



FIRST BAPTIST NEWS & VIEWS



JULY 2021

WWW.FBCHILLSVILLE.ORG

Dear FBCH Family –

We often look back on the past. There are lessons to be learned, respect and honor to be paid to those who have gone before us, fond memories to be recalled. We do it in our personal lives, and we do it as a church. There is a healthy way of looking back in which Jesus calls for us to engage. In writing to the church in Corinth, Paul speaks of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, a commemoration of our Savior's death, and reminds them that Jesus said to, **"Do this in remembrance of Me"** (1 Cor. 11:24). *Break this bread, drink this cup...to remember what I've done for you. Keep it close to you, don't forget it, don't forget Me, and celebrate it all.*

How often have we exclaimed "I'm looking forward to it!" in anticipation of some welcomed future event? Perhaps an upcoming visit from a friend or relative, a long-overdue vacation that just around the corner, the "pay raise" that comes from a child graduating from college and striking out on their own. Maybe you have something on your schedule each week that you eagerly look forward to—an exercise class, lunch with a friend, maybe even Sunday worship... In the very same passage in 1 Corinthians, Paul also says that believers partake of the Lord's Supper to proclaim Jesus's death **"until He comes"** (11:26). Such a simple little phrase that it can easily be missed, yet its impact is profound. Yes, we look back in remembrance... but we do it to animate, drive, and direct us as we *look forward* to Christ's return. A healthy church, like a healthy person, is best served by finding the right balance in the tension between remembrance and straining forward. We remember what Jesus did...and it gives us purpose while we labor until He returns. We look back at our church's great days to remember what God has done and can do again, to remember the servant's hearts of those who came before and led the way. They were taking a step out in faith in anticipation of what God would do, doing something new and different while they trusted Him to work through it. Those that built the church *looked forward* to what God would do through it, and we can imitate their heart and passion even as methods and means change over time. We look forward to seeing what God does next at FBCH!

No church should ever stay the same forever – if it does, it's likely because it has turned inward to itself and lost an outward focus on being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. If the Holy Spirit is always changing and growing us, if He delights in the diversity of His creation and His people, if we are called to reach an ever-changing culture, then a healthy church should always be in some form of a state of change. We are always looking for new and creative ways to reach the world around us with the never-changing good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We keep our eyes focused on that future time, that future event, when Jesus's reign will be fully established here on earth, when His kingdom will come in its fullness. We partner in it. We work towards it. We look forward to His return, and it gives us urgency and purpose to obey and serve our Lord *right now*. It may be a little uncomfortable or different than what we're used to, but we know for Whom we labor. We keep who He is and what He has done close to our hearts, and we allow that to drive us *forward* in service and worship.

As church life begins to recover from the pandemic quarantine, thank you for striving together to build upon God's work here in the past with an eye ever-gazing to the future...until He comes again. I hope you're looking forward to it!

Gripped by grace,

Pastor Ryan

CHURCH UPDATES/EVENTS

Join Pastor Ryan on Wednesday at 7pm as we study a new Book Ecclesiastes. He started Ecclesiastes on June 30th. It is not too late to join him!

God's Handy Helpers are meeting on July 3rd and July 31st at 9 am. Please join us in this ministry to help others in the community with repairs, yard work, and other projects needed to be done.

Cemetery Committee will start their fund raising events soon to raise donations for the gazebo.

Ladies Bible Class begins the 2nd Sunday, July 11th. *All Ladies invited.*

The Church office will be closed Monday, July 5th due to July 4th Holiday on Sunday.

The article below appeared in the July 2011 FBC Newsletter, author unknown. Updates after ten years are shown in *italics*.

Five Generations at FBC

On June 19, 2011, Steven Davis asked to unite with First Baptist Church of Hillsville. Most of those present in the congregation did not know of the astounding family connections involved.

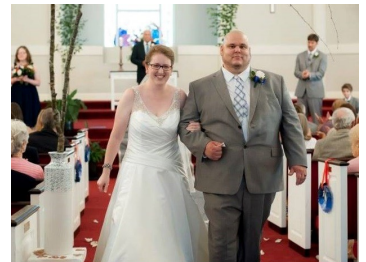
Steve and Martha Semones started this family's journey when they became charter members of FBC in 1932 and their daughter, Rhodella Semones Davis, became the first secretary of the Women's Missionary Society (name later changed to Women's Missionary Union).

Thus far, five generations of the Semones-Davis family have proudly chosen to serve God as members of First Baptist Church of Hillsville. The generations are as follows:

1. Steve Semones (1880-1964). *He married Martha McHone in 1900. Steve and Martha donated the first parsonage. The 1964 church directory reveals that Steve was serving as a church trustee at the time of his death. The church budget that year was \$21,644.*
2. Rhodella Semones (1916-1958), daughter of Steve and Martha Semones. She married James Walter Davis (1914-1977). *In some records her name is spelled Rodella, but her grave marker shows the Rhodella spelling.*
3. William Steven "Bill" Davis (1942-2018), son of Rhodella and James Davis and grandson of Steve and Martha Semones. *Ann Davis, Bill's widow, is an active member of FBC and teaches Sunday School. Ann's late mother Effie Crowder was also a church member.*
4. William Steven "Rooster" Davis, son of Bill Davis and great-grandson of Steve and Martha Semones. *In 2017 Steven married Laurin Goad, also a church member and daughter of Laura Chisom Goad and the late Arlin Goad, long-time members of FBC. Laurin's paternal grandmother Zelma Tolbert Goad, a church member and long-time friend of Effie Crowder, is currently on the church's shut-in list.*
5. Ashtyn Sharpe, niece of Steven Davis *and daughter of FBC member Jill Sharpe, who is the daughter of Ann Davis, Bill's wife. Since 2011 Jill's other two children, twins Carsyn and Colin, have joined the church.*



Charter members, Mr. And Mrs. S.M. Semones
Donated building for the original church building



Laurin Goad Davis and "Rooster" William Steven Davis (2017).



Left to right: Ann Davis; Carsyn, Jill, Ashtyn and Colin Sharpe; Bill Davis.

Bill has often remarked that he can remember digging a footing and unloading and carrying cinder blocks, mixing concrete and unloading lumber to aid in the construction of the FBC educational building. Both Bill and his sister, Martha Austin, recall Grandpa Semones sat on the second pew on the left of the sanctuary and strongly expected his family to be there also. He came to services early and expected proceedings to begin on time!

The Semones/Davis family has deep roots at First Baptist Church of Hillsville.

"... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 KJV

Updated by Bill Smyer, June 2021, with the assistance of family members.

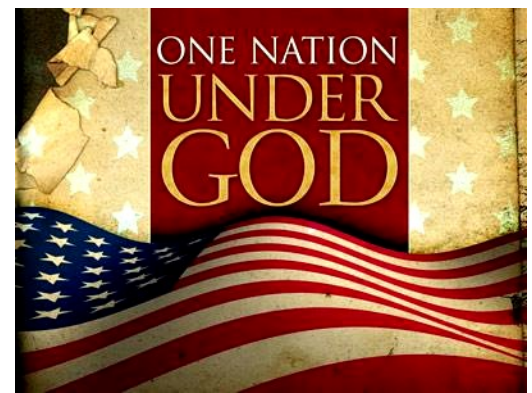
Food Items for the Food Pantry in July



Food Pantry items needed:

- July 4 - Pinto beans & Cornbread mix
- July 11 - Soups & Crackers
- July 18 - Canned meats & Canned fruits
- July 25 - 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.



Independence Day!
July 4th



NURSING HOME RESIDENTS



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

July - Coloring Books, Picture Books, Small Pads, One Subject Notebook



DO NOT INCLUDE items that are:

Used or damaged, war-related (toy guns or military figures), glass, liquid, toothpaste, or candy.

Contact Judy Thompson with any questions.



Many thanks to God's Handy Helpers, men and ladies, for all the work they did recently at my house on the lawn.

Great fun & fellowship as well—A wonderful group.

My Love & Appreciation,
Betty Williams



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and words of encouragement following the death of our beloved Eddie.

Karen Bobbitt & family
Howard & Polly Sturgill



FBCH Family,
Thank you so much! The mixed flower basket was so beautiful, it brightened a sad day for us.

Our Church Family are such loving and caring people.

God bless you all!

Bobby & Janie and Family

July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 July 4th! 9am Prayer Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	5 4:15pm Annie Armstrong (canceled) Church office closed	6	7 7pm Bible Study	8	9	10 9am God's Handy Helpers
11 9am Prayer Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Cemetery Committee meet	12 1pm Joanna Mission (canceled)	13	14 7pm Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9am Prayer Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	19	20 6:30pm Building & Grounds Committee	21 7pm Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9am Prayer Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	26 7pm Deacons' meeting	27 3pm Budget meeting	28 7pm Business meeting	29	30	31 9am God's Handy Helpers

Please note: The current calendar of events (updated regularly) can also be found on our Church website.

Gifts in Memoriam

IN MEMORY OF

RONNIE WORRELL

GIVEN BY

HENRY & LINDA JENNINGS

FUND

BUDGET

In Remembrance

June, 2021

First Baptist Church gives our condolences to the families of Todd Adams and Eddie Bobbitt.



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH NURSERY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

July	Pre-2nd	3rd-6th	7th-12th	Van 1	Van 2	Worship Service Nursery	Ushers
4	Paul Cannon & Joleanna Cannon	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Ed Naff	Audrey Mills & Paula Pulliam	See Pat Sharp to volunteer
11	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Ed Naff	Paula Pulliam & Elizabeth Sweeney	
18	Paul Cannon & Joleanna Cannon	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Ed Naff	Audrey Mills & Victoria Sweeney	Deacon of the Month
25	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Ed Naff	Audrey Mills & Paula Pulliam	Betty Williams



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 Gracie Edmonds | 18 Victoria Sweeney |
| 5 Nicholas Gillion | 19 Jeanette Amentrout |
| 7 Allene Tabor | 23 Howard Sturgill |
| 13 Lacy Cox | 23 Margaret Cox |
| 15 Don Yonce | 24 Polly Sturgill |
| 16 Ron Privett | 25 Katelyn Nester |
| 18 Joe Brown | 26 Ellen White |



- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 6 Lacy & Mindy Cox |
| 7 Willie & Peggy Armentrout |
| 15 Pruitt & Deborah Hall |
| 25 Ray & Koleta DeHart |
| 29 Howard & Polly Sturgill |

**First Baptist Church
of Hillsville**

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

www.fbchillsville.org
office@fbchillsville.org

pastor@fbchillsville.org

Pastor	<i>Ryan Mills</i>
Administrative Assistant	<i>Norma Ring</i>
Deacon Chairman	<i>Mark Stout</i>
IT Director	<i>Mike Fariss</i>
Budget Chairman	<i>Sam Sweeney</i>

THINK YOU KNOW FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH...?

Jesus FIRST

Neighbors FIRST

Love FIRST

That's FIRST Baptist!

Return Service Requested

1401 North Main St.
Hillsville, VA 24343