



AT FIRST BAPTIST

DAN MCDOWELL
Senior Pastor

SUE NEELY VANBRUNT
Minister of Music

ROBERT FAULDS
Organist

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

MICKI ELLIS
Audio Visual Specialist

MILLARD COOK
Asst. Pastor Senior/Adult Ministries

BRUCE LAVERTY
Director of Family Ministries

CAROLE LAVERTY
Family Ministries Associate

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

GERALD NUTT
Custodian

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 3

Our Board of Trustees is asking all of those who would like to offer some of their time and talents to help with our annual property and facilities clean-up. "Clean-Up Day" is Saturday, May 3rd and work will begin at or around 9AM. If you'd like further information, please contact Dave Anderson who will be overseeing the event. Drinks and refreshments will be made available for all who help with the clean-up efforts. We will welcome any help we can get, even if you can only stay for an hour or two. In the event of bad weather, we will focus on the indoor work and schedule a new date to address the outside work. Hope to see you on the 3rd!!!



MOTHER'S DAY MAY 11

Mother's Day is always a special occasion at First Baptist and this year is no exception! The Christian Education board has gifts for all our moms and Pastor Dan will bring a distinctly appropriate message from 1 Samuel 1 titled "The Benefit of a Praying Mom". In addition to all

that, a group of our men will prepare an extraordinary fellowship hour! Invite your Moms and daughters (and all the Moms and daughters you know) and enjoy this wonderful opportunity!

JUNE HOME MISSION PROJECT PLANNED

The Board of Christian Mission is sponsoring a trip to Rochester on Saturday, June 14 to get acquainted with and assist several ministries there.

We will depart early on Saturday morning and begin out time in Rochester at Cameron Community Ministries (which provides ministry to needy families in the inner-city).

In the afternoon we will go to the Fairport Baptist Home (one of the ministries that we support as a congregation through our mission budget). We will tour their facilities to see the ministries being provided there and possibly do a project of some kind.

If you would like to be a part of this mission team, call the church office or respond to the sign-up sheet enclosed in the weekly worship bulletin. There will be an organizational meeting immediately after worship on May 18 to work out meal and travel details. Costs will be minimal and we will return home that evening.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT 1ST QUARTER 2014

Contribution statements for the quarter ended March 31 were distributed recently. If you did not receive your statement please contact the church office or speak with Bonnie Kettle. In total, \$27,103.84 (83% of the \$32,723.25 pledged) was received in the months of January – March. We anticipate sufficient "catch-up" contributions over the next several weeks to push us above the 90% level on which our budgeting is based.

Congratulations and a heartfelt "Thank you" to all those who have maintained their giving at or above 100% of their pledge! Your continued faithfulness is fundamental to our ability to provide the ministries we have planned for 2014.

David Torrey, Trustees Finance Committee



HELP US LET OUR LIGHT SHINE...

Matthew 5:16 tells us to *“Let your light so shine before all, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”* While Matthew is

referring to our spiritual light, the Scripture might also be applied to our somewhat dimly lit sanctuary. Because of aging fixtures and outdated bulbs, there are areas in our sanctuary where many find it difficult to see, especially when trying to read a Bible, a hymnal or the Sunday bulletin. Therefore, the Board of Trustees has decided to take action. Because spring is finally upon us, the season during which many folks plant flower bulbs, the Trustees have decided it's time to “plant” new light bulbs in our Sanctuary. We have selected new LED bulbs that will provide better light, will consume less electricity (only 17 watts) and can last up to 40 years! Of course, there will be a cost to purchase and install the bulbs. This is where we need your help!

The Trustees have decided to conduct a “Buy A Bulb” Campaign to allow our membership to make contributions toward the purchase of the bulbs. We are asking for donations of \$20.00 per bulb but we will accept any amount that you wish to contribute. We will begin collecting the donations on Sunday, May 3rd and will continue accepting donations at least through the end of May. “Buy A Bulb” envelopes are in the pew racks for your convenience or you can give the funds directly to Bonnie Kettle and indicate it is for the “Buy A Bulb” Campaign. If you pay by check, please indicate on the memo line that the donation is for the “Buy A Bulb” Campaign.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important campaign. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Anderson or any other Trustee.

“You are the light of the world...” (Matt. 5:14)

The Board of Trustees

ABC/NYS SERVICE TRIP TO NICARAGUA BEING PLANNED

Our region will be sponsoring mission trips to Nicaragua for each of the next 3 years. The first one will be April 10-19, 2015. Leader Roberto Martinez MD, will be available to meet with people who are interested in more information before they make a decision. The informational meeting will be June 1st at Cheektowaga Community Baptist Church at 2:00 pm. For more information go to <http://www.abc-nys.org/programs/missions> and click on “Nicaragua 2015” at the bottom of the page.

SUMMER OUTINGS UNDER CONSIDERATION

With warmer weather coming, Pastor Dan is trying to see how much interest there is in the following activities (we will not do all of these, but depending on interest you indicate, may do some):

Pittsburgh Pirates Game(s)

- Thu. June 16 vs. Cincinnati @ 12:35
- Sat. June 28 vs. NY Mets @ 4:05
- Sat. July 5 vs. Philadelphia @ 4:05
- Wed. Aug. 27 vs. St. Louis @ 12:35
-

Buffalo Bisons Game(s)

- Thu. June 26 vs. Columbus (Indians aff.), 1pm
- Sun. July 13 vs. Durham @ 1 pm
- Thu. July 31 vs. Indy (Pirates affiliate) @ 1pm
- Fri. Aug. 22 vs. Scranton (Yankees) @ 7 pm

Buffalo Bills Preseason Game(s)

- Sat. Aug. 23 vs. Tampa Bay (time tbd)
- Thu. Aug 28 vs. Detroit @ 7 pm

Corning Museums

Tour the Glass museum, take a class and do a blown glass project and tour the Rockwell Museum of Western Art. Possible dates are Saturdays, July 19, July 26 or August 9.

Saturday Night Gospel Concert(s) at Odosagih Bible Conference

- The Torchmen (Quartet) June 28 @ 7 pm
- The Skyline boys (Quartet) July 26 @ 7 pm
- Ryon & Friends (Ventriloquist) Aug 23 @ 7pm

First Sunday Night Picnic and Vespers

Meet @ the church to carpool in time to be at the park by 5 pm, eat supper at 6 with worship and devotions following the picnic. Bring meat to grill and a dish to pass!

- June 1 @ Rock City Park
- July 6 @ Allegany State Park
- August 3 @ Stony Brook State Park

VBC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 30-JULY 2

Mark your calendars now and spread the word! **Vacation Bible Camp** will run Monday through Wednesday from 8 am – 5 pm and it will have a NASCAR theme! Plan to join our “pit crew” and bring your kids, grandkids and neighbors for this exciting outreach!

The Family of God



We extend our Love and Sympathy to Carl and Joanne Samuelson and Randy and Carrie Samuelson on the passing of Carl's sister, June Very, on March 21; and to the family of JoAnn Mazza who went to her eternal home on April 8. JoAnn had been a member here at FBC for 46 years.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Violet Butler on the birth of her grandson, **Elijah Butler**, on March 21. Elijah weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20.5" long at birth.

To Bob Brookins on the birth of his grandson, **Lindell Ivan Thomas Downing** on April 11. Lindell is the son of Wendi Brookins and Lorenzo Downing II. He weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20" long at birth.

To Lynn Brown on her 25 years of service at St. Bonaventure University!

2014 GRADUATES

It's almost graduation time again! If you have a high school or college grad in your family this year, please let us know in the office by May 15 so we can make sure to include them in our graduation recognitions. Green Graduation Information sheets are available in the information rack near the front entrance.



We are accepting pictures for our Military Wall of Honor. If someone in your family or circle of friends is currently serving in a branch of the US Military, please bring a picture (up to 5x7) and address for the bulletin board in the lobby so that we can put a name with a face to offer a more personal prayer for safety and send a card or note of thanks to them. It is important that we don't forget those who are allowing us the freedoms that we enjoy every day.



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 6 PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 1, IN LINCOLN PARK.



**Do we have your Birthday?...
Anniversary?.....Address?....
Phone Number ?....Email address?
Please contact the church office at
372-5151 or oleanfbc@verizon.net
to provide updated information.**

THANK YOU'S

To Everyone who donated or helped with the 7th Annual Community Easter Dinner. Because of your generosity, we were able to serve almost 500 people on Easter Sunday!!

Heart-felt thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls, visits, prayer shawl and love shown me and my family at the passing of my mother, Pat Salvan, in February. God's blessing on you all, dear church family.

~Lindsay Cummings

Thank you for participating in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. With your help the Olean Food Pantry received over a ton of food for its shelves. We look forward to your participation again next year.

Your generosity is so appreciated.

~Lauren Puller, Chair

Olean High School Souper Bowl of Caring Committee

Thank you for your generous monetary donation of \$1,490.00 on December 31, 2013, from your Christmas offering and New Year's Eve Concert.

~The Olean Food Pantry

MAY 25, 2014

Memorial Day is a time to remember and honor military personnel who died in the service of our country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. The first "Decoration Day" was celebrated on May 30, 1868 at Arlington Cemetery.



Join with us on Sunday, May 25, as we honor the brave men and women from our country who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. Jim Sorokes will bring the morning message.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE

Blanket Sundays this year will be held at Olean FBC on May 18th and 25th. Someone will be at the receptionist's desk in the lounge to accept your donations, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, or you may mail in your donation to the church office.

A donation of any amount will help to purchase a blanket, either winter or summer weight, for use by Church World Service to be given to those who are left homeless by an earthquake or other disaster, **anywhere** in the world.

Won't you please consider contributing to the Blankets+ program, and along with Church World Service, we can help "blanket the world with our love!"



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN JUNE

For almost seven decades, One Great Hour of Sharing has made a difference in the lives of people and communities around the world by pooling resources, funds and serving through partnerships.

Gifts given through this special offering empower people in poverty to learn a trade, raise their own food, and grow in faith. United in Christ, we help to provide access to healthy food, good education, excellent health care, and shelter after devastating storms. Each time a gift is given a connection is made that builds a bridge or tears down walls. Each resource shared answers God's call to love our neighbor, because in Christ Jesus, we are one family. Christ's work in the world healed the sick, fed the hungry, and brought hope to communities burdened by challenges. As the Church, one body in Christ, our call is to carry on in Jesus name. For as long as one sister or one brother is in need, we all are in need.

We are one. Please give generously.



Pastor Dan will be on vacation May 19-26. Please contact Pastor Millard or a member of the Diaconate with any spiritual needs during the pastor's absence.



SAVE THOSE STAMPS!!

The Alliance Stamp Ministries of Florida is asking for help collecting cancelled postage stamps. They re-sell the stamps that are attached to

envelopes – cut 1/4 - 1/3" around the stamp. With the proceeds, they write and print inter-denominational Sunday School materials to be distributed in 13 Latin American countries. After volunteers sort and package the stamps, they are sold to wholesalers. In 2012, the ministry earned \$25,000 and in 2013, they earned \$37,000. They are hoping to double that amount this year!

Mission stations also need Betty Crocker "Box Tops for Education" and Campbell company bar codes with their icon and/or coupon for points. These coupons are redeemed for



many needed items. Cut them out on the dotted line and put them and the cancelled postage stamps

in the collection box on the entrance table in the lobby.

MEN'S CONFERENCE JUNE 21 @ FBC

Stay tuned for information regarding another local Men's Conference that will be hosted by our church on Saturday, June 21! We will have worship, workshops and great food! Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

CARI MATEJKA IS GOING BACK TO AFRICA THIS SUMMER!

Cari will return to Bethlehem, Uganda to the Bethlehem Parents School and Orphanage in July. Ask her how you can support her in this effort! This trip will cost more than \$3000 including airfare.

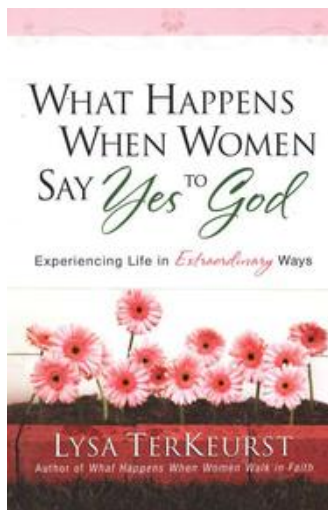
"Sing unto the Lord a new song. Let His praises fill the temple. He is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! Glory to God!"

These words based on Psalm 96:1 remind us that our church should be filled with the singing of praises! What are some of your favorite hymns and songs of praise or worship? Have you been able to sing it them in worship lately? Maybe one of your favorite songs has been overlooked and you haven't had an opportunity to sing those words in worship for a while. Let's change that! This summer we are inviting you to request one of your favorite songs of faith to be sung during a summer worship service.



Sue Neely VanBrunt, Minister of Music

LADIES SPRING BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MAY 19



Do you want to experience life in extraordinary ways? Then see what happens when you say yes to God! Total obedience to Christ can transform an ordinary walk into a remarkable journey. In six powerful 30-minute dvd sessions, Lysa TerKeurst paints an inspiring picture of the great path He has for you. Sharing personal experiences and biblical insights, Lysa shows you

how to partner with God in everything you do. You'll learn to discern his voice, follow his direction, and discover a life of joy and purpose.

Come and join us, beginning Monday, May 19, @ 6:30 p.m. for this 6 week women's study @ Penny's house (805 Main St. – Olean). Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office by May 8 (372-5151). Books cost \$6; workbooks \$6.

Women of Faith is a faith-based women's organization encouraging women of ALL ages and stages in life to grow in faith and spiritual maturity through a relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of God's love and grace.



Transform your soul, awaken your spirit, and revive your faith at our 2014 event: *From Survival to Revival* in Rochester,

NY, on Friday, August 15, and Saturday, August 16. At this all-new event you'll receive powerful Bible teaching, be inspired by uplifting music, enter into authentic worship, and more. Experience the renewal that comes from spending time in the presence of God. Discover new joy and a fresh sense of purpose. Gather your group, call your friends, and put your family on notice. It's time to plan for *From Survival to Revival*!

"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Psalm 85:6 NKJV

Speakers and artists at this year's event include Lisa Bevere, Christine Caine, Patsy Clairmont, Natalie Grant, Lisa Harper, Anita Renfroe, Sheila Walsh, Kay Warren, Matthew West, and Gateway Worship.

Twenty-two women from FBC have purchased tickets and are making plans to attend *From Survival to Revival*! Tickets are still available through Women of Faith ranging in price from \$49-129. Contact Women of Faith at 1.888.49.FAITH (1.888.493.2484) or www.womenoffaith.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR FBC WOMEN THIS YEAR

- May 19-June 23 Bible Study: What Happens When Women Say Yes to God with Lysa TerKeurst
- Pink Lemonade Party – July 12 with guest speaker, Sarah Harnisch from Family Life
- Women of Faith Conference Aug. 15-16
- October Bible Study: Bad Girls of the Bible with Liz Curtis Higgs
- Women Of Faith Christmas Simulcast

POSSIBLE EVENTS IN THE PLANNING STAGES:

- Spa Day @ FBC for ages 15-??
 - Trip to an area craft show
- Chautauqua Lake Dinner Cruise
 - Dinner/Movie Night



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

I am sitting down to write this on the day after Easter and I find myself still basking in the glow of it! We had a wonderful day of worship!

Sue (as always) filled the service with virtually every wonderful Easter song you could hope for with the congregational hymns, the choir's call to worship and the anthem. Then Bob and the bell choir reinforced them with the medleys they played in the prelude and offertory. 3:16 added another great touch with their selection of "Glorious Day". Somehow after all that, the sermon felt anticlimactic to me.

And the day wasn't half-over yet! I can't tell you how much it filled my heart to see so many of you pitching in at the Easter Dinner, carrying meals for delivery, working in the kitchen and cleaning up afterward. I can't think of a more appropriate way to offer thanksgiving to our Lord for His demonstration of love to us on Easter than by making sure that those in need around us have the opportunity for a substantial meal. As always, Judy Wightman pulled a wonderful dinner together – and almost 500 people enjoyed it! It was a joy to be part of it.

As you know, this was the first Easter following the death of my mom – and my sister's departure preceding my mom's still remains fresh on my mind. I truly miss them both, but the knowledge of their salvation and the eternal life they are now enjoying is a tremendous comfort to me. In fact, that knowledge makes Easter an even more special occasion to me than ever before. I hope that you can say the same regarding your loved ones who have gone ahead of you to receive their rewards.

The month of May is known for 2 very special holidays; Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Both of those holidays hold bittersweet and melancholy memories for those of us who have lost our moms but there is no better place to honor them than in church those Sundays. As we honor their memories we also celebrate their risen lives in heaven and we remember that we will one day be reunited with them. Every Sunday is a "little Easter"; that's why we worship on Sunday mornings instead of continuing the Old Testament tradition of the Sabbath (which began at sundown on Friday night and ran until sundown on Saturday evening).

Our Sunday morning worship tradition is predicated on the resurrection and all of its implications. The resurrection reminds us that (as the title of the recently released movie also reminds us) "God is Not Dead". If

you read between the lines of the things being said today by the "politically correct" crowd, it is not hard to decipher their belief that the different religions are kind of like major league baseball or the NFL; each of us chooses a team to root for but none is really any better to root for than another. It is all (in their minds) a matter of opinion and loyalty based on subjective criteria. So they contend that we need to be "civilized" and stop pushing our opinions on one another (which they have redefined as "proselytizing").

I grew up with a clear understanding that proselytizing meant trying to convince someone to leave their Christian church and join mine. Plenty of that goes on within Christianity but most of us agree that doing so is wrong. It is a good thing to be excited about your own church and wanting to share the great things going on there with your friends, but we need to be careful not to "steal sheep" from someone else's flock. At the same time, there is a pretty clear difference between proselytizing and evangelism.

Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation with anyone who does not know it. We do so for two very good reasons: First and foremost because the stakes are very high. Jesus said "*I am THE way, the truth and the life – no one comes to the Father except through me.*" (John 14:6) That means this is not a matter of choosing a team and being loyal to it. It means there is only one way to heaven and that is through faith in Jesus and His redeeming sacrifice and resurrection.

The second reason we need to share the faith, hope and redeeming love of Jesus Christ with all people is because Jesus told us to. The very last thing He told us before He ascended to heaven is this: "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" (Matthew 28:19-20) When you understand the meaning of baptism (death and resurrection), you understand that this means bringing people into a saving relationship with Jesus.

The stakes are very high. The Bible tells us that there will come a day when we all stand before the throne of judgment to account for our lives. This is the time when we will either be invited to enter the gates of heaven or we will be turned away. I often imagine this as a time when I need to answer why I failed to share the way of salvation with those within my reach.

We don't talk much about heaven and hell these days. It's not really politically correct to discuss those things in "polite company" any more. But don't you think it is important to realize and share the implications of those things?

~Pastor Dan



²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ The other disciples therefore said

unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. (John 20:24-26)

We are very familiar with this incident. Our Lord Jesus Christ has arisen and come to His disciples. But Thomas was not at the assembly for whatever reason and missed the appearance of his risen Lord. When Thomas arrives he is told by all that they have seen the Lord, but as you know he would not believe.

So I asked myself, why did Jesus wait eight days? There were many options before the Lord: He could have judged Thomas' unbelief (thank God for grace); He could have shown Himself immediately and thereby remove all the doubts that Thomas was harboring. Yet He did not; He chose to wait eight days. Think of what was going on during that time. Ten apostles were rejoicing, singing and filled with renewed hope, but one sat and witnessed all of this and just shook his head, saying I cannot believe. These eight day were very important for Thomas because they gave him eight days of opportunity to choose to live by faith rather than by sight.

There is hardly a week that passes that we are not confronted with the same choice. The problems and burdens of life will try to force us to walk by sight. "I must fix this problem" or "I must take care of myself" rather than trusting in the promises of God and provision for lives. I must choose daily to take God at His word, believe His promises, and walk by faith or to reject the witness of Word and the Spirit of God and choose to walk by sight.

So where are you at in those eight days? Is there a particular area with which you are just unwilling to trust God with? Do you think that it is too big for Him or that He does not care? These eight days are for your growth. God is giving you the opportunity to step out by faith and trust Him in a more complete way than you have done before. Are you willing to release that financial burden, that broken relationship,

that wayward child or health concern to the Lord and truly trust Him to care for you?

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. (John 20:29)

The real joy comes as you see your walk of faith rewarded by Christ's faithfulness in meeting each need that we commit unto Him. Examine your life and be willing to fully commit each need into His care today. ~Pastor Millard

OLEAN FOOD PANTRY

The Olean Food Pantry is a non-profit, community organization run by a 100% volunteer staff. We depend completely on your donations of time, money and food to serve your neighbors in need.

MISSION STATEMENT: As a volunteer organization the Olean Food Pantry provides food security by offering choices of healthy nutritious food. In cooperation with the community we empower individuals through education, resources, and knowledge to promote opportunities to become self-sufficient.

VISION STATEMENT: Our vision is to be able to feed the community body, mind, and soul.

DIAPER DRIVE and SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DRIVE - Olean Food Pantry will act as a distribution site for those eligible and in need of the items.

NEEDS LIST:

100 % juice	Mustard
Fruit	Mayonnaise
Crackers	Tomato Sauce
Pancake mix	Grated Cheese
Ketchup	

Food contribution – drop off your contribution during our operating hours at the OFP or at the Olean Public Library anytime they are open

Money – your monetary contribution gives us the flexibility to meet special needs and to augment and balance food contributions. To donate by credit card or Paypal payment click on the "Donate" button above. If you would prefer to send a check, please make it out to Olean Food Pantry and mail or drop it off.

Recipes – give us your recipes for something special that can be made from the contents of our shelves and we will post it on our website.

HOURS OF OPERATION

8 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY 14760
Monday 12:30-4:30
Friday 10-2
Wednesday 11-1 Canticle
Farm Vegetables (May thru October)



The Art of Confrontation Part 1

Mary Southerland

Faithful are the wounds of a friend (Proverbs 27:6).

We are born helpless. As soon as we are fully conscious, we discover loneliness. Because God created us to need each other, it is in relationships that much of who we are is realized and fashioned. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly emphasizes the value and benefits of healthy relationships. However, to my way of thinking, life would be so much easier at times if no one needed us and we needed no one because, honestly, relationships are hard work, especially relationships with sandpaper people.

Difficult relationships and people who rub us the wrong way are often assigned permanent seats in our world and don't always come with the option of escape. So we must make a choice. We can either learn to get along with people who rub us the wrong way or retreat into a substitute for the relationship God intended. Work fills the hours that should be spent learning to live together in peace. Children fill the void that a difficult spouse refuses to fill. Needs are unmet and desires are numbed in an effort to live peacefully with that sandpaper person.

Marriages are filled with conflict and turmoil because one or both marriage partners are sandpaper people.

Friendships splinter and workplace relationships disintegrate under the constant emotional fire of sandpaper people.

It is almost humorous – almost – that sandpaper people rarely see or accept the fact that they are the coarser of the two in any relationship. The abrasive people in life are masters at dodging blame and skirting responsibility for the emotional upheaval that follows them like their own shadow. One of the treasures found in a healthy relationship is the learned ability to give and take. Friendships are meant to teach us how to love and trust people on many different levels. The workplace is a laboratory for personality experiments and conflict management.

A thread of flexibility runs through the center of every healthy relationship, accepting those who grate on our nerves, accommodating their quirks and flaws. The problem is that sandpaper people avoid flexibility if at all possible, afraid that any change

will exclude them, which is the very thing they fear most and the one thing their abrasive behavior always produces. The question then becomes, what part must we play in dealing with these difficult people. How can we come to the table of relationship health and walk away with a solution?

One of the basic needs of every healthy relationship is the art of confrontation. To confront someone is to meet them head-on in the quest for compromise. Confrontation is an emotional tackle for the purpose of resolving conflict while promoting peace. Just as God separates us from our sin, He calls us to do the same with sandpaper people. We must disconnect who they are from what they do, loving the sinner but hating the sin, looking beyond their weaknesses in search of their strengths.

Most people I know hate confrontation and will do anything to avoid it, but in doing so, give the impression that they are content with the status quo. It is important for us to understand that silence is agreement. Confrontation is a gift we bring to every healthy relationship as well as the unhealthy relationships with which we struggle. Confrontation is a spiritual surgery that tends to be painful. But without it, the cancer of contention and discord will remain unfettered, free to grow and spread its deadly relationship poison.

Let's Pray Father, I want every relationship in my life to honor and please You. Teach me how to love like You love. Help me learn how to confront with a pure heart and the right motives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Now It's Your Turn

Life really is all about the people you do life with. Read the ABC's of friendship below and make a plan to put each one into action this week.

1. Allow people to get close. Friendship requires taking a risk. Read Proverbs 18:24 (NLT) "There are friends who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother."
2. Become a great friend. Which way do you run in times of trouble? Read Proverbs 17:17a (NIV) "A friend loves at all times ..."
3. Celebrate your friends. Who do you need to celebrate this week? How will you celebrate their friendship? Read Philippians 1:3 (NLT) "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God."

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Terry Schnell
- Sue Neely VanBrunt
- 3 Josh Rosel
- 4 Frank Sherry
- 5 Joan Rote
- 6 Larry Selph II
- 7 Bev Firth
- Nick Sanders
- 9 Sue Keim
- Nancy Taylor
- 10 Mary Anne Kirkpatrick
- Jim Sorokes
- 11 Gwen Tyler
- 12 Mike Schultz
- 13 Kevin Thurston
- 19 Vi Eddy
- Don Swisher
- 21 Paul Cummings
- 23 Nan Torrey
- 24 Faith Boyce
- 25 Jonah Rosel
- 26 Pat Collins

- 27 Carrie Samuelson
- Helen Smith
- Abigail Rust
- 28 Diane Buckley
- 30 Jerry Nutt Jr.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jim & Elaine Rockey
- 3 Brad & Liz Mitchell
- 15 Larry & Darlene Selph
- 16 Larry & Carol Nenno
- Jim & Penny Sorokes
- 21 Jerry & Vivian Reynolds
- 27 Mike & Lori Funden
- 29 Dan & Terri McDowell



**THURSDAY
MAY 1
6:00 P.M.
LINCOLN PARK**



**INFORMATION AND
ARTICLES FOR THE
JUNE EDITION OF
AT FIRST BAPTIST
ARE DUE TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE BY
THURSDAY, MAY 15.**

**THE NEWSLETTER
COMMITTEE
WILL MEET ON
TUESDAY, MAY 27, @ 4 PM
TO PREPARE THE
NEWSLETTER FOR
MAILING.**