

## Our 2020 Prayer

During my message this past Sunday, we studied Proverbs 3:5-6, and I formed it into a potent prayer for the New Year. Here is a copy of that prayer. Why not lift these words up to the LORD every day between now and Sunday?

**LORD God Almighty, I trust You in this situation completely. I know I cannot grasp things clearly. So, I seek Your will constantly. Thank you for showing me which path to take. In the name of Jesus I thank you. Amen**

But why all this hubbub about prayer? Bible teacher David Jeremiah summed it all up pretty well.

**“Prayer is the way you defeat the devil, reach the lost, restore a backslider, strengthen the saints, send missionaries out, cure the sick, accomplish the impossible, and know the will of God.”**

Les

### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 8  
6:45 p.m. – Deacon Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 12  
9:00 a.m. – Bible Study  
10:05 a.m. – Kids’ Time  
10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

### Teacher Schedule

Jan. 12, 2020

**Nursery**  
Davis Family

**Kids’ Time**  
Angie Bynum / Jessica Bynum

**LOL**  
Traci Heller

### Stewardship Report

Jan. 5, 2020

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses	3,582.00
Missions	230.00
Building/Maint Fund	290.00
Deacons	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,202.00</b>



From the Christian Education Board

At the November business meeting, a request was made for the Board of Christian Education Board to pursue hiring a youth pastor for our church. Since then, the Christian Education Board has been working diligently and prayerfully on the youth pastor job description. It has been completed and will now be going to the Administrative Board for their consideration. If you have any further input, please contact the Administrative Board. This is a significant step for First Baptist Church and prayers are requested and needed as this process proceeds.



### Becomers Class Schedule

Here is the upcoming study schedule for the Becomers Sunday School Class: Jan. 12 Luke 12:1-12

Jan. 19 Luke 12:13-34

Jan. 26 Luke 12:35-48

### Schedule for our Kids

Next Wednesday, January 15 at 5:15 p.m. we will start Movin' Up. All students, elementary age and on up, are invited to join us in the church basement. We have snacks together and then split up by age groups for the lesson. We will pass out a complete schedule on the first night, but plan ahead to also come on January 22 for PIZZA!



### Thank You

Dear Church Family, We want to thank you for all the great carolers and our very large bag of wonderful goodies! We certainly enjoyed the singing, and others did, too. Thanks again! Love, Clyde & Phyllis Shady.

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonuses given to us on Dec. 22. We love and appreciate our church family! Les & Debbie

# Pursuing Our Vision

Our vision at FBC is to **Help People Follow Jesus**. To fully understand this vision we must recognize that most people begin their spiritual journey far from God. We humans come to Christ one step at a time, not in jumps. So our church body has to operate with a patient long-term approach in helping individuals follow Christ.

Salvation is a process leading up to an event. Even Paul's dramatic Damascus road conversion included the stoning of Stephen and numerous other small steps toward faith in Christ. The men on the road to Emmaus traveled with Jesus without recognizing Him.

<b>POST-CONVERSION</b>	16.	Becomes Christlike.
	15.	Observes regular personal devotions and prayer.
	14.	Uses his/her spiritual gifts in local church ministry.
	13.	Personal finances are based on biblical stewardship.
	12.	Accepts and is working toward God's design for the family and home.
	11.	Actively shares his/her faith.
	10.	Participates in discipleship training.
	9.	Faithfully participates in church worship, study groups, or Sunday School.
<b>PRE-CONVERSION</b>	8.	Publicly acknowledges faith/conversion (in church or among friends).
	S.	Salvation/conversion experience. Accepts Christ as Saviour.
	7.	Is willing to repent and accept Christ.
	6.	Realizes sin keeps him/her from salvation.
	5.	Recognizes that Christ is the bridge to God and his/her salvation.
	4.	Realizes he/she is a sinner.
	3.	Believes he/she is responsible to God.
2.	Has faith that there is a supreme being.	
1.	Has only a superficial awareness of God.	

Following Jesus does not end after our conversion. We keep on pursuing the LORD. Following Jesus is a process that leads a person toward spiritual maturity or Christlikeness. In this chart included you notice the many steps involved in a common spiritual progression. Begin by reading number 1 at the bottom of the chart; most people start somewhere near the bottom in their spiritual pilgrimage.

Following Jesus is a progression or walk from start to finish.

Are there any practical actions we can all do right now to help people take another small step toward or with Jesus?

1. Pray for people by name. The Holy Spirit orchestrates our entire spiritual journey from start to finish. Prayer really does change things.

2. Extend love and grace to people, realizing that it often takes time to progress from one step to another. Being harsh often hinders people.

3. Keep following Jesus. None of us have arrived at complete Christlikeness. What is the next step in your spiritual walk?

Together with you,

Les



202 West Cherry Street  
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



January

## Homebound Members

### Christian Care

Mildred Huss – Room 219B  
Barb Smekens – Room 217B  
Clyde Shady – Room 228B  
Phyllis Shady – Room 254

### River Terrace

Eulis West – Room 114

### Home

Ed Goetz  
Rose McCormick

### Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly – Room 210

## Help People Follow Jesus

### First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

### **This Sunday**

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service