

# Show Me Your Glory

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

April 2018

## Thank God for the Lighthouse

Bill and Sharon Arthur have several lighthouses inside their home that stand to the testament of how God has guided them throughout their lives. They have been married for 54 years, and the church has been a very central part of their lives together. They met and married through the church which Bill had started attending after moving to Fairfield.



Bill was born in Bicknell, Indiana, and lost his father to a coal mine accident when he was 15 years old. His mom was left to raise him and his disabled sister Penny. He went to college at Vincennes University studying the radio field. He auditioned for a job at an Olney radio station, and once he got that job he began a long career working in the radio industry. Even his short stint in the US Army when he was drafted in 1954 was working as a radio repairman. His career in radio is what brought him to Fairfield in 1961. After he experienced the breakup of his first marriage, he came to know Christ through Pastor George Carr counseling him at FBC. Shortly after that he caught the eye of Sharon, who thought he was very handsome, but since Bill was older than Sharon, her parents did not encourage their relationship.

Sharon's dad worked for Texaco and they came to Fairfield through Hoodville, a little town south of McLeansboro that housed the company workers and their families. Sharon came to faith as an eight year old, and other than a brief time away from Fairfield, has been a member here since her family came in the 1950's. When her family was relocated to Oklahoma

by Texaco, Sharon faced a dilemma of going with them or staying here to be close to Bill. One of the ladies in the church offered to let Sharon move in with her, but Sharon did not want to upset her parents and joined them in moving. Bill and Sharon kept their relationship alive through the mail, writing each other every day. The mailman was an active part in their relationship, "He had fun with our back and forth." When Sharon celebrated her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in September, Bill was there and they were married the next day. Bill had a honeymoon planned with a trip he got through a radio station promotion that someone else didn't want. They stayed in North Carolina and even went back for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the same location.

Bill had received a career opportunity in Forrest City, Arkansas, in 1971, and they moved and joined a church there. They were very happy there with the work and the church they were a part of, but Tom Land came to visit with an opportunity to come back to Fairfield. Sharon recalls, "We prayed a long time about coming back." The pull to come back to Fairfield was very strong. Bill's sister Penny was being cared for in a nursing home in Mount Carmel, and he wanted to be closer to her so they came back. Both Bill and Sharon have experienced what it is like to be in a family that struggles through having a disabled child. Bill's sister Penny was unable to communicate verbally, and she lived with them for a short time after his mother died. Sharon also had a sister that was unable to care for herself at all. Sharon especially remembers the fear people had of the disabled. "I had friends, but they didn't want to come to the house, they were afraid." But Sharon remembers how beautiful her sister was.

When they were back here they partnered with two other couples to open a Christian bookstore, which was aptly named Lighthouse. They continued to operate the bookstore after the other couples left, and Sharon recalls many opportunities she had to pray with and minister to people who came in. Eventually they closed the store and sold the building to the Todd's who opened their own bookstore.

Today Bill and Sharon spend their days together; you can find them at the grade school reading with kids or visiting the public library. Bill has helped people learn to read through the literacy program that Frontier Community College sponsored. They have servant hearts and have been active in many areas of church over the years. Sharon recalls having taught juniors, young women, and has been serving in the 1st and 2nd grade class with her daughter Melissa for the last several years. Bill served as a teacher and Sunday School Director for many years and currently serves as Director of the Adult 4 class. You can even find Bill helping Sharon change out flowers and banners in the sanctuary.

We are thankful for the faithfulness of the Arthurs and pray that God continue to bless them as they continue to serve.

*I have come into the world as a light, so that  
no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*  
John 12:46

## At the King's Table

It is the time of year that we start to think about playing softball again. The special needs ministry of At the King's Table softball will be playing on three Saturdays in May. May 12, 19, and 26 will be the games for the spring season.

This ministry is in it's 6th year and it has served the community and church family in many ways. Please consider being a part of this ministry. They can always use a cheering section.



## Upcoming Events



### Women's Conference June 14-16, 2018

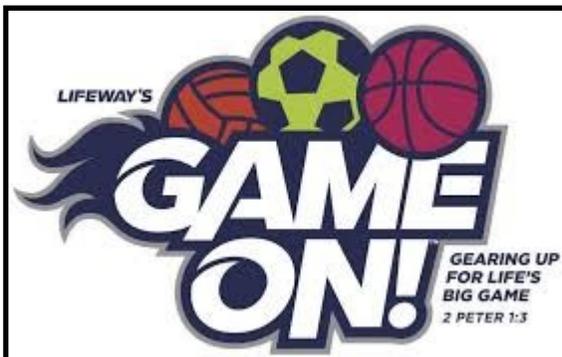
A group of 14 of our ladies will be making the trip to Indianapolis in June for this conference. If you are interested in joining them, contact the church office for registration information.  
It isn't too late to sign up.

### **New Bible study opportunity for women Starting on Thursday April 19th at 6:30 p.m.**

Studying the book of Deuteronomy for 7 weeks  
**All women welcome!**  
**Bring a friend!**

Study will be at Cheryl Harl's home

### Vacation Bible School June 3rd—8th, 2018



June will be here before we know it!

If you can help with VBS this year, please contact Melissa Barbre or Pat Scarbrough.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FAIRFIELD, IL  
PERMIT NO. 30

308 South First St.  
Fairfield IL 62837  
Phone (618) 842-3764  
Fax (618) 842-3704  
Bennie Tomberlin, Pastor  
www.fairfieldfbc.org  
fbcfairfield@gmail.com

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sermon Broadcast on WFIW 1390 at 10:45 each Sunday

### Reckless Love

Written by Cory Asbury, Caleb Culver, and Ran Jackson

Before I spoke a word, You were singing over  
me

You have been so, so good to me  
Before I took a breath, You breathed Your life  
in me

You have been so, so kind to me

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God

Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it, still You  
give Yourself away

Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless  
love of God

When I was Your foe, still Your love fought for  
me

You have been so, so good to me

When I felt no worth, You paid it all for me

You have been so, so kind to me

There's no shadow You won't light up  
Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me

There's no wall You won't kick down  
Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:10-14*

2017 Bethel Music Publishing (ASCAP) / Watershed Publishing Group (ASCAP) (adm. by Watershed Music Group) / Richmond Park Publishing (BMI). All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.