

# Fox River Life



*The following is an article written by Dustin Bengt (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) who is currently an associate professor of Biblical Spirituality and Historical Theology at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He is the author of The Loveliest*

*Place (Crossway). Dustin and his wife, Molli, live in Louisville, Kentucky. I found this to be an excellent article and commend it to you.*

*In His Name & For His Glory,  
Pastor Tim Godfrey*

## Love the Church Like Christ Does

In an age when so many pastoral failures, missteps, and sins are posted for public exhibition, it is easy to allow our warmth toward the church to grow cold. Through a scrutinizing lens, many scowl at the church with suspicion and sheer amazement that anyone would want to be part of such a seemingly dysfunctional family. Sometimes, the church can seem to be anything but beautiful. Does Jesus look at the church with the same scowl?

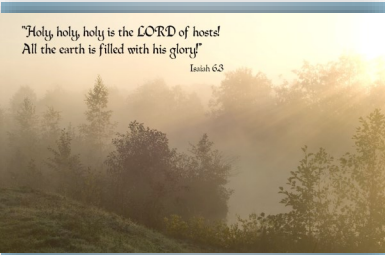
## ‘You Are Beautiful’

John Gill, an eighteenth-century English Baptist pastor, helps us answer this question by drawing our attention away from our introspection to the words of the bridegroom in Song of Solomon 1:15: “You are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful.” Interpreting Song of Solomon as an allegorical portrayal of an exchange between Christ and his bride, the church, Gill writes, “These are the words of Christ, commending the beauty of the church, expressing his great affection for her; of her fairness and beauty” (An Exposition of the Book of Solomon’s Song, 57). Jesus sees his bride through a lens of love, not disdain; beauty, not disgust. “Jesus sees his bride through a lens of love, not disdain; beauty, not disgust.”

How can beautiful be the adjective Jesus uses to describe the church? After all,

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"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!  
All the earth is filled with his glory!"  
Isaiah 6:3

### Isaiah's Commission

*"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2)Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3)And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4)At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5)"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."*

*Isaiah 6:1-5*

## From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

she is composed of sinners — forgiven sinners, yet still sinners. She is plagued by division, is besieged with scandal, and sometimes appears to have lost her first love. Even the apostle Paul reminds us that only at the end of the age will she be found "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing" (Ephesians 5:27). What does Jesus see in his bride that would cause him to exclaim, "You are beautiful, my love"?

### 1. The Beauty of His Father

God's beauty is most radiantly displayed through the biblical concept of glory. Moses experienced this glory when God passed by him, revealing only the afterglow of his splendor (Exodus 33:12–23). When God's glory engulfed the temple, the priests were unable to perform their service of worship (2 Chronicles 5:14). The prophet Isaiah was prostrate in the dirt when he witnessed God's glory radiating from his eternal throne (Isaiah 6:1–5). Jonathan Edwards, eighteenth-century pastor-theologian, identified God's beauty as the differentiating feature of God himself: "God is God, and is distinguished from all other beings, and exalted above 'em, chiefly by his divine beauty, which is infinitely diverse from all other beauty" (The Works of Jonathan Edwards, 2:298). God's beauty is not derived from external sources but emanates directly from the perfection and holiness of his being.

The supreme expression of God's beauty is his Son, Jesus Christ, who himself is the image and radiance of his Father (2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3). The incarnate Christ is how God most vividly expresses his beautiful love to sinful creatures. The culmination of that love is selecting a bride for Christ that she too might reflect the same beauty. Edwards believed that this bride, the church, is the great end of all the great things that have been done from the beginning of the world; it was that the Son of God might obtain his chosen spouse that the world was created . . . and that he came into the world... and when this end shall be fully obtained, the world will come to an end. (Unpublished sermon on Revelation 22:16–17)

The church is a gift from God to his Son as a beautiful expression of divine love "so that the mutual joys between this bride and bridegroom are the end of creation" (Works, 13:374). Therefore, as the Son reflects his Father, the church, as his eternal bride, reflects the Son.

When Christ regards his bride and exclaims that she is beautiful, he beholds the reflection of his Father's everlasting beauty and infinite love, who chose and saves this bride and gives her as a gift to his Son. Since Christ's ascension to the right hand of God, there is now no more brilliant exemplification of God's perfect beauty in the world than his church.

### 2. The Sufficiency of His Cross

Jesus does not see any intrinsic beauty emitted by the church, for she has no beauty apart from him. He looks at the church through blood, his blood. As if looking through the varied luminous colors of a stained-glass window, Jesus beholds the church through the multifaceted wonder of redemption — blood, election, righteousness, forgiveness, regeneration, justification, union, and grace. Only in union with his perfect substitutionary sacrifice on the cross and glorious triumphant resurrection are filthy sinners washed white as snow (Psalm 51:7). Because of our sin, what God requires of us is paid in full by our bridegroom on the cross. "Because of our union with Christ, God's love of his Son now includes love of his Son's bride."

With all of its flowing blood, lacerated flesh, and stench of death, the cross be-

(continued on page 4)



*"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness." Psalm 29:2*



We hope you can join us for our Ladies' Craft & Lunch on Sunday, July 10th. We will be meeting immediately following the worship service at 10am. All the supplies you need will be provided. Becky Godfrey will be leading us in a painting tutorial! You won't want to miss this! Sign-up at the Welcome Desk so Becky knows how many canvases to purchase. The picture on the left is the picture we will be painting.



This summer, Nancy Wildenberg is inviting all the women to join her at her home for devotions and fellowship. See the details in the picture on the right.



We are also working on another "Brewster Blessing" to be delivered to Brewster Village the 2nd week of July. We will share the details when it's completed. Please continue praying as we continue to strive to be a blessing to the residents and staff there.

### Devotions from the Lake!

Ladies! You are invited for a time of fellowship with a short devotion and prayer to stay in touch with each other now that Bible studies have taken a hiatus for the summer.

**Where:** Home of Nancy Wildenberg  
564 Hunters Point Road, Neenah

**Time:** 1:30 ~ 3:30 pm  
On WEDNESDAY, July 6 & 20 and August 3 & 17

**Who:** All the ladies of FRBC are invited! If you have a friend who you would like to bring, they are always welcome.

Lemonade, ice tea, water and a light refreshment will be provided.

*Any questions please call or text Nancy Wildenberg at 920-378-3353*



This October 8th, we are planning to attend the Exalt Conference that will be held in Neenah this year. We will also plan to go out for lunch as a group after the event! Save the date for that event that we can enjoy together. More details coming soon.

### Joyful Noise

*"Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! 2) Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! 3) For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. 4) In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. 5) The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. 6) Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! 7) For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand."*

*Psalm 95:1-7a*

## Deaconess Ministry

# UPDATE

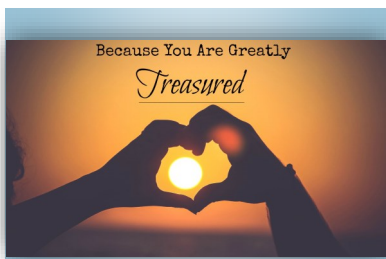


Worship in the Park will be at Colony Oaks Park on July 17th with a picnic to follow. Sign-up on the Welcome Desk to bring a dish to share.

If you have any questions, you can contact one of the Deaconesses.



Deaconess of the Month—Angela Groff



### The Great Commission

*"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.*

*17)And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18)And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

*19)Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

*20)teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:16-20*

## From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

comes the epicenter of cleansing for sinners, where Christ looks lovingly upon his darling bride and declares, "My love, you are beautiful." Reflecting on the sufficiency of the cross, Edwards writes, "Christ loves the elect with so great and strong a love, they are so near to him, that God looks upon them as it were as parts of him" (Works, 14:403). Because of our union with Christ, God's love of his Son now includes love of his Son's bride. When Christ exclaims that his bride is beautiful, he does so through the lens of the sufficiency of his cross and makes the church the sole recipient of the love that ceaselessly flows between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### 3. The Fulfillment of His Mission

The New Testament is unmistakably clear that God has commissioned his church as the principal agency for heralding the gospel of Christ. This commission in Matthew 28:18–20 stands as the summit of the church's mission for all subsequent generations. Beginning in Jerusalem, the disciples understood this assignment with vital urgency and launched the beautiful good news of Christ into all the earth (Acts 1:8). No church has the freedom to tamper with, tweak, add to, or subtract from the good news of Jesus Christ — we are called to herald it to the nations, for there is nothing more beautiful and lovely in the sight of Christ than the Holy Spirit regenerating, calling, and transferring sinners from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.

All evangelistic and missionary endeavors are fueled by the assurance that Christ is enthroned as the head of his church and has promised to ransom men and women from "every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:8–9). This assurance fueled the Genevan Reformer John Calvin to write to the king when evangelistic efforts were harshly suppressed in his homeland of France: Our doctrine must tower unvanquished above all the glory and above all the might of the world, for it is not of us, but of the living God and his Christ whom the Father has appointed to "rule from sea to sea, and from the rivers even to the ends of the earth (Psalm 72:8)." (Prefatory address to Institutes of the Christian Religion) Calvin reminds the church that the gospel "is not of us," but originates from God. Entrusting his church with the task of heralding the gospel, God has chosen her to be an honored vessel to house and disseminate his glorious treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7). When Christ beholds the church, he sees the voice, hands, feet, and heart of the gospel message in rescuing sinners.

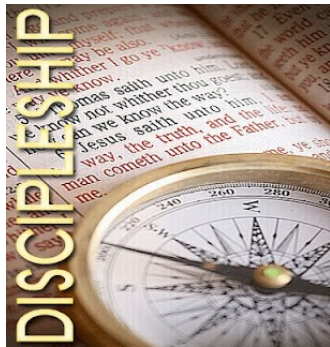
### The Bride Is Welcome

Jesus does not lament the church he has rescued or look for another to capture his attention. Christ welcomes the church as his beautiful treasure and joy. The church is not just about organization, leadership, function, and vision. Jesus sees more. His gaze reveals the beauty of our Father, the sufficiency of his cross, and the fulfillment of his mission in the world. He sees sinners being rescued, redeemed, and renewed. The bride is now waiting and watching for our bridegroom's appearance, when he will bid us "Welcome" for all eternity to bask in the glory of his eternal presence (2 Timothy 4:8). Until then, Jesus bids us to join him in gazing upon his bride and exclaiming of her, "Behold, you are beautiful!" (Song of Solomon 1:15).





## Intentional Discipleship Update



As the summer begins we are taking some respites from many of our Bible Studies and regular Sunday School. Both of the Ladies Bible Studies are breaking for the rest of the summer and will resume in September. The Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study will go until the 9th of July as we get ourselves to a good stopping point.

We are done with the regular Sunday School but we will do a couple of Puritans as well as have a MASA Speaker in the month of July during that time as well. Just because we are taking a break from the regular, do not break from the routine.



The toddler room has proved to be a fun time for the adults to get to know Zeb & Eliza, and for them to bond with adults in the church.

Children's church is a lively place! We are learning about creation and the Word. We had fun gathering leaves, flowers, and pine cones with talking about the variety of God's creation. A fun time was had using a hot glue gun to affix the items that we collected outside to a poster about God's creation.



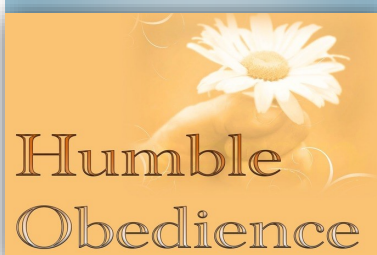
Next week—Animals!!!



**CHURCH LIBRARY**  
*News*

By Linda Hoffman  
or Angela Groff  
Church Librarians

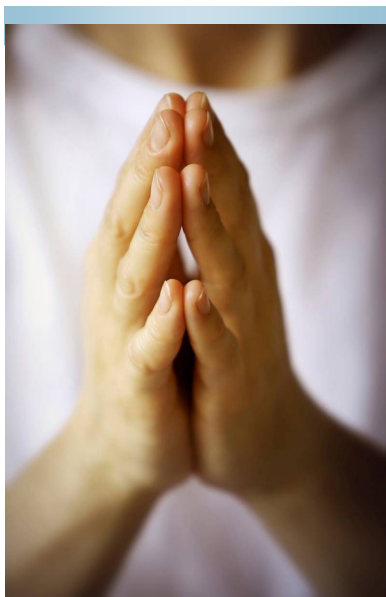
Take a look at the table outside the library for some new books to take home and read! (*check them out first, please*)



### Humility

*"And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, and said, 'Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven'"*

*Matthew 18:2-5*



## Sunday Evening Services Schedule

July 3—No Evening Service  
 July 10—Prayer at 5 pm  
 July 17—Solo Christos at 5 pm  
 July 24—Prayer at 5 pm  
 July 31—No Evening Service



# SUNDAY



Financial Update—April 3-24, 2022  
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00  
 Received: \$ 1,914.00  
 Contact Mark Wildenberg with questions.



Men's & Women's  
 Bible Study  
 Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study  
 Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer  
 Wednesdays at 9:30am



July 3

Christopher Smith

July 10

Jay Hoffman

July 17

Ray Rudzinski

July 24

Jeffrey Smith

July 31

Kyle Tubbs



Please contact **Carol Smith** at  
**(920) 788-9795**

to volunteer in 3 different  
 capacities in our children's  
 ministry. There are also sign-up  
 sheets for the different rooms  
 you can serve in down the  
 children's Sunday School wing.

### St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items.  
 Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



*Connect*  
 WITH OUR  
 CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address: [prayer@foxriverbaptist.com](mailto:prayer@foxriverbaptist.com)

**Care to be part of the prayer chain?** Email or call Becky Godfrey at [becl.godfrey@gmail.com](mailto:becl.godfrey@gmail.com) — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at [hofflad@gmail.com](mailto:hofflad@gmail.com)—(715) 255-3809.

# Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach  
the Gospel to every creature.”  
Mark 16:15

This month we have two events in regard to missions, one at the beginning and one at the end. The first event is our brother Ryan Smith will be leaving for Estonia on July 2nd for a short-term mission's trip and will return to us in



August if the Lord wills. Also, on July 31st we will have a MASA Speaker by the name of James Stewart from Ethnos Aviation who will be speaking to us during the Sunday School hour. Please be in prayer for Ryan and in attendance for James.

Young at Heart  
7, and our n



Our next committee meeting is Wednesday, June 20 2 pm, FRBC.

## UPDATE...

The next Young at Heart service at Care Partners in Fox Crossing is July 7 at 10:30 am.



### FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



3—Rick Hinz  
4—Christopher Smith  
5—Jean Bintzler  
7—Bruce Sowders  
20—Sheryl Zwerg  
25—Gary Snortum  
27—Betty Callahan



4—Pat & Angela Groff  
11—Chuck & Jean Bintzler  
13—Bill & Doris Olson



### Fox River Baptist Church

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Website: [foxriverbaptist.com](http://foxriverbaptist.com)

Office Hours: Wednesday &  
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm