

# the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

*June 7, 2023*

## **Absolutely Free**

The story is told that legendary Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso, was virtually unknown when he painted his famous portrait of American writer Gertrude Stein in 1906. Picasso gave the portrait to Miss Stein since, as the artist recalled with a smile, at that time in his career "the difference between a gift and a sale were negligible."

Some years later the painting attracted the interest of millionaire art collector Dr. Albert Barnes, who asked Miss Stein how much she paid Picasso for it. "Nothing," she replied. "He gave it to me." Dr. Barnes was very skeptical that such a priceless work of art could have been a gift.

If you have thought about God's heart of kindness and compassion expressed in the gospel of the kingdom, you can really appreciate Dr. Barnes skepticism. Think about what believers have been given in Christ: forgiveness, eternal life, authority, destiny, and all the riches of heaven - this and so much more at a cost we could never have paid! A priceless gift offered to every human being for free. A rescue that was purchased by the shed blood of the perfect Son of God.

Such a stunning gift given freely to us is good news we cannot keep to ourselves. We feel so blessed that we just have to tell others. Do you know what else is exciting? The person we are telling can also receive the same forgiveness and new life through faith in Jesus. Receiving, then sharing the news, is a double blessing to us.

Together with you,

Les



# Harry A. McFarren



Students connected with First Baptist Church who are pursuing post-high school education are invited to apply for a monetary scholarship for the 2023-2024 academic year. Please review the following criteria.

- Applicants must have consistently attended FBC for at least one year. (Such FBC connected students who have been unable to attend FBC while away at college may still apply).
- Sunday, July 16, 2023 is the deadline to submit a scholarship application.
- Stop by or contact the church office to receive a scholarship application.
- The scholarship amount is \$1,500.00 per academic year.
- This scholarship is renewable. However, a new application must be submitted each year, and there is a \$6,000.00 cap per student.
- Checks will be made out directly to the student's school to help offset educational expenses.
- Scholarships will be handed out to students in July or August. Some schools have earlier deadlines, especially those that match church scholarships. If that is your case, turn in your application at least three weeks before their deadline and include a note with that deadline.

**Note to FBC church family:** There are two ways you can help keep this fund going. 1) Make your check out to First Baptist Church and in the memo line write McFarren Scholarship Fund. 2) In your estate plan designate a specified amount to go toward the FBC McFarren Scholarship Fund.

## Birthday Celebration

The church family is invited to help Carolyn McBride celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Open House will be in the Fellowship Hall of the church on Saturday, July 8 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Call Julie Tuttle with any questions.



THESE SUMMER DAYS,  
**SHEPHERD LORD,**  
 YOU LEAD US AMID  
 GREEN GRASSES AND  
 PEACEFUL WATERS TO  
 RESTORE OUR SOULS.  
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
 GOODNESS AND MERCY!

Summer is that happy season of sunshine,  
 laughter, and connection.  
 Choose to make this summer an empowering  
 time WITH Jesus.

~Les

### Condolences

Les's niece Abigail Joy Cantrell went to be with Jesus on Monday. It is likely that Les and Debbie will head for Texas and be gone the rest of this week and weekend. Pray for their wisdom and safety, and for the comfort and encouragement of Les's brother, Wes, and the rest of Abby's family.

### Thank You

Thank you so much for the gift basket during my finals week! Finals week is a rough time for college students and getting that gift basket is just what I needed! Thank you so much for everything you do and the countless prayers!

Sydney

### Teachers - Sunday, June 11

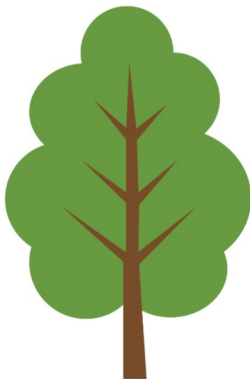
**Kids' Time**  
 Angie Bynum  
 Jessica Bynum

**LOL**  
 On summer break  
 remain in service



### Stewardship

**June 4, 2023**



General Budget	\$2,555.00
Building Maintenance	\$310.00
Missions	\$600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,465.00</b>

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**

202 W. Cherry Street

260-824-1558



**firstbaptist@adamswells.com**



**First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana**

**Pastor: Les Cantrell**

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