

**First Baptist Church
of Hillsville**

1401 North Main Street
Hillsville, VA 24343
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www.fbchillsville.org
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Worship and Youth Leader
Administrative Assistant
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Zeb Hicks
Norma Ring
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*Getting to know God more fully.
Making Jesus fully known.*

Return Service Requested

1401 North Main St.
Hillsville, VA 24343



**FIRST BAPTIST
HILLSVILLE**

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First Baptist News & Views

December 2023



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

POINTS TO PONDER

"Pursuing His Glory"

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Dear FBCH,

We have so much that we are doing right now to honor and glorify God because of His Gospel. We are excited to celebrate this Christmas by caroling, partying, teaching, decorating, and worshipping. We have an angel tree this year that will be a blessing to several families who are wanting to give their kids the best Christmas they can. God has allowed us to be a part of making this happen and you have the opportunity to shop for the gifts that will go to these families. There will be a tree set up in the church for you to select a child to give to this year.

We also want to remember those this year who may be grieving the loss of a loved one. We will be placing poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory of those loved ones. If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of someone, feel free to bring it to church and we will display it for you. We are also planning to carol and give a special gift to several people who we want to show some Christian love to on December 17th. Join us for caroling and a Christmas party to follow at the church!

Lastly, remember to focus on, not only the reason for the season, but the reason for life itself, every day. God has blessed us with a church family and a place to worship. Reach out to those who may not have that wonderful blessing and share with them the great news of the true meaning of Christmas. Give them the Gospel and let them know our doors are open for them to come and get to know the Savior among fellow believers.

I'll leave you with this Christmas hymn,

"Child for us sinners, poor and in a manger. We would embrace thee with love and awe. Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."

With love and great anticipation for what God is doing,

Merry Christmas

Zeb Hicks



A DEVOTIONAL WORD...

Christmas devotional from John 1:1-18

Jesus willingly entered the darkness so that we could live in the light of his presence forever.

The Christmas story really is a light story. No, not the lights that decorate the city where you live, the lights that you have carefully hung on the tree in your living room, or the candles that you have placed in your windows. No, this story is about the light coming into the world that had been sadly cast into darkness. Under the burden of the shroud of rebellion and sin, the world had become a dark place. In the darkness of immorality, injustice, violence, greed, self-righteousness, thievery, racism, and a host of other ills, the world was desperate for light. Everyone was part of the problem and everyone suffered from the problem, but no one could solve the problem.

God's solution was the only way. He sent the One who is light to be the light that would light the world by his grace. He came into the darkness so that we could know the light and life forever. Here is the Christmas story—only light can defeat the darkness, and light has come!

Tripp, Paul D. New Morning Mercies. Crossway, 2014.

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.



A: ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

See: Matthew 2:10-12

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 refuse, correct, or adjust submissions as needed.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Nursery SS	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!	Coming Soon!
Nursery WS	Paula Pulliam & Keelee Morris	Paula Pulliam & Maria Record	Maria Record & Keelee Morris	Christmas Eve— No church activities	Paula Pulliam & Maria Record
Pre-2nd SS	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield	↓	Diane Allen & Merrilynn Butterfield
3rd-6th SS	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening
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 office at office@fbchillsville.org or (276) 728-7801.*


Thank you!

**Deacon of the Month:
Danny Webb**


FBCH Youth

Our new youth ministry, **Fortify Youth**, is up and running! We want to share with you what our vision for this ministry is. We seek to reach the next generation in Carroll County with the hope of the Gospel through outreach, fellowship, and the worship of our God. Our goals are to be a safe and fun place to **grow, serve, and worship** our Savior, Jesus.

- **To Grow** – We grow through the faithful teaching of God's Word. Fortify Youth Ministry esteems the Word of God as the source of all truth. Scripture is inerrant, infallible, and inspired by God. We are committed to teaching the authority and message of hope found in God's Word through weekly lessons and yearly camps. We also grow through intentional discipleship and service together in the community of faith we exist in.
- **To Serve** – We serve our God by loving others in the same way He has loved us. Our ministry is intentional about helping those in the world who are in need. Locally, we will serve in quarterly service projects to help our community. Globally, we will embark on a mission trip biannually (every 2 years) reaching people around the world.
- **To Worship** – We worship our God by pouring our hearts into praising Him through fun, fellowship, and singing. We worship God by having fun as we fellowship together with games, trips, special events, and meals. We worship Him more intentionally when we sing praises about the goodness of our triune God. Whether we play, serve, sing, or learn, everything we do is an act of worship to the God who has so greatly loved us.



FORTIFY YOUTH MINISTRY



SUNDAYS AT 6PM

"To reach the next generation in Carroll County with the hope of the Gospel through outreach, fellowship, and the worship of our God."

If you are a youth from 6th-12th grade, or if you know someone who is, come or invite them to attend this weekly gathering for fun, fellowship, and worship.

Share this exciting news with a teen in your life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will have a Special Business Meeting after the worship service on December 10 @ 11:30am. will vote whether to have a vocational pastor or a part-time pastor. Also, personnel committee will meet with Budget to discuss recommended Budget changes for 2024.

No Business meeting in December.

Our next church Business Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28 immediately after worship service.

In the absence of a lead pastor, the deacons and the Worship & Youth Leader have decided to continue our annual practice of rewarding our hard-working, volunteer Kitchen Team by giving them significant breaks (days off) during the holidays. Following is the Kitchen Team-prepared meals schedule for December.

Dec. 6 and 13: Wed. night plans will be announced by Youth Leader
Dec. 20 and 27: Wed. nights no meals and no other church activities

Our **2023 Deacons** are here to serve you! 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.

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

KEEPING IN TOUCH

December Birthdays!

Randy Webb	4
Maggie Farmer (Shorter)	9
Elizabeth Sharp	11
Elizabeth Motley	18
Frances Porter	19
Amy Hurt	21
Evelyn Wright	21
Ann Davis	22
Geraldine Slusher	30
Randy Ward	27

December Anniversaries!

Harold & Margaret Cox	22
Dan & Judy Huff	26



Q: What Bible verse is about Christmas?

Answer: Page 15



NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Leona Layher
Ridgecrest Assisted Living
2302 Ridgecrest Lane
Mt Airy, NC 27030

Don Yonce
Commonwealth Senior Living
100 Kyle Drive, Room A3
Hillsville, VA 24343

SHUT-INS

Laura Melton	Kyle Nester	Joyce Bowman
Wanda Montgomery	James Armentrout	
Gracie Edmonds	Dorothy Semones	

FELLOWSHIP & CONNECTIONS

Our next **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** will be at Crooked Oak Restaurant at 8:30am on Tuesday, December 5. 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, just come out and enjoy the fellowship!

Come be a part of our Wednesday evening Family F.O.R.G.E., where we have activities for ALL ages—we'll share a meal and some time singing and worshipping all together, followed by a break out study time to dig deeper into God's Word. This is a great place to get to know and build relationships with others within the church. We hope to see EVERYONE there as the family of God is strengthened in the FORGE!

This important ministry aimed at strengthening our church family by bringing together in fellowship and discipleship all of our church families continues to need your help to be successful.

Please contact Norma in the church office if you are interested in sponsoring a Family Night! meal for only \$50.



CHILDREN/YOUTH/FCA ACTIVITIES



Thanksgaming Night!



Thanks to all of those that made Thanksgaming a huge success!



"We are excited for our first annual Fortify Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party! On December 17th at 6pm we will have a night of fun and fellowship as we celebrate our Lord coming to this earth in the form of a child. We will have many fun activities and games to play throughout the night and we will have prizes to hand out for several competitions including ugliest sweater, best gingerbread house, best Christmas Carol karaoke performance, and more!"

For more information, please contact Zeb Hicks."

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 November project included cutting wood for the winter.

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:

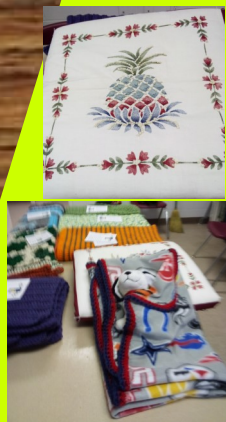
Team Leader Dan Huff at
blueridgetandem@gmail.com!



Sew Journers

Our Sew Journers sewing ministry's next meeting is **Jan. 9, 2024 at 1:00 pm.**

We need quilters, crocheters, and knitters. **Thanks everyone for your support!**



INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM

Food Pantry

Stock the Food Pantry:

- Dec 3 - Pinto beans & Cornbread mixes
- Dec 10 - Soups & Crackers
- Dec 17 - Canned meats & Canned fruits
- Dec 24 - Cereals
- Dec 31 - Rice, Canned Potatoes

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.

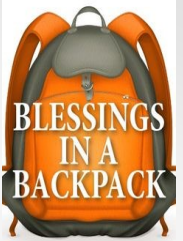


Thanks to all of you for your donations to our shoebox ministry. We put together 281 boxes ready for distribution.

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...

Jo Anne 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

First Baptist Church offers our condolences, prayers, and loving support to the Blevins and McCrawley families.

IN Memory OF

Greg Gibson

Greg Gibson

GIVEN BY

Harold & Margaret Cox

Carolyn Grigg

FUND

Budget

Budget

IN HONOR OF

Bill Smyer

GIVEN BY

Dennis & Karon Felts

FUND

Budget



Merry Christmas!!!



Christmas Eve Week Plans

At the business meeting yesterday, it was decided that on Sunday, Christmas Eve, there will be a candlelight worship service 10:30 - 11:30 AM and no other church activities that day or for the rest of that week.

We are asking anyone who would like to **contribute a poinsettia** in memory of or in honor of a loved one bring to the church to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

MINISTRY NEEDS

As our church family continues to grow, we also have a **growing need for volunteers** to help watch over and shepherd our children in areas such as Sunday School, nursery, Youth and Children's Church. **If you would like to be a part of pouring into our children at FBCH**, please contact our new Youth and Worship Leader Zeb Hicks at youthandsong@fbchillsville.org. Thank you!

The Deacons have chosen Dr. Lawrence Childs as the Lord's Supper Love Fund recipient for the fourth quarter. We will continue collecting through the end of December. Please clearly mark your check or donation envelope with "Lord's Supper Love Fund." Thank you for your generosity!

Lottie Moon International Missions

"Need it be said why the week before Christmas is chosen? Is not the festive season, when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?"



Lottie Moon

We are collecting contributions for the Lottie Moon International Missions Fund starting Sunday, December 3. The envelopes will be on the table in the foyer and in your bulletins.

Volunteers are needed to clean the sanctuary. If you haven't taken a turn yet to help out your church family with this task, the notebook to sign up is in the back corner of the sanctuary on the table. Thank you for being a part of keeping God's House clean!



December 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 6pm Fortify Youth	4 6:30pm Missions Comm	5 8:30am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 6:30pm FCA Huddle	6 6:00pm Family FORGE	7 11:15am Fellowship Committee	8	9 9am God's Handy Helpers
10 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Special Business Meeting 6pm Fortify Youth	11	12 6:30pm FCA Huddle	13 6pm Family FORGE	14	15	16
17 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service 6pm Fortify Youth—Ugly Sweater Christmas Party!!	18	19 6:30pm Building & Grounds	20	21	22 Church office closed	23
24 Christmas Eve!! Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be during our morning service.	25 Merry Christmas!!!	26 Church office closed	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve!! 9am Prayer meeting 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	1 Happy New Year's Day! Church office closed					

- 12/2 God's Handy Helpers
- 12/4 Missions Committee
- 12/5 Men's Fellowship Breakfast
- 12/7 Fellowship Committee
- 12/9 Building & Grounds
- 12/10 Special Business Meeting
- 12/17 Fortify Youth—Ugly Sweater Christmas Party
- 12/19 Building & Grounds
- 12/22 Church office closed
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25 Merry Christmas!!
- 12/26 Church office closed
- 12/31 New Year's Eve!