

See the Best and Test

Many of us know from experience that making negative assumptions about people can be costly. This humorous incident illustrates the point well.

A tough store manager was walking through the packing room one day and saw a young man lounging on a shipping crate, whistling and relaxing. He asked how much he was paid. The young man answered, "\$120 a week." At that, the manager paid the man \$120 cash and said, "Here's a week's pay. Get out!" The manager immediately found the department head and demanded to know who had hired this sloth. She replied, "We didn't hire him. He was here picking up a package."

As Christians offer compassion in this world, our LORD taught us to be "as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves." Part of what it means to be as "innocent as a dove" is having a positive frame of reference and choosing to see the best in others. But Jesus also admonished us to be as "wise as serpents," which means that we must always verify people's character or claims. We appreciate the best about people, while simultaneously validating their statements. This balance keeps us upbeat without being bamboozled or abused by crooked individuals.

Blessings,

Les

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Sept. 5

1:00 p.m. – Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, Sept. 6

6:30 p.m. – Christian Ed Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 10

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service

11:15 – Lunch & Ice Cream

1:30 p.m. – Golf Scramble

Teachers This Sunday

Nursery

Davis Family

Kids' Time

Ruth Ann Monroe / Marcia Liddy

LOL

Traci Heller

Last Week

Sept. 3, 2017

Attendance

Worship Service – 112

Sunday School - 49

Stewardship Report

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$4783.00
Missions	\$115.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$75.00
OGHS - Texas	\$1755.00
Total:	\$6728.00

Lunch/ Ice Cream – This Sunday



The Becomers Sunday School Class is sponsoring a light lunch and ice cream social to begin raising funds for next summer's Good News Shoes ministry. This Sunday, they will have a sloppy joe lunch and ice cream social immediately after church. Many of you already signed up to attend. Please come and give to the fund to purchase shoes for next summer.

Golf Scramble – This Sunday

Our annual all-church golf outing is all set for 1:30 p.m. this Sunday at the Green Valley Golf Club. This scramble style tournament is fun because each team takes the best shot from all their teammates on every swing. All skill levels are welcome, from beginners to seasoned golfers. If you didn't sign up, but would like to come, call the church office today. The cost is around \$17 per person paid directly to the golf course owner.



Thursday – Choir!

This Thursday, at 6:15 p.m., the choir will kick-off the season with a meal and time of fellowship. We will eat, pass out music, and talk about the upcoming choir schedule. If you didn't sign up, but want to come, please let us know by calling the church office or Sarah, 260-228-9209.

Street Fair Parking

If you reserved a parking spot for Street Fair, pick up your number tag from the foyer table. Put them on the driver's side dash during Street Fair.

Prayer items

Frank Davis and family in the passing of his sister
Judy Ziegler – recovery from cancer treatments
Herm McCormick – recovery from fall
Texas – God's presence and strength as they recover

Laying Down Our Lives

The late Charles Colson, in *Loving God*, tells the story of Telemachus, a fourth-century Christian. He lived in a remote village, tending his garden and spending much of his time in prayer. One day he thought he heard the voice of God telling him to go to Rome, so he obeyed, setting out on foot. Weary weeks later, he arrived in the city at the time of a great festival. The little monk followed the crowd surging down the street to the Colosseum. He saw the gladiators stand before the emperor and say, "We who are about to die salute you." Then this devout follower of Jesus realized the men were going to fight to the death for the entertainment of the crowd. He cried out, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

As the games began, he pushed his way through the crowd, climbed over the wall, and dropped to the floor of the arena. When the crowd saw this tiny figure rushing to the gladiators and saying, "In the name of Christ, stop!" they thought it was part of the show and began laughing.

When they realized it wasn't, their laughter turned to anger. As Telemachus was pleading with the gladiators to stop, one of them plunged a sword into his body. He fell to the sand. As he was dying, his last words were, "In the name of Christ, stop!"

Then a strange thing happened. The gladiators stood looking at the tiny figure lying there. A hush fell over the Colosseum. Way up in the upper rows, a man stood and made his way to the exit. Others began to follow. In dead silence everyone left the Colosseum.

The year was B.C. 391, and that was the last battle to the death between gladiators in the Roman Colosseum. Never again in the great stadium did men kill each other for the entertainment of the crowd, all because of one tiny voice that could hardly be heard above the commotion. One voice – one life – willing to speak in God's name and lay down his life for others.

Sacrificial love looks differently for different people. We might lay our lives down for Jesus in a thousand acts of kindness, instead of through a singular martyr's death. Regardless of the manifestation, our love for the LORD is expressed by pouring ourselves out in service to others.

Make it a great week!

Les



Homebound Members

Christian Care

Joan Sills – Room 222
Mildred Huss – Room 219B

River Terrace

Phebe Edington – Room 134
LaVera Krummen – Room 116

Signature Healthcare

Bonnie McAfee – Room 403B

Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Barbara French – Room 216

As we co-labor with other churches
in our community,
this week we pray for:
River of Life Church
Pastor Wayne Ball

First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

firstbaptist@adamswells.com

fbcluffton.com

 First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

Music Director: Sarah Landell

Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service