



Our LORD Cares

For centuries, Psalm 23 has remained a favorite passage for many. Those six familiar verses can communicate a comforting message for people who know and love the LORD. But the main ideas are shrouded in unfamiliar poetic images; even rural dwellers like us can have trouble really grasping the wonderful assurances.

Psalm 23 is structured around three separate scenes. These distinct settings provide the ideal context to realize God's care and concern. In preparation for my sermon this Sunday, read and reflect again on this beautiful psalm.

I look forward to seeing you!

Les

This Week

Sunday, Jan. 13

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Davis Family

Kids' Time

Holly Zoll / Angie Bynum

LOL

Tracy Heller

Stewardship Report

Jan. 6, 2019

Giving Toward:

Current Expenses \$1405.00

Missions \$110.00

Shady Missionaries \$180.00

Building/ Maint. Fund \$225.00

Deacons Fund \$75.00

Total: \$1,995.00

CONDOLENCES

We pray for Laura Bertsch and her family in the loss her sister, Julie. Memorial services were on Tuesday.

ALL-CHURCH BRUNCH

Plan to attend an All-Church Brunch on Sunday, January 20 from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. A continental type breakfast is being provided by the Becomer's Sunday School Class. Wind-down from the holidays with this relaxing event, and take time to catch up with the church family.

FINAL COLLECTION

This Sunday will be our final day to collect hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for our local school children. If you still have some to donate, please add them to the stack in The Gathering Place corner by the office. Thanks!

2018 GIVING RECEIPTS

The 2018 giving receipts are in envelopes which are located on the table in the foyer. Please pick yours up on Sunday. We will mail any which are left, after a couple of weeks.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our church family for all the acts of kindness shown to me during my hospital stay for knee replacement. I appreciate all the prayers and thoughts, cards, visits, and goodies. A special thank you to Herb & Janet for all their "knee expertise" and the help they provided. Orla Kuhn

Thank you to all who helped this Christmas season. From decorating the church, letting us use your poinsettia flowers, and having a display at the state park – your generous gifts of time, talents, and resources so freely given are selfless gifts much appreciated. I would like to humbly announce that the display at the state park won first place for non-profit entries. Thank you so much for putting this display up again this year. We are one of a few of the religious displays at the park. We may just be the display that allows a discussion about Christ. What a fantastic thing that would be! We may or may not stay in the judging part of the display at the park. But please know that we are much needed at the park display of lights. Let's keep up the work! The friends of the park are trusting that we will continue again next year. Thank you for letting me work with you!

Helen Steffen

MOVIN' UP

Our kids group will start up again next week on Wednesday, January 16 from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. All students from Kindergarten on up are invited to attend. We have snacks, a lesson, and games or a craft.

Swinging

I remember those swings on the playground like it was yesterday. My goal was to go as high as possible. To gain more height I had to kick backward and then thrust forward with all my might.

Life is like swinging. It's a helpful simile other writers have used. Only by reflecting on and gaining wisdom from our past (kicking backward), can we move effectively today into a new season (thrusting forward).

The writer of Hebrews exhorts us to utilize this helpful strategy. "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith" (Heb. 13:7). Can you identify the past and present aspects of swinging in that verse?

His name was Dean Vincent. He was a highly respected sheriff. Dean had a great sense of humor and lived life to the full. A couple of years after Dean retired, his wife Shirley was stricken with terminal cancer. She endured numerous rounds of chemotherapy and maxed out her allowable radiation treatments. After two years and seven months her heroic battle ended in October of 2006.

It was a grueling 31 months. Throughout the entire ordeal Dean was the quintessential gentleman. He mopped floors, did dishes, and eventually hand fed his beloved bride. His tender love and care spoke volumes to me and many others. Dean treasured the LORD. That tough law enforcement officer quite literally became the hands and feet of Jesus.

When Shirley finished her race of faith we all breathed a sigh of relief. She had been set free to relish heaven. Now perhaps Dean could more fully enjoy his well-deserved retirement. And he did have a lot of fun during those days.

But in June of 2008, less than two years after Shirley passed, Dean was diagnosed with aggressive cancer. He waved off all recommended treatments, having previously traveled down that road. Six months later he was gone.

I learned so much from Dean Vincent. We wept together. We laughed often. A few times he got really angry. But I never saw him become caustic or bitter. He lived well and died a decent man of genuine integrity. I want to be that kind of a person. I know you do too.

Together In Christ,

Les



202 West Cherry Street
Bluffton, Indiana 46714



January

Homebound Members

Christian Care

Mildred Huss – Room 219B

Clyde Shady – Room 228B

River Terrace

Eulis West – Room 220

Home

Ed Goetz

Rose McCormick

K Casper Life Center

Judy Bierie – Room 268

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly – Room 210

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
Bluffton Church of God
Pastor John Roe

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcbluffton.com

First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

Music Director: Julie Cantrell

Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:

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10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service