



WELCOME

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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The Voice

May 2024

"Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—" Psalm 103:1-2

Message from our Pastor Dr. Shawn White

May is a month for celebrations! Not only are the full effects of Spring making its impact – the heat is finally off at my house and my allergies are in full bloom – but it is our month to celebrate Mother's Day, graduations, and our wonderful Senior Adult ministries!

Several years ago, the Southern Baptist Convention put "Senior Adult Sunday" on their calendar to be celebrated the first Sunday in May. While I do not see that day still as a point of emphasis on the SBC calendar any longer, we have kept the first Sunday of May as a Sunday to celebrate our Senior Adult Ministry and the May edition of the Voice to share about our OASIS (Older Adults Still in Service) ministry. We also celebrate our graduates in May. This year we have a number who have hit another milestone through College and University graduations, and we want to celebrate with them on this achievement and pray God's blessing on them as they start a new chapter.

I pray you have cause to celebrate this May, whether because of a milestone reached in your life or others, or simply because of the opportunity to live in God's world with purpose and hope through the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ living in us by faith.

The item for the Bland Ministry Center for May is Mac & Cheese

Senior Adult Day
May 5th

Mother's Day
May 12th

Graduation Day
May 19th

Memorial Day
May 27th

Mission and Ministry Opportunities

Baptist Women's Day Circle

2nd Thursday at 10:30 am

Ruby J. Louthan Circle Meeting

3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Happy Mother's Day

Luncheon at Fish Frenzy on Saturday, May 25th at 11:30 am

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4
5 Senior Adult Day Women's/ Men's Bible Studies 4pm TeamKID and Youth 5pm	6	7	8 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm	9 Women's Day Circle 10:30am	10	11 Church Work Day 8am to noon
12 Mother's Day Women's Bible Studies 4pm	13 CLC Meeting 6:30pm	14	15 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm	16	17	18 Bridal Shower for Hannah Shockley 11am
19 Graduation Sunday Women's/Men's Bible Studies 4pm TeamKID and Youth 5pm	20	21 Ruby J. Louthan Circle 6pm	22 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm	23	24	25 OASIS at Fish Frenzy, 11:30am
26 TeamKID and Youth 5pm	27 Memorial Day Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm	28	29 Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm	30	31	

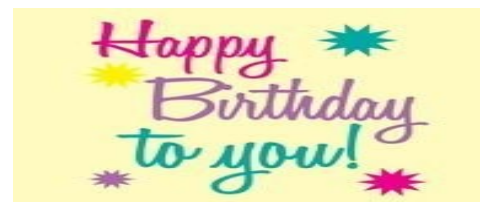
May Birthdays

May 04 Elizabeth Crigger
 May 11 Rebecca Damron
 Michael West
 May 12 Helen Arnold
 May 15 Karen Stanley

May 15 Elias Stout
 May 16 Reta Williams
 May 17 Abel Solademi
 May 19 Kristy Stout
 May 21 Katie Hinch

May 23 Aidan Bowers
 Dr. Tracey Stout
 May 25 Christopher Scruggs
 May 30 Gaynelle Ayers

May Anniversaries
 Tracey & Kristy Stout



From the Desk of the OASIS Coordinator

Congratulations to our Senior Adults as we celebrate and recognize our Senior Adult Ministry (OASIS) during the month of May. We are 32 strong in number with lots of talents and skills. We meet each month for a time of fellowship and meal. Our purpose is to keep in touch with each other weekly. All our members are ready to help when the church needs them. One of our primary missions is to support the ministries that the church offers. Seniors keep up the good work you are doing here at First Baptist Church.

I want to recognize our two 90 plus years old members. They are Barbara Carroll and Don Rice. We have another one that will turn 90 soon, but I will leave that for another day. Age does not seem to keep them from being active in the OASIS events or many of the church functions.

I want to pause for a moment and list those individuals who have received their heavenly call home.

In memory of:

Jim Ayers, Roxie Bailey, Arthur Carroll, Susan Faulkerson, Bill and Doris Passan, Reba Pruett, David and Catherine Armbrister, Sue Law, Shirley Coleman, Mary Lou Robinette, John Ayers, Jenny Leffel and Harold Hamann.

As we look to the future; God has a plan for each of us. Trust and depend upon God's direction and watch for those opportunities to serve others.

Thanks seniors for your support, help, suggestions and being faithful in your attendance to our monthly fellowship/meal.

May God bless each of you as we celebrate and continue to serve the Lord with gladness and all our strength in the OASIS ministry at First Baptist Church-Bluefield.

In Christ name we serve.

Peter J. West

Look at what impact that serving at FBC has had upon our 90-plus:



Barbara Carroll is a retired school teacher. She has been a member at FBC for 70 plus years. She liked the size of fellowship at FBC, the congregation was large enough to minister to many different groups of people. Barbara stated that she likes FBC because it was small enough to be family, a caring family.

Don Rice is a former Vice President of American Plastic Toys. He served FBC as Administrator between pastors and is currently serving as a Teller. Don and Zane have been faithful members at FBC for twenty-five years plus. He is also a member of the local Rotary Club.



On such a mile stone in your lives, may God continue to bless you in the kingdom work in this community. Keep up the speed!

Reception for Barbara Carroll

When Barbara Carroll announced her move to Knoxville, TN, the OASIS team did not want to see her leave without the proper “send off”. She has been a dedicated member of this church for more than 73 years. She will celebrate her 96th birthday this July.

Her family was with her at the reception. A picture of the church taken in 1989 was presented to her as a reminder of the impact she has had upon this church and the community. We wish you the best as you begin your new journey.

We do not say goodbye, just “until we meet again.”



.....WORDS OF INSPIRATION

C. S. Lewis stated that “Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.

In his 1942 novel, “The Screwtape Letters”, he makes an important observation on the nature of courage. He argues that all spiritual virtues such as love, hope, faith, patience and mercy have little meaning if they disappear in the face of danger or persecution. It is easy to be kind, forgiving or strong when times are good, but retaining those qualities during times of adversity, requires great COURAGE.

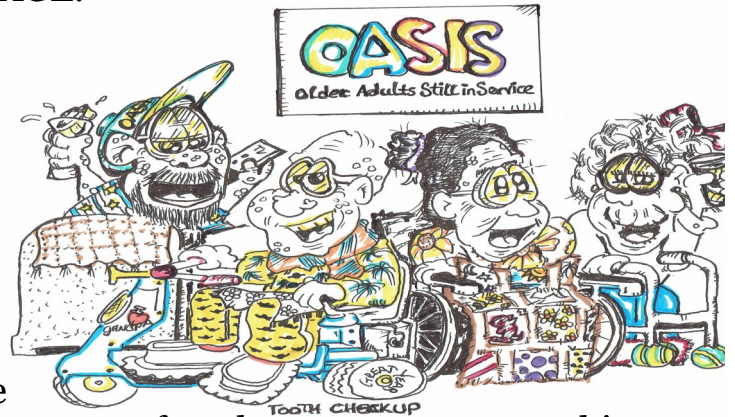
If you look for perfection, you will never be satisfied.

You are what you LOVE, not what LOVES you.

The most important thing in communication is hearing what is said.

Eleanor Roosevelt stated: “Life was meant to be lived, and curiosity must be kept alive. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life.”

As one goes through life, one learns that if you don't paddle your own canoe, you don't move.



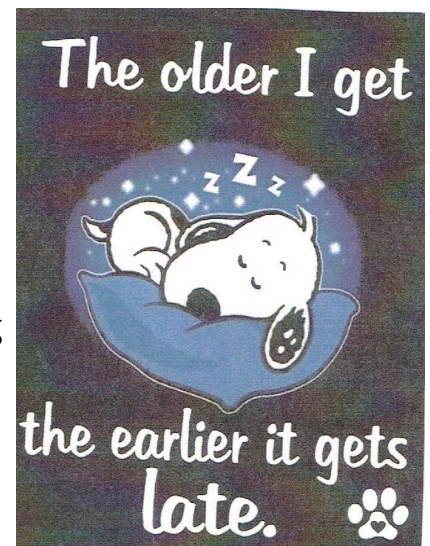
.....SENIOR MOMENTS

Seniors have their own texting code (if you text at all)

Bmw: Bring my walker
Atd: At the doctor
Lmk: Lost my keys
Smm: Slipped my mind

Just be alert to these following statements:

1. Listen and Silent are spelled with the same letters.
2. The caterpillar grows wings during a season of isolation. Remember that the next time you are alone.
3. When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember the “teacher” is always quiet during a test!
4. A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a Song.





OASIS at the Ole No. 3 Restaurant Pocahontas, Va.

OASIS

Seniors on the run...look out world, here we come!



Gardens in Charlotte, NC



OASIS at the Catholic Church in Pocahontas, Va.



OASIS at the Gardens in Charlotte, NC



Mike & Nancy Hawkins with Carol & Ron Townley heading to the Billy Graham Museum & Gardens



Carol Townley & Martha Richardson at the Billy Graham Museum



Church Dinner



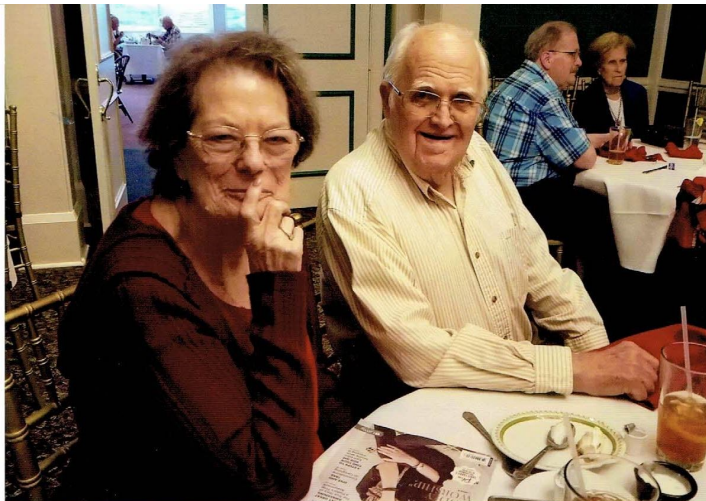
Church Dinner



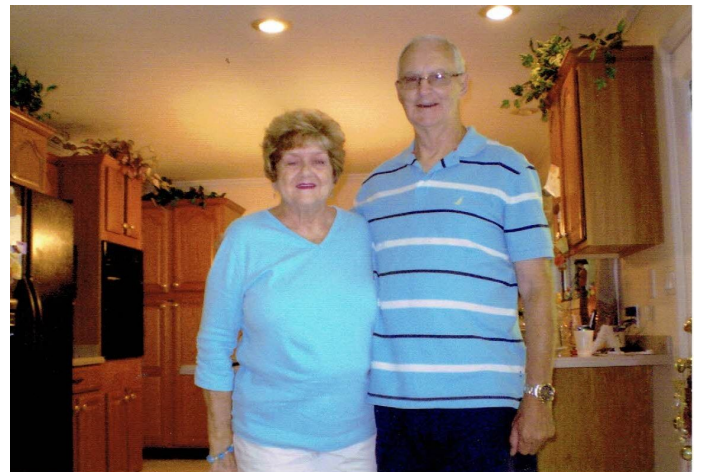
Betsy West, Peter West, Sue Clark



Sue and Sam Clark
at Fincastle



Brenda and Tom Lafone
at Fincastle



Carol and Ron Townley

CONGRADULATIONS GRADUATES



ETHAN STOUT

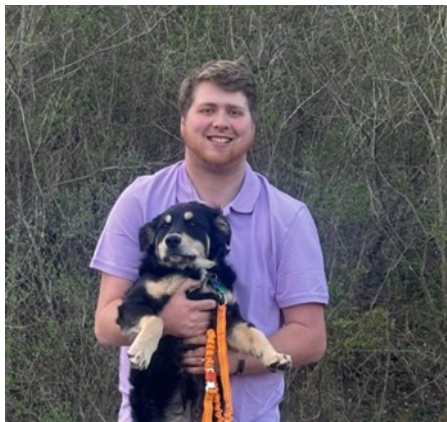
Ethan Stout graduated from Bluefield University in December 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and a minor in criminal justice. While at Bluefield University, Ethan was a part of the Ram Marching Band and concert band all four years playing the French horn and mellophone. Ethan hopes to find a job in the IT field or building computers and is currently seeking other IT certifications.

NATHAN A. FIGUEROA

Dr. Nathan Figueroa is graduating from the University of Pittsburg, PA School of Dental Medicine in May 2024 as a Doctor in Dental Surgery. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Figueroa.

JONATHAN D. FIGUEROA

Dr. Jonathan Figueroa is graduating from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in Detroit Michigan as a Doctor of Dental Surgery. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Figueroa.



NATHANAEL SHUMATE

Nathanael Shumate graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bluefield State University on April 27, 2024, with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Concentration in Law Enforcement and a Minor in Pre-Law. Upon graduation, Nathanael plans to find a career in local law enforcement and eventually go back to school to obtain a master's degree.



ALEXANDER WHITE

Alexander is graduating magna cum laude from Waynesburg University with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Alexander was a 4-year member of the men's soccer team and a 3-year member of the FCA leadership team. Alexander has accepted a job in the Neuro Critical Care Unit at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV and plans to start after passing the NCLEX.



BENJAMIN WHITE

Benjamin is graduating from Waynesburg University with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical science and a chemistry minor. He was a 4-year member of the Waynesburg University men's soccer team, a 3-year member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes leadership team, and a student senator. Benjamin plans to attend the West Virginia School of Pharmacy starting in August of 2024.

HANNAH ELIZABETH SHOCKLEY



Hannah Elizabeth Shockley will be a graduate of Bluefield University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Music. While attending Bluefield University, she was a member of the Concert Band and the Ram's Marching Band playing trumpet and serving as the 2023 Drum Major.

After graduation, Hannah will be working full time at Veterinary Associates in Bluefield, WV.

Hannah and Tim Gasperson are excited to be married on June 15th and start their new lives together. Hannah and Tim will reside in Falls Mills, VA.

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“

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1



First Baptist Church
of Bluefield

