



the *LINK*

First Baptist Church Newsletter

July 19, 2023

Pastor Ponderings During Prayer Retreat

Here is a small sampling of my thoughts and reflections (in color) during my recent Continuing Education retreat. It was a rich and valuable time.

Hosea 10:12 – Sow for yourself righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up the fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you. **The ground of Israel's relationship with God had been neglected, unplowed, and untended. The prophet challenged them to prepare the ground and get back into the routines or disciplines involved in seeking the Lord.**

Hosea 6:1-3 – Come, let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth. **The chosen people had only begun to experience the negative results of their sinfulness. They perceived it would be an easy and quick process to turn back to YHWH at any time. Yes, the Creator is as faithful as the sunrise, and always ready to receive us. But we must never underestimate the complexity of the webs that our sin causes. Unravelling and relinquishing sins' deadly consequences can take months or years; many previously treasured relationships or positions can never be fully recovered.**

Isaiah 64:4,5 - For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him. You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, Who remembers You in Your ways... **The only true God of the Bible is unique and above all other so-called gods. The Lord acts on behalf of those who love Him, honor Him, and walk in His ways. Such faithfulness toward God entails waiting, and making the decision to rejoice in the Lord no matter what happens.**

Proverbs 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. **This circle begins with a heart-felt awe, respect, and yearning to please God. This foundational orientation opens our minds and hearts up to the Lord in everything. We increasingly notice and experience Christ invading every area of reality, and thus strengthening our faith.**

Colossians 3:2,3 – Set your minds on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **Christians are to exemplify eternal living and bring it to bear on everything around them. Eternal living is life caught up in God.**

Thank you so much for this opportunity!

Les

Prayer Items

Ted Shady is not doing well in his battle against Parkinson's. Pray for Ted and Melanie.

Bob Grove was dismissed from Bluffton Regional on Monday after being hospitalized for several days from a fall.

Gloria Reeves is still upbeat as she continues her journey with Hospice help.

Student Sign-Up

Sign-up your students along with their school and grade. The list is on the bulletin board in the foyer. We will use this information to make prayer magnets. The church family wants to pray for each student by name throughout the school year. We pass out the prayer magnets on Christian Education Sunday, August 6.



*Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.
Ephesians 4:24*



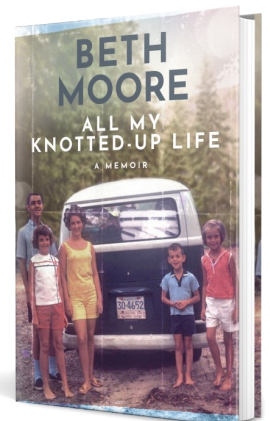
Kids' Time Teachers

Sunday, July 23

Deb Klopfenstein
Logan & Hunter Zoll

Read any Good Books Lately?

This year Beth Moore published her memoirs in a book titled "All My Knotted Up Life." Here is a one sentence summary from the publisher: *An incredibly thoughtful, disarmingly funny, and intensely vulnerable glimpse into the life and ministry of a woman familiar to many but known by few.* You can read the book, or it is delightful to hear the audiobook read by Beth Moore. She reads the first part of the book of her early years with an Arkansas accent, and changes to her Texas accent when she moves there as a teen. Both forms of the book are available at the Wells County Public Library.





First Baptist Church Family,
Not sure where to start. First, thank you Pastor Les for all your support. For providing a memorable service the day of the funeral, and all the prayers! Hospitality team - you did an amazing job with the luncheon. So many of our family members talked about how great the food was. They spoke highly of the desserts, sides (wonderfully seasoned), and the fried chicken! Everyone else - for your love for our mother and father over the years! Also, thank you for the beautiful Mother's Butterfly Lantern. YOU ARE THE HANDS & FEET OF JESUS CHRIST!
The family of Karyn Gilly

NUGGETS FOR THOUGHT

The following items serve as "little guideposts on the footpath to peace," according to author and pastor Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933):

- to be glad of life, because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to play and to look up at the stars;
- to be satisfied with your possessions but not content with yourself until you have made the best of them;
- to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice;
- to covet nothing of your neighbor's except [their] kindness of heart and gentleness of manners;
- to think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends and every day of Christ;
- to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors.



Christian Care
Gloria Reeves - Room 203



River Terrace
Karen West - Room 133
Carolyn McBride - Room 106

Home
Rose McCormick

*Remember Our
Homebound Friends*

Auburn Village
Rick White

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.

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First Baptist Church-Bluffton Indiana

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