ritchie met in the ER when she was a nurse extern and he was the charge nurse. Brent showed her around the ER and where to put her things in the break room in 2012. He swears that day he told everyone he was going to marry Angel. They were married in 2016.

Dave and Dena Williams grew up in Evergreen Hills. His sister was Dena's age. She noticed him at a slumber party. They have been married for 37 years.

Tom and Bev Stephenson went to school together. They have been married for 38 years.

Kevin and Abbi Woods met on a blind date for dinner and a Marshall  WVU game. Each of them were cheering for the opposite team! They were married 8 months later and have been married for 33 years.

Brent and Sandy Confer met in Waco, TX in 1988. they were married the following year and have been married for 31 years.

Mike and Tara Davis met while she worked at Food Fair in high school. They have been together for 12 years and married for almost 10 years.

Tom and Patti Calvert met in high school many years ago. They were married in 1956 and have been married for 64 years!!

Jeff and Venisa Flesher met through Venisa's brother CJ. Their first date was August 27, 1977 when they went to see Star Wars. They were married in 1982 and have been married 38 years. May the Force be with you!

Danny and Sherry Dzierzanski met at Long Point Baptist Church in Houston, TX in Sunday School Class and they attended the same high school. Their old church is still there and has grown over the years. So has their love. Danny and Sherry have been married for 47 years.

Richard and Phyllis Massey met in Chesapeake, WV when Richard was driving by and saw her sitting on the porch. He stopped and asked her name and asked her to go to Stoney's for a big boy sandwich. They ended up married and have been married for 60 years.

Randy and Sami Lawson first met through his mom's church in Spencer in 2013. They were married last summer.



As the song goes, "*Some enchanted evening, you may meet a stranger across a crowded room.*" or maybe at school, college - even on a front porch. As long as you allow the Lord to guide you, you will find the right mate and (as the fairy tales say) live happily ever after.


Happy Valentines Day!

Round About First Baptist

Congratulations Shealyn



We were blessed to witness a believer's baptism on January 10 during the morning worship service.

Shealyn Johnson followed in obedience and was baptized.

May the Lord bless you greatly, Shealyn!

Thanks for helping!

We are still collecting for the Sanctity of Life. If you have a baby bottle with change, please remember to turn them in by February 14.

Psalm 139:13 *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*



Be on the Lookout!



Hey kiddos!
It's almost Valentine's Day.

Watch for something special from the Children's Department. They are always up to something!



With Love,
First Baptist

Unexpected Visitor



Meet Ruger!

I had an unexpected visitor in my office this week. Meet Ruger, the newest addition to Dave and Dena Williams' family.

Ruger is friendly, hairy, with short legs and BIG feet!

If you see Ruger around, stop and say hello.

Upcoming Baptisms

We have a few people who are interested in following the Ordinance of Baptism this spring.

If you have accepted the Lord as your Savior but have not been baptized yet, please prayerfully consider taking this next step of obedience.

Contact Pastor Toby for more information.

WVBC Officer Training Begins

The annual Officer Training normally held at Parchment Valley Conference Center begins Monday, February 1 at 6:30. The classes are Monday, Tuesday and/or Thursday. All the classes are online this year - starting at 6:30 and 7:30 each evening.

We have a number of people registered for some of the different classes this week.

Those that signed up through the office should have received a confirmation in your email for your specific class with a link to follow. If you did not receive it, please contact Susan in the office.

Movie Night!



What does an elephant, a pig, a gorilla and a porcupine have in common?

They can SING!!

Come to movie night February 12 at 7:00. Snacks and drinks provided. Social distancing and masks required.

Let It Snow, Let It Snow...

But not in the sanctuary.

It's been a bit nippy in the sanctuary the last 2 Sundays. The 2 large units that heat it recently quit working.

Repair men were called and we were told an extreme amount carbon monoxide had built up in the heat exchangers. This was a dangerous situation and the gas was shut off to both furnaces.

An emergency meeting of the Finance Committee was called and they determined that new furnaces were needed asap.

At this time, the furnaces and AC to replace the units have been ordered. We should be warm again very soon.

Letters and emails have been sent to the congregation to explain the situation in detail.

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First Baptist Church's Bible study library is now digital...

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and adults.

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button in the email.

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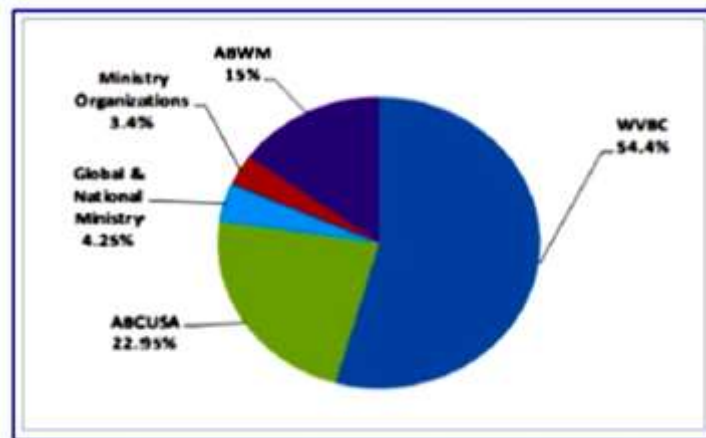
www.rightnowmedia.org



Love Gift

2021

Goal for WV- \$100,000
(NOT JUST FOR WOMEN . . .)



What is the history of *Love Gift*?

In 1932, American Baptist Churches faced a \$500,000 deficit, and it was feared the financial crisis would limit God's work in the denomination. ABC asked individuals to give financial contributions in excess of their tithes and pledges. Women, specifically, were challenged to raise \$150,000 to help meet the crisis. Receiving the challenge, women began the over-and-above contribution called *Love Gift*.

The *Love Gift* initiative begun in 1932 outlived the Great Depression and continues today to bless the breadth of American Baptist ministry and mission happening in regions, the U.S. and around the world. West Virginia is the leading giver of *Love Gift*. If our goal is achieved this year, WV will receive \$54,400 for our ongoing budgeted support.

During the month of February, here at First Baptist, we will be collecting for the *Love Gift* offering. Please take a box and give as the Lord leads. You can return your box anytime during the month of February.

**"...to bring good news to the poor... proclaim release to the captives...
let the oppressed go free..."**

(Luke 4:18-19)

Focus on Sunday School:



The Love Month 

I read online the answers from some 7-8 year old kids on a surefire way to make someone fall in love with you.

Some answers were:

“Tell them you own a bunch of candy stores.”

“Shake your hips and hope for the best”

“One way is to take the girl out to eat. Make sure it is something she likes. French fries usually work for me.”

These are such cute answers and it makes us smile to hear them. But true love is quite different.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Giving your life for someone who does not know you.

Giving your life for someone who hates you.

Giving your life for the poor who cannot repay you.

Giving your life without any hesitation.

Giving your life knowing from birth you would do it.

Giving your life to fulfill a destiny since creation.

No candy. No hip shaking. No French fries. Just love.

That’s real love. Thank you Jesus.

February Birthdays



Connie Staats 2/6
Beckham Ritchie 2/10
Jennie Wise 2/11
Talia Martinez 2/12
Anna Davis 2/16
Mike Hall 2/16
Jared Torris 2/16
Carolyn Torris 2/20
Mike Graham 2/23
Dave Williams 2/27

Is your birthday name missing? Tell Susan

**Bible Book of the Month
February 2021**

Jonah



February Calendar

Feb 1 Red Cross Blood Drive

Feb 1 Trustee Meeting

Feb 1, 2, 4 Online Officer Training

Feb 4 Deaconess Meeting

Feb 6 Young Adults Super Bowl Party

Feb 8 BOCE meeting

Feb 12 Movie Night

Feb 16 Finance Committee Meeting

Feb 18 CIRCLE

Feb 27 AB Men’s Prayer Breakfast

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.



February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Anna Bailes	2 Gary & Pam Balsler	3 Doug & Debby Bashaw	4 Josh Bashaw, Sara, Luke	5 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Beau, Cass	6 Blake Bennett
7 Gloria Blackhurst	8 Thomas & Peggy Boothe, Izzy, Kolton	9 Carolyn Brown	10 Jason Brown	11 CJ & Mary Caldwell, Carly, Josie	12 Tom & Patti Calvert	13 Grant & Cari Chapman
14 Shawn & Tanya Cole	15 Brent & Sandy Confer	16 Jamison Cooper, Dalilah	17 Dave & Carol Crow	18 Bryan & Andrea Crow Benjamin	19 Brandon & Anna Davis, Liam	20 Mike & Tara Davis
21 Marie DeLong	22 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier, Violet	23 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	24 Rodney & Sheila Eskins	25 Mona Eubanks	26 Heidi Farrell	27 Annabelle Flesher
28 Jeff & Venisa Flesher						

