

from front cover

Our future is secured in Jesus Christ no matter what our circumstances may be. In fact, God's plans for His own are so wonderful that our minds cannot conceive of them or comprehend them!

It may not *look* like a good day, or *feel* like it; but when God is working His plan, we can be sure of the best. It is when we fail to trust Him or obey Him, when our love for Him grows cold. **Note:** If we walk in God's wisdom, we will enjoy His blessings.

Let us use this Lent to prepare ourselves for the tasks of life. Although we are not called to be martyrs like the Apostles, we are called to witness our faith in Jesus Christ. And that sometimes takes a lot of courage.

Sooner or later, each of us will face various sufferings or illnesses that will be easier to overcome if our relationship with God is strengthened. The Gospel assures us that all the efforts of this life are worthwhile; not a single tear is shed in vain. Because God has prepared "**Great Things**" for those who love Him.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jim & Fran



Easter Sunday
Worship Service
10:30 A.M.
Come celebrate Jesus!



First Baptist Church
201 South Main St.
Benton, IL 62812
618-438-7661

bentonfirstbaptist.org

March 2024

The Herald

GOD HAS PREPARED GREAT THINGS

"No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).



Salvation was purchased by the Son, but it was planned by the Father. The message of the Gospel is simple enough for an illiterate pagan to understand, believe, and be saved. But, it is also so profound that the most brilliant theologian cannot fathom its depths.

There is a "wisdom of God" in the Gospel that challenges the keenest intellect. However, this wisdom is not for the masses of lost sinners, nor is it for immature believers. It is for mature believers who are growing in their understanding of the Word of God.

This wisdom tells the mature saint about the vast eternal plan that God has for His people and His creation. The wisest of the "princes of this world" could not invent or discover the marvelous wisdom that God has shared with those who love Him.

Verse 9 is often used at funerals and applied to heaven, but the basic application is to the Christian's life *today*.

continued inside





Come join the fun and fellowship at Sing 'n Share on Wednesday, **March 20**, at **5 P.M.** in the Fellowship Hall (note the time change). Mary Alice Snelgrove will share Richard's testimony and life story. March birthdays will also be recognized!

EXPERIENCE THE SEDER MEAL

Doug Carmel, from Rock of Israel Ministries, will give a Seder Meal demonstration on Sunday, **April 28**, at 5 P.M. This presentation will give you an up-close look at the Passover Meal as celebrated by the Jewish people for centuries, including Christ himself!



Doug is an exceptional presenter who has traveled throughout the United States teaching believers about the Jewishness of Jesus.

This presentation is being sponsored by the Benton–West City Ministerial Alliance. The program is free, but reservations are needed to insure adequate seating. If you'd like to attend, please call or email the church office, 618-438-7661 ~ bentonfbc@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, co-chairman

- ❖ Steve Meyer was welcomed as a new trustee. Continuing board members are John Aiken, Ken Bolen, Brad Berrong, David Perkins, Leon Sanders and Ken Whittington.
- ❖ The board elected officers as follows: Leon Sanders and Ken Whittington, co-chairs; John Aiken, secretary.
- ❖ Ken Bolen was thanked for his many years of dedicated service as board secretary.
- ❖ Pastor Jim, Brad Berrong and Danny Joplin were thanked for cleaning up the conference room.
- ❖ Clay Jenkel and his sons will be repairing the conference room ceiling for us.
- ❖ The Chamber of Commerce membership will be renewed at a cost of \$150/year.
- ❖ Edward Jones Transactions: Cashed in a \$4,000 CD which had expired from the Mundell Trust; funds were placed in the Mundell Trust Money Market. A \$32,000 General Fund CD will be reinvested in a new CD.

THIS MONTH

Mar. 1	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Heritage Woods
Mar. 6	9:30 A.M. 4:00 P.M.	Ladies' Coffee at The Buzz Bible Study
Mar. 12	9:00 A.M.	Trustee Board Meeting
Mar. 13	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study
Mar. 15	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia Healthcare
Mar. 19	10:00 A.M.	CE Board Meeting
Mar. 20	5:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M.	Sing 'n Share Deacon Board Meeting
Mar. 27	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study
Mar. 29	11:30 A.M.	Good Friday Lenten Lunch First Christian Church
Mar. 31	10:30 A.M.	Easter Worship Service

WEEKLY

Sun.	9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Sunday School Worship Service
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**March Offering
Dry Spaghetti**

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 ~ 11:30 A.M.



Held at First Christian Church
302 South Main St., Benton

Hosted by First United Methodist Church
and First Christian Church

Sponsored by Benton–West City Ministerial Alliance

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7	Ginger Prior	24	Myrna Eubanks
16	Joyce Cunningham	25	Vicky Sanders
23	Ebriessa Casey Jim & Fran Jenkel	26	Krisley Langston
		30	Melody Aiken Smith



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Staff

Rev. Jim Jenkel, Pastor
Annette Campbell, Administrative Assistant
Danny Joplin, Maintenance/Custodian