

**First Baptist Church
of Hillsville**

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

www.fbchillsville.org
office@fbchillsville.org

Pastor

Ryan Mills

Worship & Youth Leader

Danny Back

Administrative Assistant

Norma Ring

Deacon Chairman

Mark Stout

*Getting to know God more fully.
Making Jesus fully known.*

Return Service Requested

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First Baptist News & Views

December 2022



From the Pastor's Pen...

Dear FBCH Family,

Thank you all for your incredible generosity in providing 255 shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child this year! The Bible tells us we are blessed to be a blessing, and you are a blessing to all the children who will see the Lord's generosity poured out on them through your shoebox gifts, and most importantly will be taught about the abundant gift of grace offered to them through Jesus Christ. May we also continue to find joy in fellowship with each other in the family of Christ, celebrating our Savior's birth and rejoicing in His love together during this Christmas season.

From our family to you and yours, may this Christmas be a time of blessing, joy, warmth, and love in your home as you remember the extravagant generosity of our Lord in pouring out His grace through Jesus Christ upon us all. Merry Christmas!

Gripped by grace,
Pastor RYAN

*Getting to know God more fully.
Making Jesus fully known.*

POINTS TO PONDER



A DEVOTIONAL WORD...

The story I would like to share with you today is one of faith. Not too long ago I had an experience that strengthened my faith. I found myself in a difficult situation that I could not find a solution to, so I prayed to God for help and he answered my prayer.

"But when you ask, you must believe, because the one who doubts is like a wave on the sea, blown and tossed about. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." (James 1:6-7)

My story begins at my home in North Carolina a few years ago. It was a Saturday morning and my task for the day was to mow the lawn. When I walked out into our rather large garage I noticed that a hummingbird had gotten trapped inside and was desperately flying around trying to escape. I opened the garage doors thinking he would just fly out but this seemed to alarm him even more. I could see that he was getting more and more desperate and weak, it appeared that if he kept on like he was he would fall to the ground and die. I felt like my heart was being wrenched from my chest, I could not allow anything to happen to this tiny little friend.

Let me take a minute to explain my passion for hummingbirds. My youth was filled with turmoil and strife at home, so like many other children that grow up this way I created sanctuaries that I could go to in times of trouble. My greatest sanctuary was to think of my grandmother. She was the most benevolent and holy person I have ever met, even to this day. She was an avid bird watcher and had a special place in her heart for hummingbirds. I will never forget her look of joy when one would come to her feeders; she seemed to transform from an elderly lady to a laughing little girl.

Back to my story, the more I tried to direct the hummingbird to the open garage door, the worse the situation seemed to get. I noticed that he would land briefly on the garage door motor, so I got a fishing net and hoisted it up to make a perch for him, but he would not come near me. It appeared that my presence was alarming to him even when stationary. At this point I was full of despair and was starting to lose hope.

While standing on the ladder with my net in the air I bowed my head and prayed to God for help. I put all of my heart into it and very quickly became overwhelmed with emotion. Looking back I realize now that I was not only praying for my little friend, I was also praying for my grandmother who had passed. For me that little bird represented all of the goodness in the world.

When I opened my eyes and blinked away my tears I looked up at the net I was grasping to behold the little hummingbird perched on the rim. My joy at seeing the bird perched on the net was quickly dashed when I realized that now I must take three steps down the ladder and at least ten steps to the open door. I closed my eyes again and a peace came over me that I would not know how to put into words. Along with the peace came a sense of purpose, so I stepped down off the ladder and walked to the door while he rode with me the whole way, perched up on that net. As I released my little friend up into the sky, I believe that the peace that filled my heart touched his as well.

So ends this story of faith. Although years have passed, I still think about what happened to me in that garage in North Carolina now and again and it always strengthens my faith. I pray that it will strengthen yours as well, but most of all, I pray that it will help you in finding your hummingbird.

~special thanks to Jim French
for providing this month's devotional

ODDS & ENDS

(or...where else do we put this...?)



WE NEED PICTURES

*of your church activities
and ministries!*

We'd like to show the congregation and community how God is working in and through our church. Please send pictures and descriptions of your church activity or ministry to office@fbchillsville.org so we can let our light shine!



GET CONNECTED!

If you want to **learn more** about FBCH ministries or programs, receive **church communications** (like our **robo-call updates**), or just **update your contact info** with us, please visit our **"Get Connected!"** page on the church's website (*in the "About Us" section*) and fill out the form to let us know what you need! You can also call or e-mail our church office to let us know.

BIBLE TRIVIA



A: God with us

Reference:

Matthew 1:23

If you are interested in providing content for our MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

Please submit your content to office@fbchillsville.org by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter, including your desired content, any relevant contact information or dates, and pictures (if any). Let us help you get the word out!

FBCH reserves the right to correct or adjust submissions as needed.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
Nursery SS	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!
Nursery WS	Victoria Sweeney & Paula Pulliam	Maria Record & Paula Pulliam	Audrey Mills & Victoria Sweeney	Merry Christmas! No church service or activities
Pre-2nd SS	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	
3rd-6th SS	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill	
7th-12th SS	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	
Van 1	Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	
Van 2	Ed Naff	Ed Naff	Ed Naff	

It takes all of the members of the church for the body to be whole!

We are in need of your help to fulfill our Children's Ministry needs, which include **nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, and Children's Church leaders**. To serve God and your church in these critical ministries, *please contact our Children & Youth Leader Danny Back at youth@fbchillsville.org or (276) 728-7801.*

Thank you!

Deacon of the Month:
Dennis Felts

CHURCH UPDATES

FBCH will not hold church activities, including Worship Service, on Christmas Sunday. Please make plans to join us at **4pm on Saturday, December 24th** for a wonderful time of worship at our **special Christmas Eve service** — Christmas music, Scriptures, and messages all shared by and with our church family. *Merry Christmas!*

If you would like to help pack boxes for the Carroll Christmas Fund, please meet at FBCH on Thursday, December 15 at 5:30pm to caravan to Virginia Produce. Organizers also need help with delivering these boxes full of food, toys, and Bibles on December 17th at 8am.

Our **Women's Bible Study** group meets every first and third Monday at 4:30pm in the Youth Room downstairs. The group has been diving into a video series entitled "Warrior Women" including related discussion and Bible study. All women with a heart for growing closer to Jesus and each other are invited to attend, and kids are welcome!

The Lord's Supper Love Fund recipient for this quarter is Sharon Spriggs. If you would like to contribute financially towards helping her, please clearly mark your check or donation envelope with "Lord's Supper Love Fund." *Thank you for your generosity!*

Our **Thursday morning Bible Study** with Pastor Ryan is continuing through the book of Genesis. It's always a good time to join in, and you'll love the discussion, insights, and fellowship. *LEVEL UP your discipleship walk!*



GET CONNECTED!

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CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



On Wednesday, December 14, our Kitchen team will provide the main dish for a wonderful **Christmas potluck dinner**—please bring your favorite Christmas side dish or dessert to share!



FBCH will be closed:

Friday, Dec. 23, 25 (no worship service or church activities), and 26

KEEPING IN TOUCH

December Birthdays!

Randy Webb	4
Randy Edwards	6
Carl Feazell	9
Elizabeth Sharp	11
Randy Ward	27
Barry Iroler	17
Elizabeth Motley	18
Frances Porter	19
Evelyn Wright	21
Cheryl Shupe	21
Ann Davis	22
Isabel Jaime	28
Geraldine Slusher	30

December Anniversaries!

Randy & Joanne Edwards	9
Greg & Tonyia Gibson	20
Harold & Margaret Cox	21
Dan & Judy Huff	26



Q: What does the name "Immanuel" mean?

Answer: Page 15

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

LEONA LAYHER	Don & Glenda Yonce
Ridgecrest Assisted Living	Commonwealth Assisted Living
2302 Ridgecrest Lane	100 Kyle Drive, Room A3
Mt Airy, NC 27030	Hillsville, VA 24343

SHUT-INS

Doris Childs	Laura Melton	Zelma Goad	Don & Glenda Yonce	Joe Mina
Glenna Blevins	Nina Goad	Kyle Nester	Joyce Bowman	Dorothy Semones
James & Jeanette Armentrout	Wanda Montgomery	JoAnn Hall	Edith Montgomery	Gracie Edmonds

FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTIONS

Our next **Membership Class** will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 1pm in the church Library. Whether you're interested in becoming a member or simply want to learn more about what membership means at FBCH, you're invited to be a part of this brief and informal meeting hosted by Pastor Ryan and deacon Ed Naff. *See you there!*

"It's not about the coffee—it's about the people!"

Our Fellowship & Connections Committee is seeking to improve our Sunday Welcoming and fellowship experience. You may have already noticed our greeters moving out into the parking lot as well as greeters inside our main sanctuary doors to provide a warm and welcoming presence. We are hosting **Coffee Social Time at 10am in our Fellowship Hall before Worship Service**, and we need your help to make it successful by joining us there before services to mix and mingle with each other as well as welcome our guests. *Thank you for continuing to make FBCH one of the most warm and welcoming churches in our community!*

Our monthly **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30am at Shoney's Hillsville. This is a "dutch treat" breakfast with church men, friends, and other men invited. No need to RSVP - simply show up and enjoy! We will be in the back room at Shoney's, near the breakfast bar.

Mark your calendars for the remainder of 2022: Dec. 6.

Questions? Ask Danny Webb, Dan Huff, Bill Smyer, or Pat Sharp.

Don't miss Family Night! every Wednesday @ 6pm in the fellowship hall. We'll share a delicious meal and even better fellowship, engage in Bible teaching with Danny, and sing along with Brittany, as well as other fun activities for all ages. Pour into your own family and build up the FBCH spiritual family at the same time. The church is at our best when we're ALL together, growing in the unity of Christ!

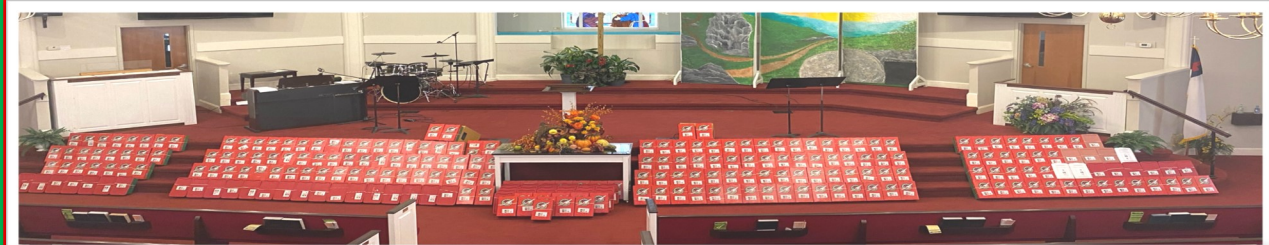
Everyone is invited and the meals are free (donations welcome), so bring everyone you can gather to come be part of what God is doing in and through the FBCH family!!

Our **FBCH Christmas Mailbox** is located in the back of the sanctuary next to the A/V booth. To leave a card for someone simply place it in the appropriate slot *according to their last name*. Don't forget to check your last name's slot to pick up your own cards! Merry Christmas!



Coffee Social Time
every Sunday @
10am!

LAST MONTH @ FBCH



Special thanks to Judy Thompson for her faithful and tireless work throughout the year coordinating our **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox collections. Through her efforts and this church's generosity, we were able to exceed this year's increased goal of 250 boxes by giving 255! What a wonderful blessing to be able to pray over these boxes at our Worship Service on November 13 before sending them on their Journey...
...with an ultimate destination of reaching a child's heart for the Lord!

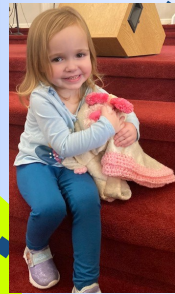


The FBCH family gathered to enjoy the food and fellowship of a **Thanksgiving Dinner** on Wednesday, November 16. Thank you to everyone who prepared and served this meal, including both our wonderful Kitchen Team and all who shared a side dish as part of our potluck!

MISSIONS, OUTREACH, & EVANGELISM

God's Handy Helpers is one of the service and outreach ministries of FBCH, seeking to help those in need with small carpentry tasks, seasonal yardwork, and similar projects. In November, we finished a roof coating project, leave blowing and raking leaves. Everyone is invited to participate... and everyone has a great time of fellowship in service!

If you'd like to be a part of our next project,
or if you'd like to suggest a project,
please contact:
Team Leader Dan Huff at
blueridgetandem@gmail.com!



Sew Journers

Our Sew Journers sewing ministry meets on the second Tuesday of every other month.
Our next meeting is **March 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm.**

We need quilters, crocheters, and knitters.

INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM

Food Pantry

Stock the Food Pantry:

December 4 - Pinto beans & Cornbread mixes
December 11 - Soups & Crackers
December 18 - Canned meats & Canned fruits
December 25 - Cereals & fruit juices
Christmas food items: Stuffing, Can Yams, Instant Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Cans of Fried Onions, and Cans of Mushroom Soup, and Vegetables.

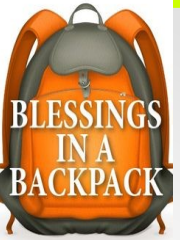


Thanks to all of you for your donations to our shoebox ministry. We exceeded our goal with 255 boxes.

Also thanks to First United Methodist Church for delivery of the boxes to Boone, NC.

We are collecting for **Children's Backpacks!**

Food items needed: Apple sauce, nabs, juices, granola bars, pop tarts, pudding, small containers of spaghetti, mac & cheese, ravioli and individual cups of fruit.



Please pray for the workers in the field...

JoAnn Yon—missionary to Nicaragua

Bryan Macadangdang—missionary to Philippines

United Christian Missions—leads Educate-a-Child program and Pastor's School in Jinotega, Nicaragua

Eric & Wendy Harbinson—missionaries in Matagalpa, Nicaragua

REMEMBERING

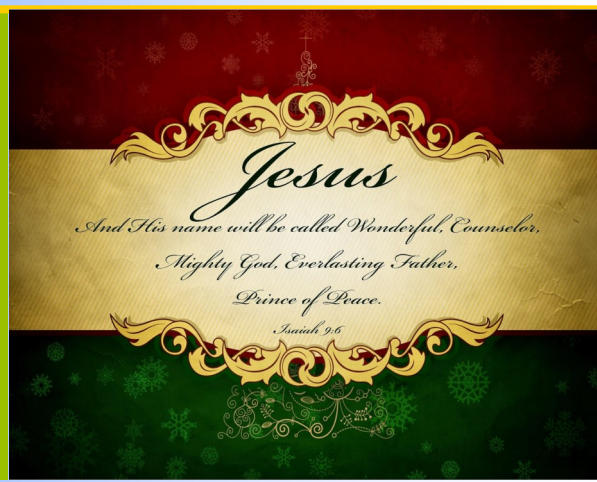
In Remembrance

November 2022

First Baptist Church offers our condolences, prayers, and loving support to the Penland, Thompson, Roger Roberts, Jay Williams, Joe McGrady, Sharon Hawks, and Lacy Bowman families.



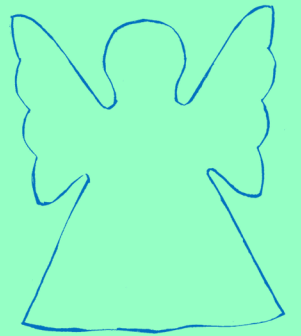
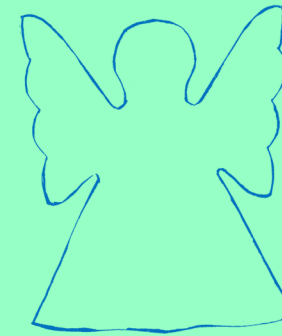
Scripture
of the
Month



ANGEL TREE 2022



Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Please consider choosing one of our Angel Tree requests on December 4th and fulfilling the requests for clothing and toys by Sunday, December 18. We could also use your help to deliver these gifts on that Sunday or during the week before Christmas. Thank you for being a part of a child's Christmas joy!



LOTTIE MOON

CHRISTMAS OFFERING



Providing financial support to missionaries as they share the gospel overseas.

Pamphlets and envelopes are available in the foyer for your generous donations to help provide the financial support to missionaries who have dedicated their lives to sharing the gospel overseas. Our goal is \$1,000.

December 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- 12/1** Fellowship Committee
- 12/3** God's Handy Helpers
- 12/5** Women's Bible Study
- 12/6** Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 12/12** Mission Committee
- 12/13** Stewardship Committee
- 12/14** FBCH Christmas Dinner
- 12/20** Women's Bible Study
- 12/23** Church office closed
- 12/24** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25** *Merry Christmas!*
- 12/26** Church office closed
- 12/31** New Year's Eve

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1 10am Bible Study 11:15am Fellowship Committee	2	3 9am God's Handy Helpers
4 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10am Coffee Social Time 10:30am Worship Service	5 4:30pm Women's Bible Study	6 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast @ Shoney's	7 6pm <i>FAMILY NIGHT!</i>	8 10am Bible Study	9	10
11 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10am Coffee Social Time 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Cemetery Committee	12 6:30pm Mission Committee	13 3pm Stewardship Committee 6:30pm Building & Grounds	14 6pm <i>Christmas Dinner!</i>	15 10am Bible Study	16	17
18 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10am Coffee Social Time 10:30am Worship Service	19 4:30pm Women's Bible Study	20	21	22	23 Church office closed	24 4pm <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</i>
25  No worship service or church activities	26 Church office closed	27	28	29	30	31 

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
- Audio on Any Phone (toll free 844-455-7887)
- FM 88.7 Radio (Sunday Worship Service - local/drive-in)

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We hope to worship with you again soon!