

from front cover

First: God has judged His enemies. His enemies—both the apostate religious system and the satanic economic-political system that led the world astray and polluted mankind. Both were guilty of persecuting God’s people and martyring (murdering) many of them. The rejoicing and celebrating is for our God who is “true and righteous.” He is being glorified by His holy judgments.

Second: He is reigning. The Book of Revelation is the “**book of the throne,**” and the omnipotent God has indeed been accomplishing His purposes on earth. This burst of praise is an echo of Psalm 97:1... “*The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad (rejoice)!*”

Third: The bride is ready. The bride, of course, is the church (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-33); and Jesus Christ, the Lamb, is the Bridegroom (John 3:29). At this wedding, it won’t be the bride getting the attention; it will be the **Bridegroom** who receives the honor!

Today the church is “engaged” to Jesus Christ; and we love Him even though we haven’t seen Him. **Note:** One day, He will return and take His bride to heaven. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, our works will be judged and all our spots and blemishes removed. Once completed, the church will be ready to return to earth with her Bridegroom at the close of the Tribulation to reign with Him in glory!

“*Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!*” (Rev. 19:9)

Say with Fran and me: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.”

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Jim & Fran

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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July 2024

The Herald

HEAVEN WILL REJOICE

July is the month that we celebrate Independence Day; July 4th to be exact. It is the annual celebration of nationhood in the United States, commemorating the passage of the **Declaration of Independence** on July 4, 1776. Ratified by the Second Continental Congress. Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870.

This is a major “national holiday” celebration for all Americans. There is another major celebration that will take place in the **throne room of heaven**, at some time in our future.

When Babylon fell on the earth, the command was given in heaven, “Rejoice over her!” Babylon was not only an ancient city and a powerful empire, but also was the symbol of “**mankind’s rebellion against God.**” What is written here is heaven’s response to that command.



The word *alleluia* is the Greek form of the Hebrew word *hallelujah*, which means “praise the Lord.” Revelation 19:1-10 is heaven’s “**Hallelujah Chorus**” and it was sung for three reasons.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

Ken Whittington, co-chairman

- ❖ Bob Rea and Hillary Remm of SCD Rea & Sons Insurance Agency made a presentation and answered the board's questions concerning a recent decision to change our insurance to actual cash value from replacement cost. This change resulted in a large savings.
- ❖ The Board thanked Steve Meyer for initiating and getting a plaque made for Annette Lawson for her 50 years of service to the music program.
- ❖ The board asked Annette Campbell to investigate the purchase of new conference room chairs.
- ❖ Authorized Pastor Jim to hire a plumber to repair the leaking shut-off valve in the east Ladies Restroom.
- ❖ Authorized the Pastor to obtain a proposal to replace the handrail on the south entrance.
- ❖ Authorized the church office to obtain a proposal to replace the light fixture in the gym that doesn't work.

THANK YOU, ANNETTE LAWSON!

On Sunday, June 9, Annette Lawson was honored for more than 50 years of faithful service to God and her church as she served as pianist. A plaque from First Baptist was presented to her, as well as a State of Illinois proclamation provided by State Rep. Dave Severin. Annette's family celebrated the special day with her.



THIS MONTH		
July 5	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Heritage Woods
July 9	9:00 A.M.	Board of Trustees Meeting
July 10	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study
July 17	5:00 P.M. 6:00 P.M.	Sing 'n Share Board of Deacons Meeting
July 19	10:00 A.M.	Ministry at Helia Healthcare
July 24	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study
July 31	4:00 P.M.	Bible Study
WEEKLY		
Sun.	9:30 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Sunday School Worship Service



Ladies Coffee will **not** be held in July. Plan to attend on August. 7.



Mark your calendar for the next Sing 'n Share on Wednesday, **July 17, at 5 P.M.** in the Fellowship Hall.

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 5 | Brad & Nickey Berrong | 19 | Jim & Barb Lynch |
| 9 | Bill & Ruth Ann Carter | 20 | Pat Davis |
| 10 | Randy Casey | | Brad Willard |
| 15 | Jennifer Langston | | |



Congratulations David Perkins!

Our own David Perkins was recently named the 13th recipient of the Southern Illinois Golf Association's Distinguished Service Award. Dave has been a dedicated coach, teacher, and golf historian since the 1960s. His dedication to educating younger generations about the game go unmatched in Southern Illinois.



AWESOME VOLUNTEERS

Each Monday during June, FBC volunteers helped with the Ministerial Alliance Summer Lunch Program. Through this program, approximately 75 children are served each day until school starts again. Special thanks to Mary Bolen for providing the leadership and to helpers Fran Jenkel, Nickey Berrong, Ginger Prior, Barbara Whittington, Kathy Dwyer, Barbara Lynch, Joyce Thompson, Vicky, Leon and Tinley Sanders, Paula Borggra, and Jenny Langston.

