

BANQUET NEWS

Community Newsletter for the Banquet Community of Coles County



Next NBGB Community Gathering:

**Saturday, November 18,
2023 from 2:00 PM until
4:00 PM** at the First
Presbyterian Church of
Mattoon, IL for food,
fellowship, and worship.

Upcoming Great Banquet Weekends:

**Men's Weekend: June 20-23,
2024**

**Women's Weekend: June
27-30, 2024**

NBGB Prayers:

Pray for the NBGB Board as
they meet in October to make
plans for the upcoming year.

Be praying for God to call the
guests and team together for
our next weekends in 2024.



From the Community Spiritual Director

When Perry invited me to attend the very first New Beginnings Great Banquet Men's weekend in our area, I had no idea that my accepting of that invitation would ultimately lead to me serving on the Board, nor did I see myself taking on the responsibility of our community's spiritual director all these years later. Truth be told, I feel very much like our brother Tom Stelle did when he took on the role before me. *I don't know what I'm doing! I'm not qualified!*

But that's the beautiful thing about community: it doesn't live and die on any one Christian individual, but rather is built upon the solid foundation of Jesus Christ our cornerstone, who in turn unites the many different believers into one spiritual building.



A Word about Money

We don't like talking about it all that much, but we need to address the elephant in the checkbook, given that:

- the cost of food has gone up considerably since we began
- we've not raised the suggested \$80 weekend fee for the guests or the team
- we've not enforced payment, because we don't want to turn away a guest or team member due to financial hardship

However, it does cost money to keep the ministry of these weekends going. Please consider making a donation, or paying it forward if you have attended as a guest or as a team member.

We are a not for profit ministry, with no paid staff. We have no wish to make a profit beyond telling people about Jesus. We are all volunteers, and we rely on faith and donations to operate.

Let's honor God in every aspect of our lives, even the financial one! Thank you for praying about this.

Yours in Christ, the NBGB Board:
Brenda J, Brenda W, Denise, Andy A, Matthew F, and Tom S.

Going on a weekend was so refreshing and wonderful, but serving on the team is what made me fall in love with the Great Banquet ministry.* We put our egos aside and recognize that it is the Holy Spirit's directions that we must follow together. Where I am weak, another is strong. When my sister or brother needs a break, I can step up to help.

What an honor to be invited to our Lord's Table! But isn't it also wonderful and such a high honor to be called into our Lord's Kitchen? It is nearly as joyful to prepare and serve the meal as it is to sit down and enjoy it. And having done these things, isn't it also a thrill to invite others to experience the goodness of our Lord?

Each day, we can be ambassadors for Christ, telling people the good news that Jesus has reconciled earth and heaven on the cross. And certainly we give thanks to Jesus that the Great Banquet weekends are another way to invite folks to the wedding feast of the Lamb. Who might we invite to the next gatherings? Whom do we have the privilege of loving and serving today?

God bless you, my dear sisters and brothers! I am so privileged to be your fellow servant in Christ.

-Rev. Matthew D. Froeschle

**Volunteer forms are now available if you are interested in serving on a team! The 2024 volunteer form is being sent with this newsletter.*

