

**First Baptist Church  
of Hillsville**

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

[www.fbchillsville.org](http://www.fbchillsville.org)  
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**Pastor**

*Ryan Mills*

**Worship & Youth Leader**

*Danny Back*

**Administrative Assistant**

*Norma Ring*

**Deacon Chairman**

*Bill Smyer*

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

**Return Service Requested**

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*First Baptist*  
**News & Views**

February 2023

*Let all that  
you do be  
done  
in LOVE*

*1 Corinthians 16:14*

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

# POINTS TO PONDER

## From the Pastor's Pen...

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.  
(James 1:2-4)

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Dear FBCH Family,

**Resilience.** It's a wonderful trait for a Christian to cultivate. The ability to "bounce back." The Bible tells us accurately what to expect in this world—all kinds of trials and tribulations. It tells us that we have little control over vacillating weather and even less control over the vacillations of men and women! With so much uncertainty lurking in our fallen world, ebbs and flows of challenges and struggles are inevitable. Sometimes we're not sure if this will be the one that breaks us or not...

However, as Christians we have access to something transformational in life's storms—an unassailable anchor, steadfast and unwavering: we have an unchanging God and the secure promises of Jesus Christ. Our eternal destiny is secure, and our current life is guided and provided for by a loving heavenly Father, empowered by His very Holy Spirit. Take heart—our Savior has already overcome the world, so there is nothing we need fear as Christians or as a church as long as we remain focused on Christ! We may bend, we may struggle, but in Christ we will always snap back. He is the object of our faith, and He is worthy of trust and worship. Through Him, we can always be resilient!

Gripped by grace,  
Pastor Ryan



## A DEVOTIONAL WORD...

Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word  
(Psalm 119:67)

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### IS GOD TRYING TO GET YOUR ATTENTION?

I was raised in a Baptist Church, but like many young Christians, I started to drift away from the church in high school, and then more so in college. A couple of years after college, I accepted a job in east Kentucky designing & constructing coal handling facilities. The living and work conditions were not the best, but as a driven young man, dollar signs were at the top of the priorities.

About a year into the job, my job duties increased with a promotion to manage our underground survey team for our underground mines. It's very important to know where you are mining underground to avoid mining on other people's property, and to ensure you don't break through into old workings. Old mines fill up with water, and it's very possible to flood an active mine very quickly if a miner breaks through, jeopardizing the miners' lives.

Whenever one of the surveyors did not report to work, I had to fill in. Putting on your hardhat, self-rescuer, and other safety equipment to ride down deep under a mountain will start one to consider the after-life. All of our underground mines were approximately 5 feet or less in height, so the miners had to walk on their knees. Miners drive 4 ft. high "buggies" to transport coal from the working mine face, and to dump it on a conveyor that takes it to the surface. They stick their heads out of the left side of the buggy to see where to drive; they can't see directly in front of them or to the right side. The surveyors are responsible to get themselves out of the way when a buggy is coming; so they are constantly hopping about to avoid getting hit. Oh, one other thing, methane gas that is escaping the mine walls sounds like fizzing Alka-seltzers 24 hours a day.

One day during one of these surveying experiences, God spoke to me about getting my life in order. Soon after, I met a wonderful Christian woman who became my wife, joined a local church, got baptized (2nd time), started teaching a boys' Sunday School class, and we have been blessed many ways on the journey that God has put us on.

God first had to get my attention. Is God trying to get your attention? Hopefully He will not have to place you a mile underground like he did once with a stubborn young man to get your attention! To get your attention, God will allow suffering, sickness, adversity, anguish, trials and heartaches in our life. God loves us, and He doesn't want us to go through life from one crisis to another. He wants us to build our life on a solid foundation which is founded on the truth of His Holy Word. If God didn't love us, He wouldn't bother trying to get our attention.

~ special thanks to Dan Huff  
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](mailto: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.



A: Malta

(see Acts 27-28)

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

Please submit your content to [office@fbchillsville.org](mailto: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

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Nursery SS	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!
Nursery WS	Victoria Sweeney & Paula Pulliam	Maria Record & Angela Armstrong	Audrey Mills & Victoria Sweeney	Maria Record & Angela Armstrong
Pre-2nd SS	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	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	Elizabeth Motley & Polly Sturgill
7th-12th SS	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp	Lynn Ogle & Pat Sharp
Van 1	Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp	Pat Sharp
Van 2	Ed Naff	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 and Youth's Ministry needs, which include **nursery workers, Sunday School teachers, and a variety of other volunteer needs**. To serve God and your church in these critical family ministries, *please contact our Children & Youth Leader Danny Back at [youth@fbchillsville.org](mailto:youth@fbchillsville.org) or (276) 728-7801.*

Thank you!

**Deacon of the Month:**  
**Dan Huff**

# CHURCH UPDATES

**The Lord's Supper Love Fund** recipient for this quarter is **Elizabeth Yon**. 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!*

**Several recommendations were approved at our recent Business Meeting which followed our Fellowship Lunch on January 22.** The following nominees were recommended by the **Nominating Committee** for their respective committee memberships or Team Leadership positions and approved by the congregation:

- ♦ *Fellowship & Connections Committee* (Maria French)
- ♦ *Children Education Team Leader* (Angela Armstrong)
- ♦ *Stewardship Committee* (Jim French)

**The Constitution & Bylaws Team Leader's** recommendation concerning how Deacons are nominated and approved was also passed by the congregation. Future Deacons will now be nominated by the serving Deacons and voted on by the congregation.

The **Stewardship committee's** proposal to invest some money from the general fund into a short term 1yr CD was also approved.

*Thank you for your informed and prayerful consideration of those votes!*

FBCH is currently organized with a small group of Trustees who are responsible for the legal dealings of the church (ie, buying or selling land, executing contracts, financial liabilities, etc). The Trustees and Deacons are interested in examining the option of incorporation as a possible alternative. With their approval, **Pastor Ryan has called a temporary team together to investigate incorporation, provide information and communication to the congregation, and ultimately to put forth a recommendation for the church body's consideration regarding our legal structure and organization.** Serving on the team will be our current Trustees (Dan Huff, Danny Webb, and Greg Yonce), our Deacon Chair Bill Smyer, and our Stewardship Chair Sam Sweeney. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



**Happy Valentine's Day!!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will be meeting at Crooked Oak Restaurant at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 7. As usual it will be a "dutch treat" meal with any and all friends and visitors welcome. No need to make a reservation—we'll see you there!

The address is 8302 Danville Pike east of Hillsville, 8.3 miles east of the US 58 and US 52 intersection in downtown Hillsville (not the bypass).

Our **Women's Bible Study** group meets every first and third Monday at 4:30pm in the Youth Room downstairs. All women with a heart for growing closer to Jesus and each other are invited to attend, and kids are welcome!

Our **Thursday morning Bible Study** with Pastor Ryan a study on the letters to the seven churches in Revelation. It's always a good time to join in, and you'll love the discussion, insights, and fellowship. *LEVEL UP your discipleship walk!*

The **Fellowship Committee** is hosting a **Widows and Widowers Banquet** on Saturday, February 18 @ 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. *Sign up sheets are available at the back of the sanctuary if you'd like to attend or if you'd like to express your love for our widows and widowers by serving.*

The **season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22** this year, and lasts until Easter (April 9). This is a time meant for preparation and purification as we approach the most holy of Christian days, so take advantage of this time to self-reflect, seek forgiveness, and ask for more of the Lord in your life. Seeking Him now will make the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection so special when Easter finally arrives—to God be the glory!



# KEEPING IN TOUCH

## February Birthdays!

Tonyia Gibson	1
Shannon Sharp-Rutig	1
Joe Mina	5
JoAnn Hall	6
Donna Kaye McIver	10
Elizabeth Yon	10
Wesley Yonce	12
Danny Webb	13
Kaysi Carver	14
Danielle Ogle	14
Pat Sharp	14
Greg Gibson	17
Jim Bazzle	18
Connie Mina	20
Betty Williams	20
Linda Fariss	22

## February Anniversaries!

Ken & Debbie Parnell	14
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**Q:** On what Mediterranean island was the Apostle Paul shipwrecked?

Answer: Page 15



## NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

<b>Leona Layher</b> Ridgecrest Assisted Living 2302 Ridgecrest Lane Mt Airy, NC 27030	<b>Don &amp; Glenda Yonce</b> Commonwealth Assisted Living 100 Kyle Drive, Room A3 Hillsville, VA 24343
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## SHUT-INS

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



# FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTIONS

Our next **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will be at Crooked Oak Restaurant at 8:30am on Tuesday, February 7. As usual it will be a "dutch treat" meal with friends and visitors welcome. No need to make a reservation or be a member of the church.

The address is 8302 Danville Pike east of Hillsville, 8.3 miles east of the US 58 and US 52 intersection in downtown Hillsville (not the bypass).

**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 **2023 Deacons** are now serving! Take a look at the list to the right to see who your Deacon is this year *(based on your last name)*. They have hearts for serving both the Lord and His people, and are available to minister to you when needed.

*Our Deacons look forward to serving you in the coming year!*

<b>A—C</b>	Danny Webb
<b>D—G</b>	Pat Sharp ( <i>Treasurer</i> )
<b>H—L</b>	Ed Naff ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> )
<b>M—N</b>	Bill Smyer ( <i>Chair</i> )
<b>O—R</b>	Dan Huff ( <i>Secretary</i> )
<b>S</b>	Dennis Felts
<b>T—Z</b>	Steve Pulliam

# LAST MONTH @ FBCH

**Family Game Day**, sponsored by our Fellowship & Connections committee, was held January 14 @ 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone who participated had a great time as adults and youngsters taught each other new games, had fun competing...and occasionally changed the rules midstream. Don't miss the new fellowship opportunity to grow closer with your church family!

## FAMILY NIGHT!



Singing to Carolyn Grigg in celebration of the 67th anniversary of her 30th Birthday!





# 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. Our January project was cutting, loading, and transporting wood, winterizing a mobile home, and raking, blowing, and hauling 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](mailto: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

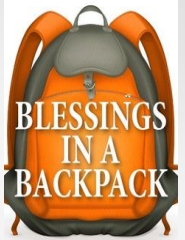
### Stock the Food Pantry:

- February 5 - Pinto beans & Cornbread mixes
- February 12 - Soups & Crackers
- February 19 - Canned meats & Canned fruits
- February 26 - 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.

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.



### February - Washcloths



**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.

## 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*

January 2023

First Baptist Church offers our condolences, prayers, and loving support to the Betty Edith Rose Stevens-Montgomery families.

### IN HONOR OF

### GIVEN BY

### FUND

James & Jeanette Armentrout	Dennis & Karon Felts	Budget
Sue Edwards	Dennis & Karon Felts	Budget
Greg Gibson	Dennis & Karon Felts	Budget
Elizabeth Sharp	Dennis & Karon Felts	Budget

## FLASH FROM THE PAST~JOANNA MISSION CIRCLE



### 1ST ROW

#### LEFT TO RIGHT

Lila Reynolds  
Vivian Garrett  
Allene Tabor  
Ruth Prince

### 2ND ROW

#### LEFT TO RIGHT

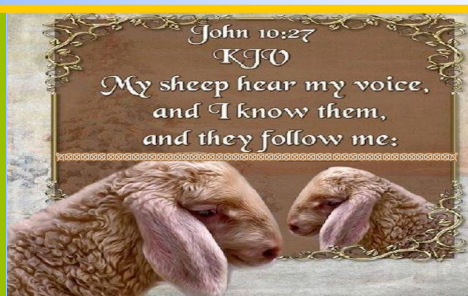
Carole Horton  
Gracie Lee Edmonds  
Betty Williams

### 3RD ROW

#### LEFT TO RIGHT

Judy Thompson  
Opal Lyon  
Betty Surratt

Scripture  
of the  
Month



# MINISTRY NEEDS

## *We need a new Christmas Shoe Boxes Team Leader to step up!*

After many years of faithfully, tirelessly and successfully leading our church's participation in *Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child*, Judy Thompson will retire from this volunteer position following Christmas 2023. Under her leadership, this mission has become both successful and beloved in our church. *Thank you Judy!*

Thanks also to the many church donors and volunteers who organize and pack Christmas shoe boxes of gifts for children around the world each year.

**We are seeking a new volunteer team leader for 2024.** That person will apprentice with Judy this year. If you are interested in leading this ministry team, contact Judy at (276) 733-9456 for further information, or call the church office at 276-728-7801. *Thank you!*

**It's time to renew your background check!** If you serve as a teacher or volunteer with our children or youth, you need to renew the criminal background check for your file by coming by to see Norma during the month of March. She will fill out the request form for you, and the church pays for this expense.

*Thank you for helping us to remain up-to-date for serving our children and youth safely and responsibly!*

# February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 6pm <b>FAMILY NIGHT!</b>	2 10am Bible Study 11:15am Fellowship Committee	3	4 9am God's Handy Helpers
5 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	6 4:30pm Women's Bible Study	7 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast	8 6pm <b>FAMILY NIGHT!</b>	9 10am Bible Study	10	11
12 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Cemetery Committee	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15 6pm <b>FAMILY NIGHT!</b>	16 10am Bible Study	17	18 1pm Widows & Widowers Banquet
19 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	20 4:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Missions Committee	21 3pm Stewardship Committee 6:30pm Building & Grounds	22 6pm <b>FAMILY NIGHT!</b>	23 10am Bible Study	24	25 9am God's Handy Helpers
26 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Fellowship Lunch + Business Meeting	27 6pm Deacons	28	1	2	3	4

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2/2 Fellowship Committee
- 2/4 God's Handy Helpers
- 2/6 Women's Bible Study
- 2/7 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 2/12 Cemetery Committee
- 2/18 Widows & Widowers Banquet
- 2/20 Women's Bible Study
- 2/20 Missions Committee
- 2/21 Stewardship Committee
- 2/25 God's Handy Helpers
- 2/26 Fellowship Lunch + Business Meeting

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

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

- Facebook
- YouTube
- FBCHillsville.org
- FM 88.7 Radio  
(Sunday Worship Service - local/direct-in)

• Vimeo

• Audio on Any Phone  
(toll free 844-455-7887)

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We hope to worship  
with you again soon!