

the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter
April 2, 2025

While riding my bike down the River Greenway June of 2014, I was thinking and praying about my future. Julie would be heading off to college in August, and I wasn't thrilled with the idea of being an empty-nester. As I was pedaling along, the Lord reminded me of the well-known verse, "But seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Okay, I could do that.

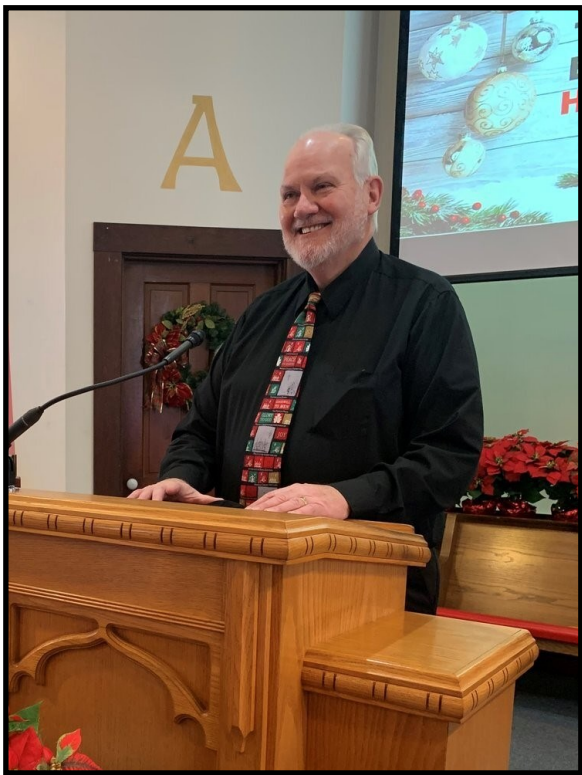
The next month, Les came home and reported that the current secretary was moving on to another job in less than two weeks. Would I like to fill in until they found someone? Fast forward to March of 2025. I'm grateful to have spent these past years in the church office. It helped me survive the empty-nest and enabled me to work with all of you for the Kingdom.

A few years ago, I drew Monroe Heller's name on Christian Education Sunday and got to pray for her that year. It's fun to see God's plan unfold. Today, I'm handing the office torch to her. I've had a fun time getting to know her as we have worked together some this month. She will do great.

Consider this verse: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16). Life has lots of crossroads. It's important to stand (or ride your bike), look, and ask for what to do. Les and I are at a new crossroads now. The Lord will show us the good way to walk. Are you at a crossroads? He will show you, too.

Blessings,
Debbie





Welcome Pastor Charles

The deacons are excited to have Pastor Charles Cole serve as the interim pastor at FBC. He will begin the first Sunday of May. Pastor Charles and his wife Valorie are from Peru, which is about an hour west of Bluffton. Pastor Charles gave His heart to Christ in 1963 when he was eight years old. He received his Master's of Divinity in 1992. He and Valorie have served as a team in four churches in Indiana from 1991 until now. Please pray for the Coles as they prepare to serve with us in the near future.

Below is part of his personal testimony:

"I was raised in a Christian home and gave my heart to Christ in the summer of 1963 when I was 8 years old. I received my Master of Divinity in May of 1992 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY.

Even before God called me into full time ministry, I liked to help others. I like doing things to help others in sometime tangible ways, at other times just to make them smile. I know 100% that God gave me a heart of a servant. That is how I view not just ministry, but my whole life. I am God's servant. When God called me to serve He did not qualify it as to whom. When people cross my path, I believe it is to allow me to serve them. God has called me to lead by serving. I try to instill this in others through prayer, instruction, and example."



PRAYER PARTNERS



The prayer group meets each week on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. All are invited and the elevator is available. Even if you are not able to join us on Wednesdays, you are able to pray in concert with us when and where it works for you. The focus as printed in the bulletin insert for week four is **candidate**. We are praying for the search committee, the church, the candidate, and the Cantrells.

Kids' Time Teacher
Sunday, April 6, 2025

Ruth Ann Monroe
Chris McFarren

**Adventure Kids and
Youth Bible Study**

Wednesdays
6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Youth Bible Study Spring Break Games!



ALL CHURCH LUNCH Sunday April 27, 2025



You are invited to a luncheon celebrating the ministry of Pastor Les and Debbie Cantrell.
There will be a sign up sheet soon for what you can bring!

Stewardship

March 23, 2025

General Budget	\$5,435.00
Missions	\$560.00
Building Maintenance	\$65.00
Flowers	\$9.00

Total \$6,069.00

March 30, 2025

General Budget	\$2,595.00
Missions	\$250.00
Building Maintenance	\$65.00
Deacons	\$575.00

Total \$3,485.00

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

Pastor: Les Cantrell

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