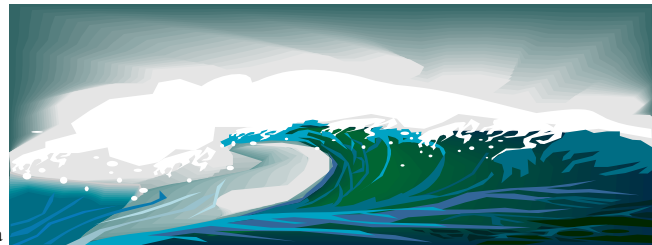




The *September & October 2023*

# Anchor

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



The month of September is special for me, as I am launching my doctorate improvement project for First Baptist Church which will help expand our vision that should help shape the church over the next decade. In what will have taken me about three years to complete, the improvement project and curriculum are finalized and ready to share.

As many of you know, I completed my Bachelor's Degree at WVU-Parkersburg, my Master's Degree at Moody Theological Seminary, and now finishing my doctorate at Liberty University. I hope to be finished by the end of 2023 or early 2024. As part of my thesis, I have a project that I have created specifically for our church, that will result in published data, and will culminate with me receiving my doctorate at some point.

The project will bring together church members in four sessions across as many weeks to learn about how the church can be transformed to have a better focus on others. The project is called "Others First: A Visual Roadmap for Transformation." The strategic plan of sorts will look at church functionality that includes guest engagement practices, facility needs, member actions and behaviors, and program enhancements. The aim will be for the church to put a greater emphasis on welcoming guests and how to share the love of Jesus with each one another as well as others. Romans 12:2 says, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*" Paul added in Philippians 2:3-5a "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...*" (NIV). Our motives matter.

Our church does a fantastic job of taking care of those who are already in the fold. Many of us had existing relationships before church, so it makes it easier to speak to one another when we are present at church. But what about those who visit our church that we have no idea who they are, and whenever they do not know us? When is the last time someone in the church had a conversation with you before or after the service about what Jesus did this week for them? Is there something we can do about it to change that mindset? Is a lack of participation in church programs and activities saying more than we know to other people, even if the presumption is wrong? We need to be aware of that premise.

When you look around the church it looks historical. It's beautiful. But is it ready for the next 30 years as is? What is missing that might help a guest and other members enjoy their experience more? You know your grandkids better than anyone. Would they attend this church if you did not? Why or why not? The church does many things out of the fact it has always been done that way. But, are there improvements that can be made to make the church even better? First Baptist has a rich history of around 160 years in this community. What sets our church apart? Can you prove that? Would outsiders agree? Is parking an issue for our older members? These are the things that when discussed bring out our opinions and desires and often solutions that can be built upon. My project will hone in on specific areas that could lead to an even fuller transformation beyond the project. The plan I will propose will be doable in a short amount of time with a full launch across 120 days. Your participation will help us really look at transformation from the inside-out, placing an emphasis on others and how they see us and our love for others.

During this quality improvement project, you are recorded as we look closely at our own actions and behaviors, the facility, our programs, and guest engagement. How can looking at these areas in the church help position the church to truly put Others First – and to love on each other as God intended? Is our church ready to continue without us? Is our church ready to be handed off to our grandchildren and their children? What do we need to be doing to get the church to that place?

I'm excited about the conversation and learning together how we can make First Baptist an even more exciting place to worship. Best of all, this process will initiate a transformation in each of us, where we understand why sharing the love of Jesus is important to each other and those guests who attend our service. This process coupled with facility and program enhancements will be the beginning of what should be a regular process of reassessment of what we are doing as a church. We are to be a light in our community. People know we are here. So let's give them a church environment, that with the help of the Holy Spirit, would be hard to resist. For me, I hope this project will not only help our church but also other churches across the nation that choose to follow our model of a strategic plan, where putting others first, opens the door for a transformation that protects legacy, while ensuring longevity.

If you have not signed up to participate and are a member of the church who is least 18 years of age, please let me know. I'm excited to see how little adjustments here and there across the church, and most of all within each of our hearts, will help us all get excited about serving God better in the days, weeks, months and years to come.

If you have questions let me know. *Your participation is voluntary.* I do hope if you love the church and are a member, that you will consider helping us in this journey.

In His service,

*Pastor Toby*



# October Message

Psalms 96:11-12 says, "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy" (NIV). That Scripture is perfect as we head in to the Fall season. Fall in West Virginia is one of the most beautiful seasons we have, as everything comes to life in color. Leaves turn multiple shades of orange, red, and yellow and stretch as far as the eye can see. It is as if the great Master Painter Himself, God Almighty, dots the hillsides with His splendor and majesty that everyone sees and appreciates. Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV) says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

During this season, look around and thank God for allowing us to see these beautiful colors across the mountainside. We take our mountains and hills for granted, but when they come alive in color galore, we just have another reason to praise Him. It's during the season of Fall that we can think about seasons of change.

Our lives are full of different seasons. Sometimes we have a time of sowing and planting, and other times we pluck and bring in the harvest. Sometimes in our lives we have good times and then at other times, not so good. Our health may be good today and fail tomorrow. Just as Paul said in his letter to the Philippians, that he has learned to be content in whatever state he is in. Contentment is a great place to be in life. While our spiritual maturity grows every day, we can live contently knowing that even in seasons of change, God is still God. He loves us and He extends mercy and grace. So that no matter what this season brings to you individually or to your family, God is still good. His mercy sustains us.

The last month has been an incredible time for me at First Baptist. I have started my doctoral project which has been wonderful the last two weeks. We've looked at the guest engagement and the church facility. The aim to come up with a strategic plan that helps us look to the future with great anticipation making small changes within the church that will position the church to better reach the lost for Jesus. The next two sessions will look at member attitudes and behaviors and the programs we offer. Part of the project will ensure that everything we do at First Baptist will have a component of evangelism and discipleship. This means, if we are gathering for a project or program, there should always be an opportunity to help people toward the Lord for faith, or how we can better grow in our faith. The discussions have been wonderful and I'm happy to report that about 48 percent of our member families are represented in the training. I see some great things coming for us in the new few months. Stay tuned.

On a different note, later this month the church will once again hold their Fall Festival. It will be a time to dust off your costume or come with a creative one. We've seen some pretty amazing costumes from both the young and old at the church. It's always fun to dress up and take part in some fun with the kids. The cake walk is always fun. You'll be hearing more information as we move toward the end of the month. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help with some games there. If you are willing to help, please let Susan know and she'll forward your information. Have a great fall – watch for the leaves to change.

Remember Jesus loves you and so do I.

In His Service,  
*Pastor Toby*





*Pastor*  
**APPRECIATION**

*we love our pastors!*

**God's Messenger**

**Baptisms**

**Man of God**

**Teacher**

**Preacher**



**Integrity**

**Shepherd**

**Counselor**

**Leader**

**Friend**

# Captivate

Teen Ministry of Ravenswood First Baptist



Busy! Busy! Busy! The Youth will be attending the Good Hope Association Youth Rally at Parchment Valley on October 7.



# GOOD HOPE ASSOCIATION



*Youth Rally*



*Make  
Jesus  
Known*



SAVE THE DATE

**OCT.**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

**2023**

**PARCHMENT VALLEY CONFERENCE CENTER**



### Glow Movement Receives Donations



Ms. Tracy Hall was on hand to accept a check for \$632 from donations raised from Vacation Bible School and matching fund from the Deacon's Fund to be used for their work in the Glow Movement.

### Jim Speer Recognized



The Deacons recognized Jim for his quiet dedication to the card ministry.

### Behind the Scenes - Care & Concern



Many people may not know the work and organization that goes on for the Care & Concern Committee. Amy Starkey has led this small group for quite a few years. They quickly organize and prepare a meal for those in our church family who have lost loved ones.

### Blessed by Landon



We were all blessed with the special music performed by Landon King during the choir hiatus.

Landon played a beautiful hymn medley as he shared his talent for the whole church.

*Thank you, Landon. Well done!*







# FREE VACCINE CLINIC

## COME GET YOUR FLU SHOT FREE OF CHARGE!

WHEN: OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
10AM-2PM



WHERE: EPWORTH UM CHURCH  
299 N CHURCH ST, RIPLEY  
(ACROSS FROM LIBRARY)

WHAT TO BRING:  
INSURANCE CARD\* & PHOTO ID

\*No insurance? No problem, your vaccine will be covered at no cost to you.

**THE FIRST 50 PARTICIPANTS TO RECEIVE A VACCINE WILL  
RECEIVE A \$25 GIFT CARD**





# Mayberry at Night





# Prayers for Back to School





# Thank you FBC Teachers!





**Blessed by Baptism! Jim Frazier**



There's always rejoicing when someone comes to Christ and then again when they follow the Lord in baptism! We welcome Jim Frazier with the right hand of fellowship following his baptism. Jim, may you be greatly blessed!

**Thank you Wayne!**



Wayne Fridley shared his gift of song during the morning service. Beautiful job, Wayne!

**Congratulations Torren Johnson!**



Family and Pastor Toby join with others to celebrate Torren's completion of his rehabilitation program. Good job, Torren!

20lbs of pop tabs were delivered to Ronald McDonald House in Charleston!! Thanks Jon Moore!



**A Star in the Making - Alli Graham!**



Alli is following in her brother Zack's footsteps by participating in theatre.

Alli was part of the cast for *The Big Bad Musical* performance in Ripley.

**Woohoo Alli !!!**



**Baptist Campus  
Ministry is  
*changing lives  
that change the  
world.***

We do this by reaching out to thousands of college students on seven campuses throughout West Virginia each semester:

- Concord University
- Fairmont State
- Glenville State
- Marshall University
- Potomac State
- West Virginia University
- WVU Technical Institute

**Want to Connect, Give, or Learn More?**

Contact [kaylaewvbc.org](http://kaylaewvbc.org) or call 304-422-6449.



**OCTOBER  
1st**

**Celebrate BCM Sunday with us!**

- hear from students
- support the ministry
- promote to your church

For more information and to request materials, contact [kaylaewvbc.org](http://kaylaewvbc.org)



# Stitching for the Lord

Some of our FBC women were joined by Good Hope Association member Sue Harris to help cut and sew domes for the mission field in Africa.





# CIRCLE Day Trip



CIRCLE took a trip around the area to see some little known treasure places and had a great time!

Sherry Walker has joined with others who are helping feed those in our area. She has been active with the *CommUnity Kitchen*—feeding 30+ people on Saturdays when she is able.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact the office.



# Hats and Holiness

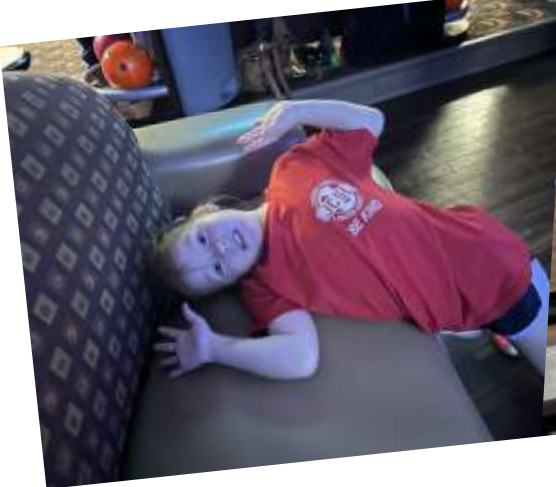


Our own Kathy Hudson, conference coordinator elect for ABWM of WV, defined the different hats that women wear in their daily walk with the Lord at this year's Spiritual Growth Retreat. She was the main speaker for the group as they gathered at Parchment Valley Conference Center in September.





# Strike for Jesus!!!





# God's Cadets Is Back!



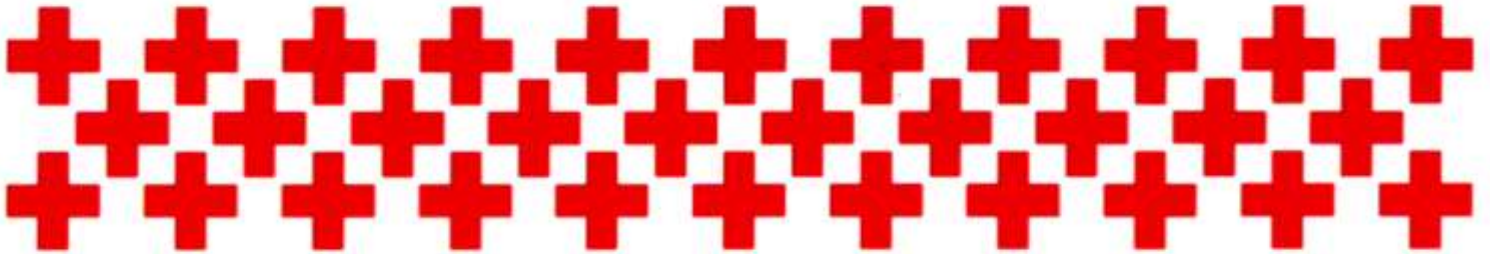
Miss Jane and Miss Ashlee are once again teaching our youngsters the Word of God!

The group started off the fall season with a bowling kick off at Emerson Lanes in Parkersburg. Ten smiling faces had a great time.

All kids— K through 5 grades— are welcome to come every Sunday night from 6:00 to 7:00 to have a great time learning about Jesus and all the people in the Bible. They'll also have crafts, games, and of course, snacks.

# American Red Cross

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



## **Blood Drive** **First Baptist Church**

Fellowship Hall  
215 Ann Street  
Ravenswood, WV

**Monday, October 2**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Ravenswood to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass.



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App



# Family Fall Festival

October 30 from 6 to 7:30



The whole family is invited to the annual Family Fall Festival.

With games, food, prizes, magic and more for everyone.

Bring your kids, neighbors, relatives and plan to have a super terrific time!

We will be in the Fellowship Hall October 29 starting at 6:00.



# Helping out our Pastor



Pastor Toby's doctorate project is "Others First: A Visual Roadmap 4 Transformation".

Many signed up for the research project and attended the informational training on Sunday afternoons.

# Wow! Beautiful Church!

Many thanks to Wayne Fridley for getting the beautiful autumn flowers and hay.

Many thanks to Susan and Mick Price and Tom Stephenson for decorating the front of the church for the Fall Season.

*Beautiful Work!*



# Vroom! Vroom!

Colt Laing, son of Rachelle and Steve, participated in the car show at the Harvest in the Wood.

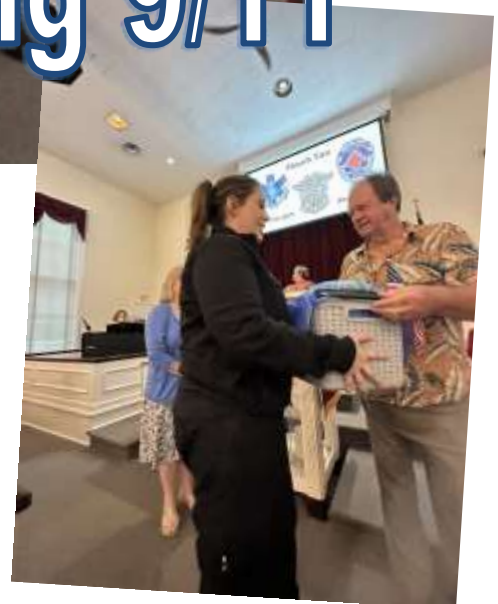
Colt's little motorized wagon is fast!!



# Thank You!



# Remembering 9/11



# Thank you from Young Adults



## Our own Hero



OCC Leader - Talia



Welcoming Young Adults





## **Women's 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** **Thursday, Oct 19, 2023**

**“Engaging God  
Mentally & Emotionally”**

### **TIME**

**Registration at 9:00**  
**Program at 9:30**

### **WHERE**

**South Parkersburg Baptist Church**  
1655 Blizzard Dr, Parkersburg, WV 26101

**Key Speaker · Claire Cottrill**

**Special Music · Ginny Prunty**

**Mission Speakers · Joyce Reed**  
**Anita Guiterriez**

**2024 · WV Hope Ministries**  
**Mission Outreach Project**  
**Special Project**

**Lunch time 11:30 – 12:30**

**"Now  
prepare  
yourself  
mentally  
and  
emotionally  
to follow the  
Eternal One  
your God."**

**1 Chronicles  
22:19a**



## **Focus on Sunday School:**



*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6*

Our Sunday School teachers are great! They are ready and willing to tell you about the Lord Jesus. It is so important to help our children grow to be strong in their Christian faith. While you plan your fall activities, please take advantage of our Sunday School—for your children and for yourself. Your children's eternal lives may depend on it.

### **FBC Teachers**

**Primary** Connie Staats  
**Grade** Tom Stephenson  
**Jr & Sr High** Kathy Hudson &  
Richard Massey  
**Young Adults** Jo Hendricks  
**Adults** Alan Arrington  
**Women of God** Amy Starkey

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

## **October Birthdays**



**Jason Brown—10/1**  
**David Scott—10/2**  
**Aiden Morgan—10/3**  
**Andrea Crow—10/4**  
**Mike Davis—10/6**  
**Caralyn Graham—10/8**  
**Brandon Wyant—10/9**  
**Bryan Donahue—10/10**  
**Cari Chapman—10/15**  
**Taylor Woods—10/15**  
**Wayne Fridley—10/22**  
**Jason Kerns—10/23**  
**Heidi Farrell—10/23**  
**Joan Grimmatt—10/29**  
**Kay Pursley—10/30**  
**Ashlee Wyant—10/31**

**If your birthday is missing,  
contact Susan West**

## **September Birthdays**



**Janyce Watkins—9/1**  
**Helen Frank—9/2**  
**Abbi Woods—9/7**  
**Kristi King—9/7**  
**Jim Frazier—9/9**  
**Diana Staats—9/10**  
**Alan Arrington—9/14**  
**Philip Lyons—9/15**  
**Colt Laing—9/15**  
**Angel Ritchie—9/16**  
**Nathanael Flesher—9/17**  
**Liam Davis—9/17**  
**Sami Lawson—9/19**  
**Gary Balsar—9/19**  
**Susan Gerstell—9/20**  
**Jessica Morgan—9/21**  
**Megan Noble—9/22**  
**Jocelyn Lawson—9/22**  
**Kathy Hudson—9/24**  
**Susan Price—9/25**  
**Bev Stephenson—9/27**  
**Sandy Confer—9/27**  
**Cass Bennett—9/29**

## **October Calendar**

### **Pastor's Appreciation Month**

Oct 1 Mayberry at Night  
Oct 2 Blood Drive  
Oct 4 3rd Quarter Reports due to the office  
Oct 5 Deaconess Meeting  
Oct 6 End Zone  
Oct 7 Good Hope Association Youth Rally  
Oct 9 BOCE; Trustee Meeting  
Oct 10 Men's Fellowship  
Oct 11 3rd Quarter Business Meeting  
Oct 12 CIRCLE  
Oct 14 AED Training in Ripley  
Oct 15 Mayberry at Night  
Oct 15 Financial Meeting  
Oct 19-20 WVBC Annual Meeting; Women's Day  
Oct 22 Social Committee Meeting  
Oct 24 Deacons Meeting  
Oct 29 Family Fall Festival  
\* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

## **Bible Book of the Month**

### **Obadiah/ 1 Corinthians**



## **CommUnity Kitchen**

**Oct 7 Burt Lyons**  
**Oct 14 Adult Bible Class**  
**Oct 21 Men's Fellowship**  
**Oct 28 Burt Lyons**



## 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.**



# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Connor, Lincoln, Beckham	2 David & Felisha Scott	3 Grace Shirley	4 Darrell & Camille Smith	5 Jim Speer	6 Tim & Connie Staats	7 Diana Staats
8 Jamie Standridge	9 Ron & Amy Starkey	10 Warner Stephens	11 John Stephenson	12 Tom & Beverly Stephenson	13 Glenn & Rose Stevens	14 Ralph & Jennifer Taylor, Kelly, Logan, McKenzie
15 Mark & Amy Bowles-Taylor	16 Destiny Thomas	17 Stephen & Leanne Thompson, Ryley	18 Randy & Carolyn Torris	19 Jared Torris	20 Kindsey Torris De Rito	21 Jody Tolbert
22 Dale & Anna Vanderlaan	23 Ellen Varner	24 Dorothy Varney	25 Skyler Varney	26 Toby & Jennifer Wagoner, Hannah	27 Aaron Wagoner	28 John & Grayce Wagoner
29 Pauline Walker	30 Phillip & Sherry Walker	31 Janyce Watkins				

