

The First Baptist Church

42 Hart Avenue, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201

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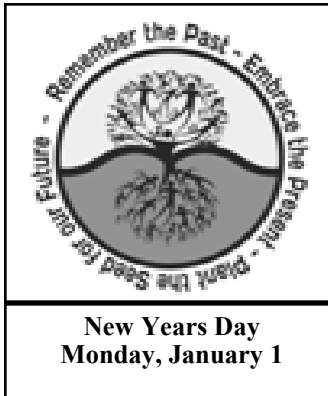
Web-page: firstbaptistbuckhannon.net

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Church Office 304-472-4789

Those who help us worship: Leandra Morlan and Amanda Teodoro (Sound and Projection). Barbara Hamilton and Cynthia Parker (Organ and Piano). Amanda Norment (Music Committee Chairperson)



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Morning Worship10:45 a.m.

The Buckhannon Baptist is sponsored by the Deacon Board, and is compiled, typed and edited by John L. Puffenbarger. **The deadline for articles is the 20th of the month.**

A mighty message

We're at the starting gate of a new year. What will it hold for each of us? What will it hold for our church? Only God knows. Yet if God knows, why not try to discover his plan each day?

We should carry on a daily dialog with God. Following his lead is always interesting and challenging. And much of the time it's filled with wonder and joy.

There is a story about a small boy who prayed to God at the end of a fun, interesting Monday: *"It's been a wonderful day, God. What do you have in mind for Tuesday?"*

What does God have in mind for you and our church in 2018? Keep in touch with him, and you'll enjoy the trip during the coming year.

Brand new

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about God during the last twelve months.

I am your chance to feel fulfilled and joyous as you strive to spread the Gospel throughout your neighborhood. All you had planned to do and didn't accomplish in the work of the church is waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

Anonymous

Photo Gallery



Billy Hurst and his band!



Damien and Madelyn as Mary and Joseph



Adult Choir led by Nancy Hackett

A hymn for the New Year

Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the early 20th century, became well-known for his stands on social issues.



His hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee," partially quoted below, appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace and hope. It's an ideal hymn for beginning a new year.

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear,
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

What the New Year offers

- A fresh start in the totality of our life.
- A chance to do good things for others, especially older members of our family.
- An opportunity to plan better for the future, including the use of our time, talent and possessions.
- A challenge to read helpful books about living according to God's plan.
- A chance to better control stress and anxiety in body and spirit.

On hatred, on love

Martin Luther King Jr. will be remembered this year on Monday, January 15. Given the bitterness widespread in today's world, it's fitting to recall King's words: *"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it."*

Get ready for Epiphany

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. These men, also known as kings, saw the star that led them to Bethlehem.

The fact that these wise men were Gentiles, not Jews, teaches us an important theological lesson: Their search for the Savior shows that Jesus came for all people.

In 1875, Philip Bliss wrote the hymn "The Light of the World Is Jesus." The first stanza captures the meaning of Epiphany, a season of light:

The whole world was lost
In the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday,
His glory shone in.
The Light of the world is Jesus!

Humor to break up the winter blahs

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.

Not in a partying 'MOOD'

A Sunday school teacher shared the parable of the prodigal son with his class, pointing out how resentful the older son was when the father welcomed the wayward brother home with open arms and a party.

Amid the celebration, the teacher emphasized, someone in the story failed to share in the joy. "Can you tell me who that was?" the teacher asked. Eagerly, a little girl raised her hand. "I know, I know!" she exclaimed. "The fatted calf!"



Hello all,

I don't know if some of you know or have heard but I want to get this out there so people don't hear the wrong thing.

In case you didn't know, God called me into youth ministry when I was in middle school and I have been involved in some sort of youth ministry since. I always knew God wanted me to be in full time ministry but I didn't know when or where. Then God opened the door here at First Baptist Church in 2010 and it has been a blessing.

I've gotten to grow in Christ and help students do the same. However, like I said, I knew God wanted me in full time ministry but it wasn't until a year ago I felt God pulling me further into it. So I started applying for positions in which I could do youth ministry full time.

God had opened and closed doors over the past year and a half and it wasn't easy. However, God is good and his ways are better than our ways.

This fall I was approached by a pastor from Vienna Baptist Church about them hiring a full time youth pastor. I felt God's call and I applied and over a few months and interviews they offered me the job. I accepted the job and will start in the beginning of January.

I am writing this because everything has happened so fast that I haven't had time to make a formal announcement at church. Because of the Holidays I didn't want to take away from our special services.

I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve here in Buckhannon and have loved getting to know and grow spiritually with kids and adults in our church. Words can not describe how thankful my wife and I are for this church.

You all have shown us love and support more than we could ever imagine and we are eternally grateful. We love you all and will continue to keep FBC in our prayers and our hearts.

Your Brother in Christ,
Bryson

The Buckhannon Baptist - January 2018

Have a plan

One year when I was in high school, my father thought it would be nice if we would take a trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. My mother agreed that it was a good idea and invited her sister, Lesley Bice, to go along with us.

My father bought a Pennsylvania map at the local Gulf station and began to plan the trip. He got some brochures and selected a motel. When we arrived in Gettysburg we saw the building where President Lincoln stayed, General Lee's headquarters, the cemetery where President Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address, Pickett's Charge and the rest of the battlefield.

A couple of years later a neighbor on our street told my mother that they had just come back from Gettysburg. She said it was a huge disappointment and rated the trip a D-. She said when they drove into the town they looked around at a few gift shops, and when they didn't see anything else of interest they went back home. They hadn't done any prior planning so they missed seeing all the important sights.



That family's experience demonstrates that we need a map to steer us in the right direction in order for us to avoid disappointments in this world - things that will hinder our progress. We need to plan ahead so we can follow the course we need to follow. Our neighbor needed a tour guide to show them around Gettysburg.

Throughout the Bible, our "tour guide" promises to give us this needed guidance. For example in Isaiah 30:21 God says, "*Whether you [should] turn to the right or to the left your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.'*" We need someone to show us the way so we can follow the course we need to follow. That someone is Jesus.

Churches need to plan ahead as well. We need a "tour guide" to steer us in the right direction in order for us to avoid things that will delay our progress. If any church is to spread the Gospel, it must have goals, it must have a clear purpose — a plan. And a good time to plan is at the beginning of a new year.

If a church is to grow it must know where it's going and why it's going there for, as Proverbs 29:18 says, "*where there is no vision...the people perish...*" Or as a friend of mine used to say, "*He who aims at nothing, hits it!*"

JLP

From Pastor Jay

*The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." **Numbers 6:24-27***

This is a verse to hold onto as we enter into 2018. I'd love for us to memorize and receive the blessing God gives to Moses, imparted to Aaron and his priestly line to be given to the people of Israel. It may be familiar for some of us. May we receive this blessing and be a blessing to others. For the context of this writing, we also use it as we say thanks and blessing to the Morlan family.

The LORD bless you and keep you Bryson, Leandra, and Reed! God knew that this youth pastor's position would be part of your story. As I speak for myself, I hope to echo our church's sentiment. I'm so happy and so sad. Congratulations that you responded to the call God has placed in your life! The Teodoro's are proud of you as you've been called to Vienna Baptist Church. It's a huge step and we know the void that will be felt in the Teodoro family, in our church, in the schools, and in Upshur County.

The LORD bless you and guard you as you love the kids in your church and the kids you will serve in your community as parents, as teachers and coaches, and as Wood Country residents. God guard you as you balance life in marriage, family, and ministry. May the LORD bring you a community of believers to grow together, to lean on, and to celebrate life. We pray that you, Leandra, and Reed will continue to grow in your love and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May your faith steps grow bigger and bigger and may you receive God's blessing and favor as you make them. May you also find grace in those places where there is both the highs and lows of failure and success. Remember that all of it is grace! Failure isn't God's strike against you, it's an area where you (and we) can find his peace and his presence. Give glory to God in that He will grow you and stretch you in victory and defeat.

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. God's presence is peace and may your faith steps take you there. We pray that your family is filled with Jesus, that he would, as John expressed, grow greater and that you would grow less. May the people in your life be so attracted to the Jesus that is growing within you.

Thank you for all that you have done in loving Jacob, Sam, and Sarah. Thanks for taking Jacob and Sam everywhere and being there as a buddy and friend. We are so grateful for your friendship. We appreciate the thousands of hours of investment you have made at First Baptist Church of Buckhannon. We love you Bryson, Leandra, and Reed! We're praying for you. God's blessings to you in this new year.

Photo Gallery (cont.)



Our faithful kitchen crew!



Operation Christmas Child helpers!

Thanks to everyone who donated to the "Fund for Puerto Rico" offering. We collected \$348.00

Thank you for your food donations to the Adopt-A-Family program. We were able to help 12 families this year.

First Baptist Webpage.
Keep up to date with church news
during the coming year.

Be sure to type
firstbaptistbuckhannon.net
In your web browser often.

Photo Gallery



Happy kids at our annual Christmas Party!



Madelyn and Kellan



Kellan, Baylee, and Brooks make a joyful noise!

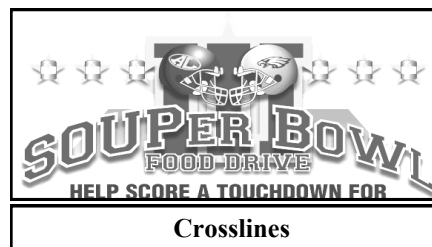
It's a Starry, Starry Night!



We extend our sympathy to the family of Jean S. Marks, who died on Thursday, November 30. She was 89.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Dorothy Marie "Dot" Tenney, who died on Thursday, November 30. She was 97.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Benjamin Dale Thomason who died on Wednesday, December 6. He was 75. He was the father of Eric Thomason.



The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of schools, congregations and community organizations joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities, transforming the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

From now to Sunday, February 4, please bring one can of soup (or more) to church. You may place the cans in the basket in the back of the sanctuary. All the donated cans will be given to Crosslines the week after the Super Bowl.

Mission statement

The mission of the West Virginia Baptist Convention is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith, and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling them to do together what they cannot do alone.

Contact information: West Virginia Baptist Convention, 1019 Juliana St., Parkersburg, WV 26101. Phone: 304-422-6449. Email: info@wvbc.org



From a church newsletter in Pocatello, Idaho:

WORLD OUTREACH

We collect funds that we forward to Church World Service so that they can produce and distribute quality wool blankets. Donations can be placed in your weekly offering envelope

Wouldn't *wool* be softer?

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Jan Arredondo
- 4 - Destiny Nestor
- 7 - Sharece Moffett Teter
- 10 - Angie Morgan Stewart
- 11 - Noah Curry
- 13 - Jerry Leigh, Servando Arradondo
- 17 - Clifford Newman
- 18 - Catherine Harper
- 19 - Betsy Vance, Christy Vance Dunovant

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 - Servy and Jan Arredondo



UPCOMING
Events

[] **Tuesday, January 9 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** - The Community Outreach Dinner. The dinner is free and everyone is welcome. Desserts are always needed for the dinner.

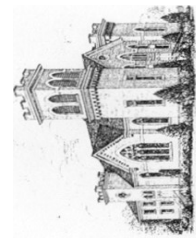
[] **Church Council** - To be announced.

[] **Church Business Meeting** - To be announced.

[] **Monday, January 15** - Deacon Board Meeting.

Note: The ABW Ministries will not meet in January or February due to wintery weather.

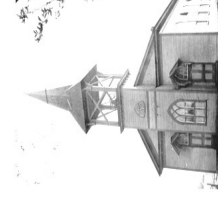
Note: The Widows for Christ will not meet in January, February or March due to wintery weather.



Dedicated in 1911

The
Buckhannon Baptist

The First Baptist Church - 232 Years of Worship



@ 1852
(Organized in 1786)

The First Baptist Church

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
South Florida Street at Hart Avenue
42 Hart Avenue
Buckhannon, WV 26201
Address Service Requested

Rev. Jay Teodoro

Buckhannon, WV



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