

Generations of Hope

Together on God's Abundant Journey

A Time for Reflection

January is a time to reflect on God's faithfulness in the past and to anticipate all He will do in the coming year. In 2024, the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky accomplished many things and give God all glory. We reintroduced the American Baptist Youth Convention, now known as Fusion Youth Conference, transitioned to three part-time Region Ministers in the North, assisted with the launch of a new student ministry in Muncie (called Charis), hosted a pastors retreat at Cedar Lake, IN, gathered for the Region Biennial, hosted pastors for an Indianapolis Indians baseball game, and enjoyed our first full summer with the new dining hall at Indian Creek Baptist Camp. With so many blessings in 2024, it is hard to imagine what 2025 will hold; however, we have great faith that our God will do even more!



"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!" **Ephesians 3:20 - 21**

Refresh Your Spirit

A New Year's Devotional

The New Year can be a time of growth, change, and ambition. Sometimes, we can look at the New Year and all that it may hold and feel a little overwhelmed. However, God does not call us into a Spirit of fear. Instead, He calls us into a Spirit of peace. Where is this peace found in a season of change? It is found in His wonder-working power that is faithful in every season.

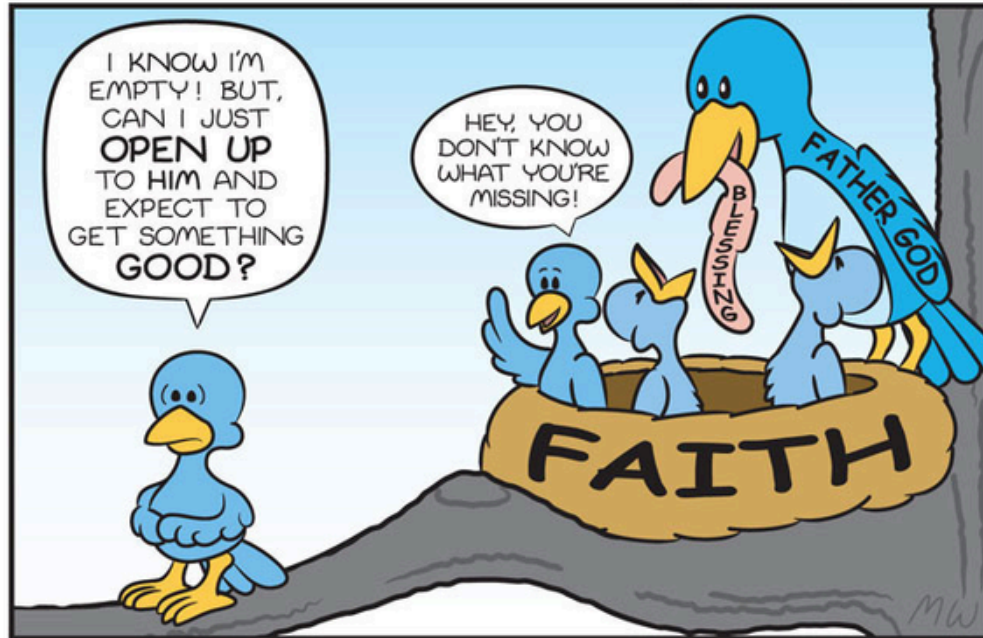
His power split the sea to rescue the Israelites, rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace, shut the mouth of the lion, left 99 sheep to find the one, worked every miracle in the New Testament, empowered the church in Acts and saved us from our sin so that we may have a more abundant life. When we choose to walk in that power, we are then empowered to walk as people who have been set free by Christ.

"When we walk in the power Christ gives us, we are enabled to be miracle workers, too. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The Kingdom of Heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." **Matthew 10:7-8**



OPEN WIDE

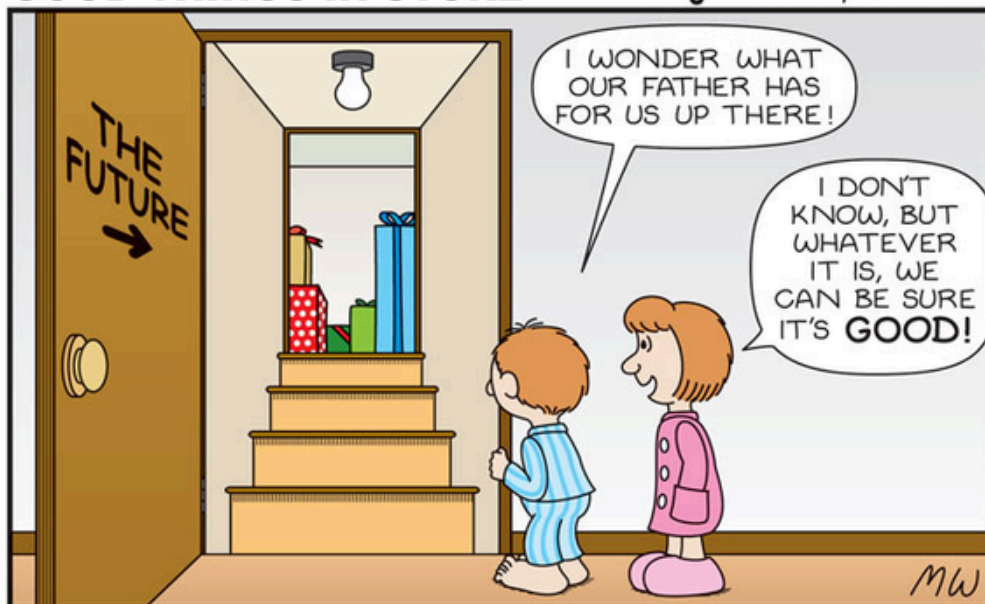
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it. — PSALM 81:10 NIV

GOOD THINGS IN STORE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters




How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you. — PSALM 31:19 NIV



2025

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Happy NEW Year	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 3:30 - 6:00 pm (EST) Fusion Youth Event @ Columbus FBC	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Registration for Indian Creek Baptist Camp opens February 1.
www.campindiancreek.com

Generations of Hope

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights activist and American Baptist minister who played a vital role in the American Civil Rights Movement until his assassination in 1968. King was the driving force behind many pivotal moments including the Montgomery Bus Boycott and March on Washington, where Dr. King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. That speech changed the course of the American Civil Rights Movement.

One part that comes to mind says, "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the Glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

It is hard to read those words and not picture Heaven, a new Heaven and a new earth where we all will see the Glory of God together. While we have made great progress since the March on Washington, we still have a long way to go. However, the Word of the Lord remains the same, and we have faith that one day we will all experience the Glory of the Lord.

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22: 37-39

"Whoever does not love does not know God because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

1 John 4:8-10

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love."

2 John 1:6



Generations of Hope

Cake Mix Cookies

1 box of cake mix - any flavor
2 large eggs
1/2 c. of vegetable oil
3/4 c. of sprinkles (optional)



Step 1:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Step 2:

In a large bowl, add cake mix, oil and eggs, stir until well combined. Stir in sprinkles if desired.

Step 3:

Scoop the dough into 2 tablespoon-sized balls and place on the baking sheet two inches apart.

Step 4:

Bake each sheet for 10-12 minutes or until the centers appear dry. Cool for a few minutes on the baking sheet, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

Try making these cookies together as a family or giving them to a neighbor while inviting them to church. Be sure to send your best recipe to clarathompson@abc-indiana.org for a chance to have your recipe featured in next month's *Generations of Hope*.

Joseph forgives his brothers.

Genesis 42:1—45:28



Generations of Hope

Train Up a Child in the Way They Should Go

Across churches in America, and even globally, there is a trend of kids leaving churches as soon as they can. While this raises concern for church leaders all over, there are some practical things we can all do to keep church a place kids want to go again and again.

The biggest thing we can do is to not talk about church like it is a chore and to let it be a place where kids can belong. Let kids be noisy in the pew and ask questions that may seem hard to answer or silly at times. Let kids sing out with all their heart. Encourage them to go to youth group, events such as Fusion Youth Conference or Christian concerts, and to spend time with like-minded people.

This is Christ's desire. "People were also bringing babies to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" **Luke 18:15-16**

Jesus wanted to be near to children. We should do all we can to model this.



Generations of Hope

Thank You to Our Supporters

Thank you to those who have given to the Region Offering in the month of December to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Avoca Missionary Baptist Church
Bethel Baptist Church of Elwood
Crooked Creek Baptist Church
Dabney Baptist Church
Deer Creek Baptist Church
Elizabeth Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Anderson
First Baptist Church of Bedford
First Baptist Church of Bicknell
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First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne
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First Baptist Church of La Porte
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First Baptist Church of Plainfield
First Baptist Church of Rochester
First Baptist Church of Seymour
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