

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Tommy Moffett
- 4 - Tom Leggett
- 5 - Becky Cox, Lori Vance
- 7 - Caila Linger
- 14 - Bonnie Cartier, Baylee Hurst
- 18 - J. D. Hinkle, IV
- 21 - Vicki Crowder
- 21 - Kenneth Kerekes

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

None to report

If you want to have your birthday or anniversary listed, please give your name and the dates to editor John Puffenbarger..



Being careful

Editor's Note: When you think about it, the coronavirus has no religion. It is present in our churches, malls and stadiums. During the past several months, some people in our country think that when they are in church they are spiritually/physically protected and do not need to follow health guidelines. I believe they are wrong.

The new Omicron variant has spread quickly around the United States. That's why at First Baptist we have tried to protect ourselves as much as possible during our worship services. However, we still believe that the ability to worship and sing together is meaningful and important.

Although God is everywhere, and we can praise Him anytime, it's important to be together in order to jointly feel the presence of God among each of us.

A health issue

Editor's Note: It seems to me that people in many churches have been slow to return to worship services. It could be that some followers have been influenced by false political/media statements regarding vaccines. That is unfortunate, because getting vaccinated is really a health issue. People need to seek the truth.

Sometimes an uncertain situation will cause people to hesitate to go back to a church. However, if they are not careful a bad situation can often wrongly change their relationship with their faith and their church. They need to stay positive.



Dedicated in 1911

*The
Buckhannon Baptist*

The First Baptist Church - 236 Years of Worship



@ 1814
(Organized in 1786)

The First Baptist Church

Rev. Cyril Johnston, Interim Pastor

Buckhannon, WV

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

Address Service Requested

*February 2022
Newsletter*

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26201

TO:

The First Baptist Church

42 Hart Avenue, Buckhannon, West Virginia 26201

E-mail: BuckhannonBaptist@outlook.com

Web-page: firstbaptistbuckhannon.net

Interim Pastor: ... Rev. Cyril Johnston ... Office Phone 304-472-4789 ...
e-mail: llfecoachcyril@gmail.com. Cell phone: 304-613-2870

Interim Secretary: Nancy Hackett. Church Office 304-472-4789

Youth Director: Christine Dunaway. Cell Phone: 434-660-8955

Those who help us worship: Barbara Hamilton, Mary Ellen Davidson and
Cynthia Parker (Piano). Cynthia Parker (Music Committee Chairman)



Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship10:45 a.m. (*Watch e-mail for Bible Study messages*)

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.**

Valentine's Day

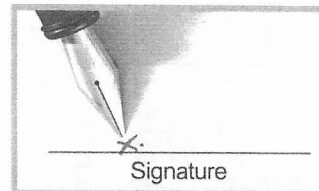
In the early Christian church, there were three priests named Valentine or Valentinus. Though they didn't live at the same time, each was said to be holy and each had been martyred for his faith. All three priests were designated as saints.

Around the year A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day came to be associated with love, romance and marriage. The day is now so popular that only during the Christmas season do people mail more greeting cards.

Signatures

During the Middle Ages, when few people were able to write, many documents were signed with an X. Signers kissed the letter to affirm their sincerity in the same way they kissed the Bible when taking an oath.



The letter X wasn't selected at random. It was the sign of St. Andrew, who was crucified on an X-shaped cross. The X implied a sacred promise to fulfill one's obligation in the saint's name.

Sentence Sermon: God is the source of all love in the world.

A Tribute to the Editor - *by Don Shingleton*

Our newsletter was started years ago by Ruth Powers, wife of our then Associate Pastor, Lloyd Powers. Moderator, John Puffenbarger continued it for a period but it, once again, kind of fizzled out.

When Don Nestor had an officer's event and asked for suggestions for improvement, one suggestion made was a church newsletter. The deacon board was designated as a sponsor for the newsletter. John was appointed editor.

In 1996 the first issue was composed on a typewriter. John took a picture of our new pastor, Richard McGuire and wife, Eloise and pasted it with scotch tape on a page. Realizing that the typewriter was inadequate, John purchased a "word processor" from Macy's Department Store in Charleston, WV. He continued to use Scotch tape to paste the photos.

Betty Puffenbarger, John's late wife, told him about a computer program that she was using at the Board of Education office to generate paperwork for the school lunch program. After John went to the BOE office to see a demonstration, they decided to buy a computer for their home.

He began publishing the newsletter on that computer. By using "Publisher" John was able to reproduce pictures by emailing them to himself, copy the photos and add them to the newsletter.

Betty was his proofreader and consultant and for years it was a collaborative effort. After Betty's passing, John continued to publish the newsletter although it had to be difficult to continue.

He has outlasted 4 presidents and 3 ministers. We owe John a large round of applause for his efforts to keep our membership aware of church activities. I encourage you to send him an email and tell him how appreciative you are for his dedication to giving us a quality publication.

To worship is ...

... a chance to enlighten our conscience by the holiness of God. Worship feeds our minds with the truth of God. It influences our imaginations with the beauty of God. It opens our hearts to the love of God. Worship gives us the desire to study the Bible to learn God's purpose in our lives.

From Pastor Cyril - *A letter to the congregation*

January 25, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters at First Baptist Church of Buckhannon:

This letter comes to let you know that after much prayer and thought, I am resigning my position as Interim Pastor. March 27, 2022 will be my last Sunday. This has been a very hard and painful decision to make, but it is the right one.

I have enjoyed and been greatly blessed to have been your Interim Pastor for almost two years. No pastor has ever been treated and cared for with more love, respect and encouragement. I have made friendships and close relationships with many and hope that those can continue. However, I feel strongly that God is calling me to move on.

In the past when I moved from one church to another, it was because I was convinced that God was calling me to another ministry. This time, I am convinced that God is calling me to the ministries and pursuits that He led me to put on hold when I accepted your gracious invitation to be your interim pastor.

These pursuits include coaching, composing, performing, recording, and travel. I must also face the reality, that at age 78, my energy levels and overall health are not what they once were.

So, dear friends, If God allows, I will be with you in person through Sunday March 27, unless God sends a new pastor before that. After that, I will be with you in spirit, filled with gratitude for the time we were able to minister together.

Yours in Jesus' Service,
Cyril Johnston

Editor's Note: During the time Pastor Cyril served as Interim Pastor for our church, he proved time and time again that he was truly called by God to do His work. By preaching the Word of the Lord, Pastor Cyril allowed our congregation to experience the joy of God's presence. We appreciate everything he has done for our church.

As Micah 5:4 says: *"And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure"*

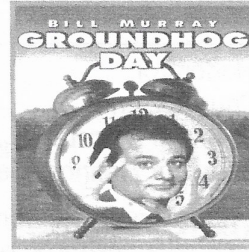
First Baptist Church Officers for 2022

Moderator	Don Nestor
Church Clerk	Cynthia Parker
Financial Secretary	Don Nestor
Assistant Financial Secretary	Sandy Peck
Treasurer	Willie Parker
Assistant Treasurer	Don Nestor
Board of Deacons	Billy Hurst (2022), _____ (2022), David Norment (2023), Ransom Hackett (2023), Willie Parker (2024), John Puffenbarger (2024).
Board of Deaconesses	Amanda Norment (2022), Sally Anne Veith (2022), Mary Ellen Davidson (2023), Wanda Light (2023), Nancy Hackett (2024), Joanne Rozelle (2024).
Board of Christian Education	Mary Ellen Davidson (Chairman 2022), _____ Youth (2022), Joanne Rozelle, Adult (2023), Cynthia Parker (Leadership, 2023), Opal Marsh, Missions (2024), _____ Children (2024).
Board of Trustees	Dick Curry (2022), Tom Peck (2023), Ransom Hackett (2024).
Budget and Finance	Don Nestor (Chairman), Sandy Leggett, Willie Parker.
Auditing Committee	Judy Nestor, Joy Shingleton.
Music Committee	Cynthia Parker, Nancy Hackett, Hallie Hurst
Hospitality Committee	Jim & Cathy Vance (2022), Mary Ellen Davidson (2023) Hallie Hurst (2023).
Sunday School Superintendent	Don Shingleton
Assistant Sunday School Superintendent	Judy Nestor
Sunday School Secretary	_____

Members of the Nominating Committee for 2021 were: Mary Ellen Davidson, Amanda Norment, Marcia Lee.

Groundhog Day 2022

In the 1993 movie, Groundhog Day, Bill Murray portrays Phil Connors, a cynical Pittsburgh television weatherman covering the annual Groundhog Day event in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. He becomes trapped in a time loop, and is doomed to relive Groundhog Day (February 2) over and over.



For Christians, the "sin cycle" is similar: mess up, repent, resolve to do better — and fail yet again, often in the exact same ways.

We all fail in small ways ... and often in large ways. Sometimes it would be nice to be able to hit repeat and try again the next day, to aim for perfection, to be the saintly Phil Connors we see at movie's end.

But that would take away the sudden choices during a new day, and the challenge of being a better person despite a brand new set of circumstances.

When we follow Jesus, if we make a mistake we can face dark days knowing that with God's help we can get it right.

West Virginia Baptist Convention Annual Training Event

Saturday, February 5, 2022

at the

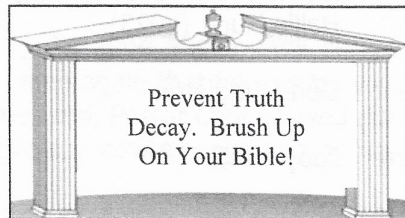
Parchment Valley Conference Center

1715 Lower Parchment Valley Road, Ripley, WV

FOR: Deacons, Church Clerks, Treasurers

and Financial Secretaries and Trustees.

❖ See Pastor Cyril or Don Nestor for details ❖



**Church
Signs**

The Buckhannon Baptist - February 2022

Why?

There are some things in life that are difficult for me to understand. I'm referring to things that, on the surface, seem simple enough but on the other hand often have me asking myself, "Why?"



For instance, since Covid 19 appeared I have wondered why is it, in the face of all we know about the dangers of the virus, are people still refusing to get a vaccine shot?

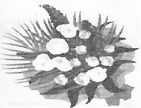
A person would have to have been a hermit for the past two years to not know of the harmful effects of the virus. Doctors and scientists have warned us that the virus causes lung ailments, other physical problems and death.

No rational person can say that he does not know about the dangers of not getting vaccinated. However, those people continue to refuse to get a shot. Why?

Perhaps it's because they believe that while others may be affected by it, it will not hurt them. Others say that nobody's going to tell them what to do. They claim they are an independent thinker and they know what is best for them.

Unfortunately it seems to me that some people have the same view of religion. They will not be guided by the Bible. They refuse to submit to the will of God choosing, instead, to follow their own will. Nobody, not even God, is going to tell them how to live their lives. Why do they think that way?

— JLP



Our prayers are extended to the family of David Berger who died on January 18. He was Ray Berger's father.

Our prayers are extended to the family of Sue Boni who died on December 2. She was Karon King's sister.

Great Answer

Artur Rubinstein, the famous pianist, was asked the secret of his success. Was it dedication, ability, discipline or hard work?

Mr. Rubinstein smiled and said, "It's difficult to say, but one thing I do know. If you love life, life will love you back."

