



# FIRST BAPTIST NEWS & VIEWS



DECEMBER 2020

WWW.FBCHILLSVILLE.ORG

Dear FBCH Family –

Are you celebrating the holidays with any family or friends this year? When are they coming? Have you cleaned the house, made up the guest bed, figured out what food you're cooking for them? Does your family buy everyone gifts, or do you draw names, or do only the kids receive gifts? Have you finished your gift shopping yet? Have you even started...? Can you find everything on Amazon.com? Are you going to Wal-Mart instead? Have you gotten your holiday decorations up now that its past Thanksgiving? Is anyone having a Christmas party (masks and social distancing included, of course)? Are you going?

We can be so focused on getting prepared for Christmas...that we forget to prepare for Christ. If we're not careful, we can make it all the way through Christmas without Christ, and at the end of the season we'll have nothing more to show for our time than exhaustion.

Don't let that be you this year! If you're anything like me, part of you just wants to get past Christmas in the hope of getting a fresh start in 2021. After all, 2020 has been exhausting! But the church has long recognized the Advent season as one that can bring about refreshment and renewal when we focus on the Coming of Christ. That's what we're going to focus on in worship this month—the three (yes, I said three!) “Comings (Advents) of Christ” — His Incarnation, His Habitation (in our hearts), and His ultimate Revelation. By the time you're reading this, we will have already talked about Preparation for this time, seeing through the chaos and clutter to focus on the Lord. He is the root, the source, the well spring for that renewal and refreshment we seek. Don't miss the opportunity to be replenished in Him!

At the same time, we're continuing to adjust to COVID restrictions as they change, all the while seeking to keep our people safe while also keeping you spiritually healthy. It's a challenging balancing act to say the least! Our plans are always subject to change as the situation and restrictions change, but we're tentatively planning to restart a combined adult Sunday School class in January. It will be held in the fellowship hall so that we can maintain social distancing (including wearing masks) and so that we can focus on sanitizing that area between uses. We also plan to start our nursery back up (at least during Worship Service) in January as well. Most children's and youth activities are being targeted for a return in the spring, and we need more volunteers to fully staff these rotations (please contact Norma in the church office if interested (FBChillsville@gmail.com)).

Since this is December, let me say thank you to all of you for the year that is winding down. Many of you have been incredibly faithful in your giving. If you have not yet discovered the joy of investing in the kingdom, now is a great time to start. You have all shown remarkable flexibility as we've held online services, parking lot services, and sanctuary services, and your attitudes have been an encouragement to me and others. Thank you for looking out for each other and for God's church. Finally, thank you for the kindnesses you've shown to each other and to me as a reflection of your love for Jesus.

I pray that God will provide for our safe return to regular worship in 2021, but make no mistake—worshiping the Lord is never safe. It requires all that we have. It puts us in opposition to the world. It demands that we make hard choices, and work even harder. And through all that...we find joy. There is much to be done in 2021, and the sign-up sheet for doing that work is the Lamb's *Book of Life*. Let's use this Advent season to prepare ourselves for what's ahead. Be strengthened in the Lord, set your hopes upon Him, and get ready to roll up your sleeves – life with Christ is always an adventure! Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Gripped by Grace,  
Pastor Ryan

## CHURCH UPDATES/EVENTS

**Budget**– Work on 2021 budget complete. Vote on budget in December business meeting. Work on transitioning some accounting functions to an accounting firm continues.

**Building & Grounds**–Contact steeple company and committee is working in a group to address lifting the steeple and reroofing area underneath it. This should address the on-going water leaks.

**Personnel**–Interviews for worship and youth leader continue.

**AV**–Bids received and work to fix large screen TV, soundboard, and lighting over pulpit continues.

The **Cemetery committee** will resume meetings December 13th @ 12pm (noon) and will continue on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

**Virginia Baptist Foundation** is offering scholarships. Apply online at [vbfinc.org/scholarships](http://vbfinc.org/scholarships).

The **Love Fund** recipient for the 4th quarter is **Jim Ring**. The collection will run through the end of December. When giving to this special ministry, please write "Love Fund" on your check or donation envelope.



Thank you for joining us @  
**First Baptist Church (FBCH) of Hillsville, VA!**

We offer many ways to stay in touch with our  
Worship Services, Bible Study, teaching, and fellowship:

- Facebook
- YouTube
- [www.FBCHillsville.org](http://www.FBCHillsville.org)
- FM 88.7 Radio  
(Sunday Worship Service – local/drive-in)
- Vimeo
- Audio on Any Phone  
(toll free 844-455-7887)

We hope to worship  
with you again soon!

 [www.FBCHillsville.org](http://www.FBCHillsville.org)  
1401 N. Main St. Hillsville VA 24343  
(276) 728-7801  
[fbchillsville@gmail.com](mailto:fbchillsville@gmail.com)



**Merry Christmas!!**

The **Carroll County Christmas Fund** is asking for donations. If you would like to donate, please send donations to

**Carroll County Christmas Fund**  
c/o Dawn Auction Company  
235 West Stuart Drive  
Hillsville, Va 24343

You can also call them at **276 728-9181**.

There has been a change in the upcoming **God's Handy Helpers** assignment (no wood cutting in Dugspur). For this coming Saturday, December 5th, God's Handy Helpers will meet at the church at 9:00 am, and then travel about 3 miles down Rt. 100 to work on a driveway that has some wash-out. There is also a need to cut some firewood.

**DRIVEWAY WORK:** Wheelbarrows, shovels (manual!), and maybe a few landscaping rakes will be helpful. There will be a tractor with front bucket available. Rock repair material will be on-site. This should not be a gigantic task. We are talking about a small rut about 50-60 feet, and no more than 6 inches deep.

**FIREWOOD WORK:** Chainsaws are needed. There will be a wood splitter available.

The weather forecast looks good with no rain. The temperature looks to be about 35-40 degrees, so it will be a good time to generate some heat and work off the Thanksgiving pounds! We pray your schedule will work out so you can join us!

There will be an **Angel Tree** this Christmas at FBCH. We are expecting to have the information by Sunday, Dec. 6th for you to pick an angel. Each angel will have information of a boy or girl to buy gifts. Purchased gifts need to be brought back to the church no later than Dec. 20th.



**Student Led HS Youth Ministry "Praise House"** will meet on Dec. 10th @ 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. All High School students are invited to participate!!



## Food Items for the Food Pantry in December



- Dec. 6 - Pinto beans & Cornbread mix
- Dec. 13 - Soups & crackers
- Dec. 20 - Canned meats & Canned fruits
- Dec. 27 - Cereals

**Drop off items at the church in our outside Drive-by Food Pantry donation tote. It will be on the porch steps during weekly office hours (9am to 3pm) for your convenience.**

**Blessings in a Backpack**  
Feeding The Future Of America®



Items needed for our Backpack ministry in December:

Applesauce, fruit, granola bars, individual spaghetti, mac & cheese, nabs, etc.



## NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

### **MARGARET GOAD**

Laurel Meadows Nursing Home  
16600 Danville Pike  
Laurel Fork, VA 24352

### **LEONA LAYHER**

Ridgecrest Assisted Living  
2302 Ridgecrest Lane  
Mt Airy, NC 27030

## SHUT-INS

Wayne & Norene Sowers

Doris Childs

Laura Melton

Zelma Goad

Glenda Yonce

Joe Mina Mindy Cox

Glenna Blevins

Nina Goad

Kyle Nester

Joyce Bowman

## Samaritan's Purse

My deepest appreciation to each of you for all you did to help the church reach its goal for the shoebox ministry. Because each of you gave beyond expectation, we filled 213 boxes. Thank you for your dedication to our church and its ministries.

Wishing each of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

Love you all, be safe  
Judy Thompson

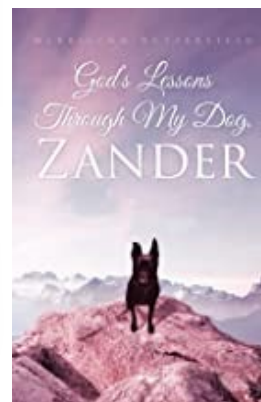


Congratulations to two of FBCH's resident authors in publishing their first works!

***God's Lessons through My Dog, Zander*** by Merrilynn Butterfield

***The Hunt: Mission Makayla, Book 1*** by Amanda Everhart

Both are available on Amazon.com and other outlets.



Dear Friends at First Baptist:

We miss church and seeing everyone. Thank you so much for continuing to remember us with your many acts of concern.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Love and Blessings,  
Tom & Alene Tabor





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00pm Evening Bible Study (online)	3	4	5 9am God's Handy Helpers
6 Sunday School (online) 10am Prayer 10:30am Worship Service	7 4:15pm Annie Armstrong (canceled)	8 3pm Budget meeting	9 7pm Business meeting	10 6pm "Praise House" Ministry (fellowship hall)	11	12
13 Sunday School (online) 10am Prayer 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Cemetery Committee meet	14 1pm Joanna Mission (canceled)	15	16 Evening Bible Study (online)	17	18	19
20 Sunday School (online) 10am Prayer 10:30am Worship Service	21	22	23 Evening Bible Study (online)	24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service Church Office closed	25 Merry Christmas!! Church office closed	26
27 Sunday School (online) 10am Prayer 10:30am Worship Service	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

## Gifts in Memoriam

### IN MEMORY OF

AGNES LONG  
JEAN WORRELL  
RON ADAMS  
RON ADAMS  
CELADON STANLEY  
BILLIE TAYLOR

### GIVEN BY

DENNIS & KARON FELTS  
ED & SUSAN NAFF  
DIANE ALLEN  
HOWARD & POLLY STURGILL  
HOWARD & POLLY STURGILL  
HOWARD & POLLY STURGILL

### FUND

SHOE BOX  
BUDGET  
BUDGET  
BUDGET  
BUDGET  
BUDGET

### IN HONOR OF

ED & SUSAN NAFF  
TOM TABOR

### GIVEN BY

WAYNE & NORENE  
HOWARD & POLLY STURGILL

### FUND

BUDGET  
BUDGET

We will be collecting for the **Lottie Moon Offering** through December.

"You're a part of this eternal work through your giving, your praying, your sending, and your going. Every church, regardless of its size or resources, has a part to play in reaching every nation with the gospel. And the nations are waiting."



Thank you for doing your part.  
Dr. Paul Chitwood, President of IMB



We are starting Sunday, Dec. 6th collecting **monetary gifts** for the staff through Dec. 20th.



### December Birthdays

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Bob Davies        | 19 Frances Porter    |
| 2 Holly Wilcox      | 21 Evelyn Wright     |
| 4 Randy Webb        | 21 Cheryl Shupe      |
| 6 Randy Edwards     | 21 Savanah Semones   |
| 9 Carl Feazell      | 22 Ann Davis         |
| 10 Lynn Davies      | 28 Isabel Jaime      |
| 11 Elizabeth Sharp  | 30 Geraldine Slusher |
| 18 Elizabeth Motley |                      |

### VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Dec.	Nursery	Altar Flowers	Ushers
6	Not Available	Poinsettias	See Pat Sharp to volunteer
13	Not Available	Poinsettias	
20	Not Available	Poinsettias	<b>Deacon</b>
27	Not Available	Poinsettias	Steve Pulliam

### December Anniversaries

- 9 Randy & Joanne Edwards  
20 Greg & Tonyia Gibson  
21 Harold & Margaret Cox  
26 Dan & Judy Huff  
29 Bob & Janie Adams



**First Baptist Church  
of Hillsville**

1401 North Main Street  
Hillsville, VA 24343  
(276) 728-7801

www.fbchillsville.org  
fbchillsville@gmail.com

fbcpastormills@gmail.com

<b>Pastor</b>	<i>Ryan Mills</i>
<b>Praise Leaders (Interim)</b>	<i>Becky Adams &amp; Donna McIver</i>
<b>Deacon Chairman</b>	<i>Mark Stout</i>
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	<i>Norma Ring</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Polly Sturgill</i>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<i>Glenda Gardner</i>
<b>Personnel Chairman</b>	<i>Mike Fariss</i>
<b>Budget Chairman</b>	<i>Sam Sweeney</i>

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*THINK YOU KNOW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH...?*

**Jesus FIRST**

**Neighbors FIRST**

**Love FIRST**

*That's FIRST Baptist!*

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**Return Service Requested**

1401 North Main St.  
Hillsville, VA 24343

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Hillsville, VA 24343  
Permit No. 3