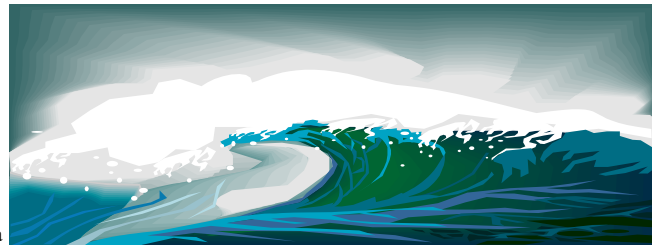




The *January 2023*
Anchor

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



Welcome to the New Year 2023. Who would have imagined that the new year would be upon us already? I feel like the year flew by. How about you?

The New Year brings about an opportunity for all of us to pause and reflect on the previous year and consider ways we can improve our lives in the new year. For us, we look back at our health and our habits and we wonder 'Is there anything I could do better in the next year? Is there anything in my life that I need to stop doing?' I like to ask myself, what else can I do for the Lord in the new year. Maybe, you have had a difficult year with health, finances, or even relationships. If so, chances are that you are coming into 2023 tired. If that's you, know that it is ok to be tired. The Bible tells us that our strength can be renewed.

Isaiah 40:30-31 says, ***“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but 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 will walk and not be faint.”***

If you are in a season of tiredness, know that looking to the Lord in that moment will help bring a refreshing. Open God's Word and see what the Lord says about this renewal. Psalm 31:23-24 says, ***“Love the LORD, all his faithful people! The LORD preserves those who are true to him, but the proud he pays back in full. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”***

As I enter 2023, I see myself as hungry. I long to serve the Lord better and to know him deeper. Just as you do, I find myself asking God, what do You need me to do? Am I bringing the right messages? What can I learn today from Your Word? You see, with this kind of introspective, we can alert the Lord to the importance of having Him in our life. I hope you are doing something similar in your walk with the Lord.

Lamentations 3:22-23 says, ***“Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*** As you begin 2023, remember the Lord's faithfulness in your life. He has always been with you. He will always be with you. He promises us to go with us in whatever we face. This should bring us all encouragement and reassurance that we're going to be ok.

My prayer is that you have good health in this New Year...that your heart be filled with Scripture and love for the brethren. Can we strive to be an encourager to others we meet? Lord help us help someone who can't help themselves. Lord, allow us to be a light to the world. That gets me excited just typing those sentences.

To that end, this January we are starting two new programs at this church this month. We will have the Mayberry Bible Study and Life Application beginning January 23 at 10am. We will also serve as a satellite location for the West Virginia Baptist Convention's School of Christian Studies beginning Thursday, January 19. The first course is Theology 1. This is understanding what we believe. I am excited to get to teach this course. There is a fee for the class and a textbook is required.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2023.

In His service, *Pastor Toby*

Captivate

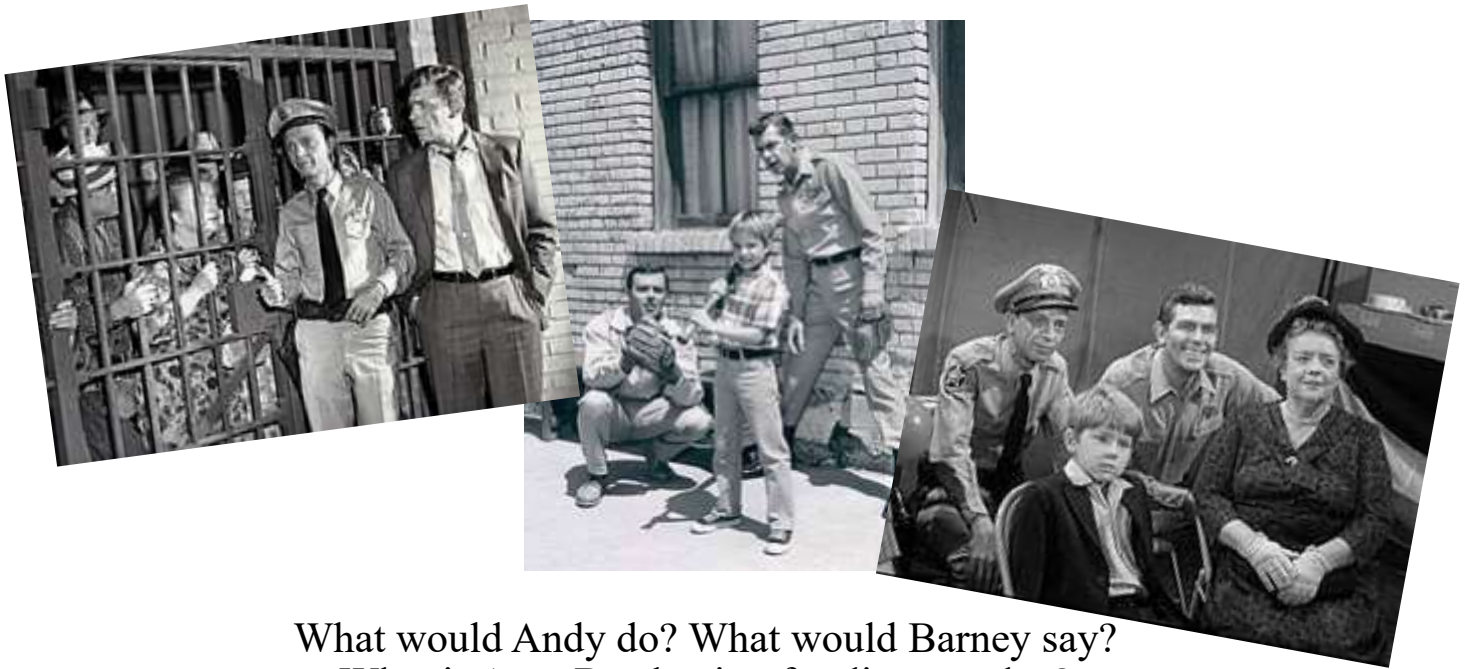
Teen Ministry of Ravenswood First Baptist

What a great night! I am so proud of how many kids came and how well they did for their Christmas program! God is good - All the time.

Blessings, *Ann*



Mayberry Bible Study



What would Andy do? What would Barney say?
What is Aunt Bea having for dinner today?
Did Opie go fishing?
Who's whistling?

Beginning Monday, Jan 23, and running at least six weeks will be the Mayberry Bible Study and Life Application at 10:00 a.m.

We will watch an episode of Andy Griffith as a group, discuss the life lesson in the show, and then apply the Scripture to the situation. The aim is to make us more aware of how we can better handle tough situations in life.

Mayberry stories actually become the parable in these sessions. This will be a fun social gathering mixed with relaxed conversation that includes, prayer, Bible devotion, and even a game or two, and of course a fun Mayberry door prize. We will meet in the fellowship hall. Put it on your calendar for 2023.

Bring a friend! It's open to everyone!

WVBC Annual Training Event

Each year, the West Virginia Baptist Convention hosts a training program at Parchment Valley Conference Center for the officers of the churches throughout the state.

This year the training will be Saturday, February 4 starting at 9:00. Early registration has begun. (see next page for the registration form)

The day is divided with workshops in both the morning and afternoon that deal with finances, clerks, archiving, addiction and more. You can choose a morning and an afternoon workshop to attend. Box lunches will be served if you register before January 27.

First Baptist will pay for our people who would like to attend the workshops. Contact the office for more details.



Busy Bees!

The *18-35 Young Adults* have been really busy! In November we helped complete the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project with 110 boxes from FBC donated and 251 boxes from Ravenswood area. WV had a total of 138,205 boxes (25,000 more than last year). Continue to pray for the delivery, recipients and their families. Our group also did a Thanksgiving Dinner for Community Kitchen.

In December, the Young Adults painted and set up Nativity with the help of the trustees. We went to Oakwood Baptist in Charleston for their Christmas cantata and then went out to dinner afterward.

YA toured the Gallipolis Lights and went to Shake Shoppe for some goodies and had a Christmas party (with exchanged names). We sent a Christmas letter and ornaments to members of our church family; helped decorate around church; and participated in the Christmas Sunday service.

Thank you FBC for allowing us to be a part of a Christ loving church.

Movie Night!



Everyone is welcome to come out for a free family friendly movie with popcorn, drinks, pizza and snacks to see Lifemark on Friday, January 6 at 7:00.

This is another Kendrick brothers film with a great story starring Kirk Cameron, Alex Kendrick, and Raphael Ruggero.

It's Ugly Sweater Family Game Night!



Keep out that Ugly Sweater! The season isn't over yet! We will be having Family Game Night Sunday, January 15 starting at 6:00. Come out for fun and display that Ugly Sweater! Contact the office if you need a ride.

Something for all ages!

Sign up in the office asap!



West Virginia Baptist Convention

Annual Training Event

Saturday, February 4, 2023

Parchment Valley Conference Center

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Church: _____

***Note:** Students in the General Studies program of the Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies are eligible to receive course credit for participating in two workshops of their choice.

Request BWSCS Course Credit

REGISTRATION FEE:

- \$25 Annual Training Event Fee
- \$27 Additional Fee for Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies (BWSCS)
- \$37 Additional Fee for BWSCS Couple

LUNCH OPTION (SELECT ONE):

- Boxed Lunch - Turkey Boxed Lunch - Ham

WORKSHOP LIST

Select one morning and afternoon workshop:

Morning Workshops (10:15 AM)

- Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training (Part 1)
- The 21st Century Christian
- Preventing Church Hurt
- Dealing with Addiction: Uprooting Anger
- Archiving: Preserving the Past
- Church Clerks
- Church Trustees
- How to Be Successful with After School Programs

Afternoon Workshops (1:00 PM)

- Short-Term Mission Trip Leader Training (Part 2)
- The Hope of the Rural Church
- Healing and Helping
- Church Security
- Church Treasurers and Financial Secretaries
- Deacons
- Walk With Me: The Journey of Walking with Others

EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Registrations received after January 27 will not include lunch.

Make checks payable and mail to:
 West Virginia Baptist Convention
 P.O. Box 1019
 Parkersburg, WV, 26102

Or register online at: www.wvbc.org

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	Registration— Hill Hall
9:30 AM	Worship— Hill Hall
10:15 AM	Morning Workshops
Noon	Lunch
1:00 PM	Afternoon Workshops
2:30 PM	Dismissal

Game Day Goes Out



Some members of Game Day enjoyed the holiday season by eating out at Mary B's. Good food and excellent company! What more could anyone want!!

Congratulations Zack Graham

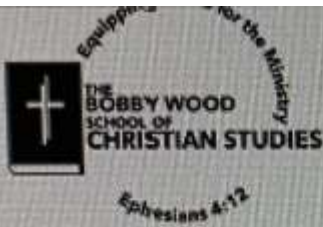


Zack was chosen EMT of the Year for Camden Clark Hospital.

Way to go Zack!!



The Law and the Law fulfilled



In-Person Class Theology I (T-01) Various Locations

Class Begins on January 19 2023 @ 7:00

The textbook used for this course is:

Introducing Christian Doctrine by Millard Erickson

Teacher is Pastor Toby Wagoner at First Baptist Church

This class is required for the diploma in Pastoral Ministry and may be chosen to fulfill one requirement for the certificate in Lay Ministry, or the certificate in General Studies.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Please have registration(s) in to the office (with money included) one week before your class is scheduled to start. You may register on the first night of class, but your instructor does not have textbooks on hand and please remember that a reading assignment may be due on the first night of class.

ASSIGNMENT: Pay "For Credit" fee, complete registration form and mail in (with fee), attend each class session, read assigned text and complete any assignments as given by the instructor.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.wvbc.org. Click on the School of Christian Studies' link, then (under Information Links) click on the "How to Register for Classes Online" link.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Tracie at 304.422.6449 or e-mail temerick@wvbc.org.

<h2 style="font-size: 2em;">Fees:</h2>	<u><i>Student-Receiving Credit:</i></u>	<u><i>Audit/Graduate-No credit needed:</i></u>
	Class: \$42.00/single or \$52.00/couple Textbook: \$28.08 (Prices below include textbook) Total: \$70.80/single or \$80.80/couple	Class: \$32.00/single or \$42.00/couple Textbook: \$28.08 (Prices below include textbook) Total: \$60.80/single or \$70.80/couple

Theology I (T-01) Registration Form - January 2023
(Couples may use one form.)

CLASS LOCATION: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Amount Sending: _____ for Credit Audit Graduate **AND** Single fee Couple fee
(Please check all that apply.)

Please make check payable and mail to: School of Christian Studies, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.
If dropping off at our office and paying in cash, please bring exact change. We do not have change on hand at the office.
Please have your registration and fee to the office one week prior to the start of class.

Please clip registration form portion and mail with your fee.

Merry Christmas!



Many thanks to Jane Moore and Ashlee Wyant for their work with the kiddos!

After their beautiful Christmas program, God's Cadets took a break. They will meet next on January 8 at 6:00.



From God's Cadets



What a Great Group!



We are blessed to have you with us!

Breakfast with the Wisemen



*Everyone is cordially invited to
Breakfast with the Wise Men
January 8 at 9:30*

*Hear the completion of the birth of
Christ through the written Word of God.*

Enjoy the fellowship of the church

Welcome Sarah McCloy



SARAH will serve in partnership with the Japan Baptist Union's sister school, Shokei Gakuin University, and at the associated church, Shokei Baptist Church in Sendai, Japan. In her role as a part-time instructor at Shokei University, she will teach English and work with the chaplains' department taking part in the spiritual life of the school. Her ministry will include serving as an assistant pastor at Shokei Baptist Church as she preaches, teaches, and contributes to the pastoral ministry.

Sarah is the daughter of our area pastor Mark McCloy. She will be speaking at our church during the morning worship service on January 8.

Please come and hear about her servant's heart and the ministry that the Lord has led her too. A small reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall for you to be able to meet her.

Advent & Celebration



Visit with Santa!



Ho Ho Ho!

Focus on Sunday School:



In the beginning, God.....

It's a new year, a new beginning. We can decide to break bad habits and create new habits that will help us.

A new habit to create that helps every soul, is come to Sunday School! If you google a habit on the internet, it tells us it takes 2 months to create a habit - 66 days. It can take longer according to individual behavior.

God did it so easily - creating the world in 6 days and RESTING on the seven. We have a pattern established by God already.

As you begin this new year of 2023, begin by putting God first. Come to Sunday School and see what exciting stories we can learn from His word.

Find out about creation; leviathans; giants; battles; floods; miracles; and mostly - the love of Jesus.

Sunday School is a habit to develop and stay with. Start now!

It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!

January Birthdays



Ryley Thompson 1/6
Blake Bennett 1/7
Matt King 1/11
Jennifer Wagoner 1/14
Deb Lyons 1/14
Belinda Rader 1/16
Pam Balsler 1/17
Lisa Hoke 1/19
Jaz Morgan 1/21
Jacob Graham 1/23
Destiny Thomas 1/24

Is your birthday missing? Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month January 2023 Proverbs



January Calendar

Jan 1 Happy New Year's Day; Communion
Jan 2 Trustee Meeting
Jan 4 Annual Reports Due to the office
Jan 5 Deaconess Meeting
Jan 6 Movie Night
Jan 8 Breakfast with the Wisemen; Special Speaker
Jan 9 BOCE
Jan 10 Men's Fellowship
Jan 11 Annual Business Meeting
Jan 15 Sanctity of Life Sunday; Installation of Officers;
Family Game Night
Jan 17 Finance Committee Meeting
Jan 18 Anchor Articles Due
Jan 19 Circle; School of Christian Studies
Jan 23 Mayberry Study begins
Jan 24 Deacons Meeting
Jan 26 School of Christian Studies
Jan 30 Mayberry Study

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00

CommUnity Kitchen

Jan 7 Burt Lyons
Jan 14
Jan 21 Susan West
Jan 28

If your family or group would like to help out with this ministry, please contact the office. Thank you.

*Sign up for
CommUnity Kitchen 2023!*

Be the first!

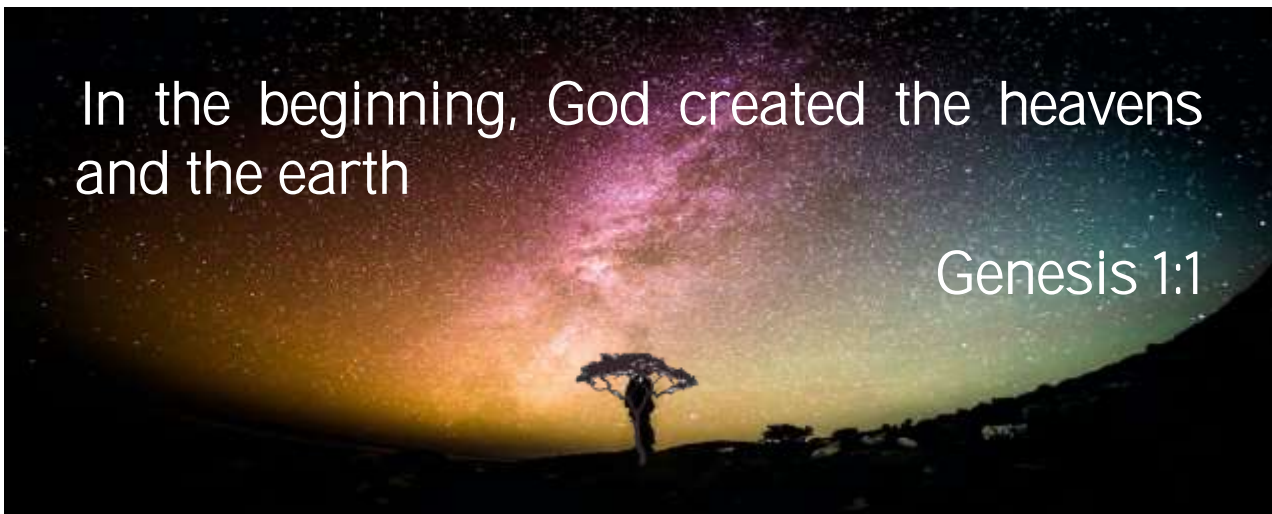
CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Beau, Cass	2 Blake Bennett	3 Thomas & Peggy Boothe, Izzy, Kolton	4 Carolyn Brown	5 Jason Brown	6 CW & Mary Caldwell, Carly, Josie	7 Tom & Patti Calvert
8 Grant & Cari Chapman	9 Shawn & Tanya Cole	10 Brent & Sandy Confer	11 Jameson Cooper, Dalilah	12 Deshone Cooper	13 Dave & Carol Crow	14 Bryan & Andrea Crow, Benjamin
15 Anna Davis, Liam, Emory	16 Mike & Tara Davis, Brayden	17 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier Violet, Finley	18 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	19 Rodney & Sheila Eskins	20 Heidi Farrell	21 Annabelle Flesher
22 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	23 Nathanael Flesher	24 Helen Frank	25 Jim & Kathy Frazier	26 Wayne Fridley	27 Mark & Susan Gerstell	28 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli, Caralyn
29 Jacob Graham	30 Zack Graham	31 Terri Greenwood				



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth

Genesis 1:1