



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

Feb. 7, 2024

The Realm of the Impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love. —Corrie ten Boom

Pastor Dale Alan Robbins writes of an occasion early in his ministry when he and his wife were barely making ends meet:

When I arrived home, my wife Jerri saw the worry on my face. I had \$3 in my wallet and there was one can of soup in the cupboard. After our meager supper, I quietly leafed through my Bible in the dim light. Tears streamed from my eyes. I wondered whether we were really called by God. I felt like giving up. Then I thought, *What alternative do I have? Who else but God do I have to turn to?*

I read the verse: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). Encouraged, yet still burdened, Jerri and I knelt at opposite ends of the little trailer to seek God. Into the night we prayed, until sleep finally overtook us.

I was awakened by a pounding at the door. From the window I could see a brilliant orange sunrise behind the city skyline. A fresh, white blanket of snow now covered the ground. Again, the knocking came.

"Who is it?" I asked.

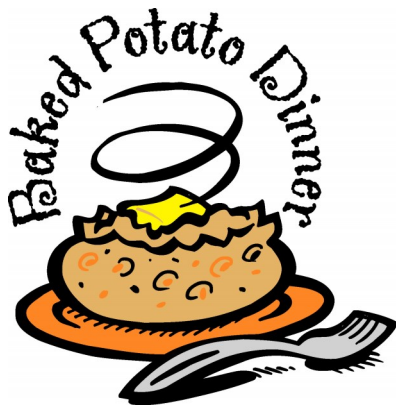
A mystery voice replied, "I've got something for you."

Cautiously, I opened the door. There stood a short man with a grin on his face and two brown grocery bags in his arms. He quickly shoved the bags in the doorway, then turned, and walked away.

Jerri joined me. Stunned, we began to look through the bags. There were bread, meat, canned goods, and several cans of my favorite soup. They were the same items and brands we normally purchased. There was also a can of shaving cream. Who knew I had just used my last ounce of shaving cream? On the bottom of one sack was an envelope with cash. (Later I discovered it was the precise amount needed to fill our gas tank to get us to our next destination.)

On that wintry Saturday morning in Syracuse, my wife and I wept in our trailer and thanked God for hearing and answering our prayer. No one on the planet knew about our need; only our Lord God Almighty. And he dispatched a little grinning man to minister to us.

Together with you. ~ Les



Time for Fellowship!

Join us on Sunday, **February 18** for a baked potato bar right after the worship service. There will also be hotdogs available. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer to bring something and let us know how many from your family plan to attend. All are welcome!



Spring Flowers



You have the opportunity to purchase spring flowers that will be displayed in our sanctuary on Resurrection Sunday (March 31) in honor or in memory of someone. Then, you can take your flower home after the service. Order forms will be in the bulletin this Sunday, and the cost will be \$9.00 per flower. You may also mail your order and payment to the church office. Our deadline for orders is Sunday, March 3.

Friends Singing Together

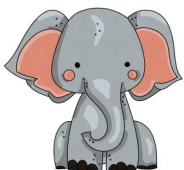
This Sunday, February 11, everyone is invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:55 a.m. We will sing through a very familiar hymn or chorus, and then we will sing that song in the worship service to follow. Come join us, even if you did not sign up last week!



THIS WEEK

Wednesday, 6:00-7:15 p.m. - Adventure Kids (grades K-5)
Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12)

Thursday, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Men's Bible Study



Kids' Time

Angie Bynum
Jessica Bynum

Teachers for Sunday Feb. 11, 2024

LOL

Traci Heller



I want to thank my First Baptist family again for the kindness and concern for our family in the past few weeks. Your calls, cards, visits, and prayers were so appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Les for his calls and visit. May God bless each of you.

In Christian Love, Phyllis Pease



Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

Stewardship

Jan. 28, 2024

Feb. 4, 2024

General Budget	\$2,662.00	General Budget	\$2,935.00
Building Maintenance	\$200.00	Building Maintenance	\$110.00
Missions	\$212.00	Missions	\$90.00
Total	\$3,074.00	Total	\$3,135.00

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

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