



# the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter  
*Jan. 10, 2024*

## Inflated Water

Back in elementary school, little Lester was very slow at learning his multiplication tables. There was one bright spot in his mathematical development. He mastered his "zeroes" extremely fast.

I quickly learned that multiplying any number with zero is perhaps the easiest of all tasks! No matter how big the number is, when you multiply it with zero, the answer is always simple - zero.

For some reason this early memory linked up with a funny story I read. We can unearth profound insights from this math and that story.

A sign on a water cooler at Hughes Aircraft in Torrance, California stated: "Due to the inflation and other rising costs, the water in this cooler is now twice as free as it used to be." Top masterminds at Hughes might have walked away scratching their heads.

Salvation from sin through Jesus is absolutely free. Humans can add zero (nothing, zip) to that equation. Refuse to mess up the math of God's grace by trying to add anything to that free gift. Just drink deeply from the fountain of grace as you enjoy and follow Jesus more.

Together with you,

**O**

Les

We all know how fast our lives can change, but what a comfort it is KNOWING that at ALL TIMES God truly is in control!

Since July we have asked for many prayers from our First Baptist Family. Prayers are being answered and by the Grace of God we are entering a new lifestyle of changes. Ted is settled in at Ossian Healthcare long-term nursing care Room 312 and in a couple of weeks I will be there in apartment 412, under the same roof as Ted!

So I could be near Ted, we listed our home for sale. At the time Ted was moved to nursing care, his only sibling, Norman, passed away at his home in Arizona, after a short illness. Those were difficult days being so far apart.

After several anxious weeks of minimal response, on December 17, Pastor Les & Debbie visited me in our home and they prayed for God to send forth a buyer. Just 12 hours later our realtor called with news that we had an offer on our home! Praise God...What a joyous time that was!

So to all of you who lifted us in prayers, for visits, calls, cards and loving words of encouragement we truly thank you for your support. And Ted really has enjoyed the Christmas goody bag; such unique ideas and his favorite pastime...chocolates and cashews 😊.

What a great God we serve! We thank each of you for your blessings of love.  
Ted & Melanie Shady



### Teachers for Sunday January 14, 2024

**Kids' Time**  
Angie Bynum  
Jessica Bynum

**LOL**  
Traci Heller

### Stewardship

**Dec. 31 , 2023**

**Jan. 7, 2024**

General Budget	\$4,404.47	General Budget	\$2,745.00
Building Maintenance	\$40.00	Building Maintenance	\$160.00
Missions	\$420.00	Missions	\$200.00
Christmas	\$100.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,964.47</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,105.00</b>

## PRAYER ITEMS

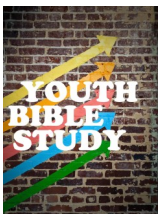
- Pray for Frank Davis and family in the passing of his sister, Sally Dillon.
- Bob Heister is still in Lutheran hospital and is stable, but has a long way to go. He may soon be able to return to Christian Care. Please continue to pray for him and Nancy.
- Chas Isch reports, "Praise God!! The pet scan shows that the Car T-cells did their job. I am in remission." We, too, praise God and continue to pray for Chas and Linda as they return home.
- Denise Downs makes frequent trips to the doctors in Cincinnati. Pray for safe travels and continued healing.
- Don Reeves will have a port put in this week as a part of his cancer treatments. Please continue to pray for him.

*Thanks!*

Thank you to all who gave of your time on Sunday to put the decorations away. You all did an outstanding job! And I cannot thank you enough. I appreciate each and everyone of you! Helen Steffen

Dear Church Family, Thank you for my Christmas goody bag. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Rose McCormick

Ashleigh Houtz has a birthday on January 29. Please add her to the January list. Her address is: 6532 Cornwallis Dr. Apt. 3A, Fort Wayne, IN 46804



Each Wednesday, beginning January 10, Adventure Kids and Youth Bible Study will meet from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

All students from grades Kindergarten through high school are encouraged to join us!

Please note that if Bluffton Schools cancel (or have an e-learning day) due to bad weather, we will also cancel.

First Baptist Church  
202 W. Cherry Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



## **Sunday**

**Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship Service 10:15 a.m.**

**Kids' Time 10:10 a.m.**

**fbcbluffton.com**

**First Baptist Church**

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**First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana**

**Pastor: Les Cantrell**

**Cell phone: 260-273-9073**