

AT FIRST BAPTIST SEPTEMBER 2014

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



MAY HE FIND US FAITHFUL

Much has been written of late regarding the direction that our country is headed. Recent surveys have found that the majority of

Americans are concerned about the future of the United States and, more importantly, what the future might hold for our children, our grandchildren and other future generations. Many believe that they will not have it as good as we had it in our time and many young people are complaining about the mess we are leaving for them to clean up. Of course, not everyone is quite so pessimistic.

We might ask ourselves similar questions about Olean First Baptist Church. What future do we want for the next generation of OFBC members... for our children's children? What are we doing to ensure that their future in our church will be bright and spiritually strong? What will future generations say about the conditions we left for them at our church?

With these questions in mind, the Trustees decided to make the theme for our 2014 Stewardship Campaign "May He Find Us Faithful" and the theme song is one

written made by John Mohr and made famous by Steve Green, "Find Us Faithful." The chorus of the song is as follows:

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.

May the fire of our devotion light their way.

May the footprints that we leave

Lead them to believe

And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.

Re-read the lyrics above and seriously think about the message. Will those who come behind *us* find *us* faithful? Will they recognize us as children of God? Is there fire in our devotion? Did they feel it? Did it light their way? Did we lead the next generation to believe? Did we inspire them to obey...to turn to God in their times of need... to recognize God as the source of everything good and all power and all mercy?

Our stewardship campaign will begin on September 21st and we challenge everyone to prayerfully consider the song lyrics and the questions above. What are you doing or what can you do to ensure that those who come behind us will find us faithful?

Like last year, we are again looking for volunteers to do stewardship moments during the campaign. This year, we are asking that folks talk about people who they have found to be faithful and who inspired them and led them to believe. If you are willing to give such a testimonial, please contact Pastor Dan or any member of the Board of Trustees.



Sunday, September 14th is Rally Sunday and the Board of Christian Education is inviting everyone to join us for Rally Day. John 6:35 ~ "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" as our focus, we are inviting everyone to wear a shirt or jersey that demonstrates faith. Bibles will be presented to our third graders, there will be teacher appreciation, synopses of our Sunday School and Bible Study opportunities and our children's choir sharing a song! Invite a friend and join us!

JULY 20 – FBC LADIES CRUISIN' CHAUTAUQUA LAKE ON THE SUMMERWIND

Gayle Rockey, Marcie Rust, Pam Nutt, Shirley Bradford, Nancy Taylor, Grace Thurston, Megan Sorokes, Mary Ellen Olson, Faith Boyce and Friend Priscilla, Casey DeGroff, Penny Sorokes





FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10a)

I imagine you have heard that verse many times over

the years. It speaks to us about the need to stop what we are doing and give our full attention to our Creator. You might have noticed that the verse quoted above is incomplete however. The full verse reads: "He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.'"

I don't know about you, but from the moment I climb out of bed in the morning until long after my head hits the pillow at night I find myself thinking about what is next on my agenda. If I'm not busy "doing", I am busy thinking about what needs done. Usually I start off by making a list of things I need to get to. Inevitably, someone will stop by the office or call on the phone to ask a question or share a concern and I often have to remind myself to put my agenda aside so I can focus on the matter at hand.

That is what God is calling for when He instructs us to "Be still and know" that He is God. It is required of us if we are to put Him first and truly exalt Him. If that doesn't happen, God can't be exalted in our own lives, much less among the nations and in the whole planet. It all starts with me – and you.

That is why I was grateful to have the opportunity to travel to Green Lake in July to attend a conference there called "Rhythms of the Spirit". It was a time of practical instruction and reflection on contemplative spirituality or silent prayer and reflection. I was surprised and impressed by those who attended this with me. The General Secretary of our denomination was there — as were several regional Executive Ministers and missionaries as well as prominent pastors and pastor's spouses.

During our time together we reflected on a whole variety of contemplative practices: Stillness (silent meditation); Movement (labyrinth walking and other contemplative movement); Creation Process (singing, chanting, art); Activist (work-related witness); Generative (monastic methods); Ritual/Cyclical (ceremonies) and Relational (storytelling and deep listening). Performing these various spiritual methods helped me to be still and know God is God in ways I might have never experienced otherwise.

One of the generative practices I enjoyed during the conference was called **Lectio Divina** (Latin for *divine reading*). It is a traditional Benedictine practice of scripture reading, meditation and prayer

intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word.

There are four separate steps to the process: *read*, *meditate*, *pray* and *contemplate*. First a passage of Scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God. The focus is not a theological analysis of biblical passages but viewing them with Christ as the key to their meaning. For example, given Jesus' statement in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you" an analytical approach would focus on the reason for the statement during the Last Supper, the biblical context, etc.

But in Lectio Divina rather than "dissecting peace", the practitioner "enters peace" and experiences or shares in the peace of Christ by focusing the emotions as well as the intellect on the meaning of the promise Jesus made.

I hope this gives you some insight into the blessing I received by my time in Green Lake. Anyone who has gone to the American Baptist Conference center there in Wisconsin will tell you that it is a spectacular and peaceful facility that offers tremendous opportunities for growth and refreshment. I highly recommend it.

Ten years ago Jim Kirkpatrick instigated a group of us to attend a mission conference there and it was an unforgettable experience. Several of the saints who shared the house we rented have now gone on to their eternal reward. I will always treasure the time we spent together there.

Of course, we don't have to travel to Wisconsin to find a meaningful change of pace. This past summer we offered a variety of outings and outreaches. These were opportunities to get outside of our normal routines to experience what God has for us; to stretch ourselves and open our hearts and minds. Unfortunately we cancelled some opportunities due to lack of interest. Others (such as the 15th Street outreach) were carried out with minimal participation. If you ask those who attended things like the vesper service at Rock City, the Women of Faith Conference in Rochester, the Ladies Cruise on Chautauqua Lake, or the mission tour of Cameron Community Ministries and Fairport Baptist Home, you will hear some powerful testimonies.

We all live very busy lives and there is no lack of things to do on most of our agendas but consider how important it is to be still – and know He is God!

~Pastor Dan



SUMMER MUSIC 2014

We hope you enjoyed the worship music this summer. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year, please let your

thoughts be known by writing a note to Bev Firth and/or the Music Committee. Along with our Minister of Music, Sue Neely VanBrunt, they diligently plan for a variety of music during the summer months, and want your feedback. A big 'thank you' goes to those who prepared music for our summer services this year: Erin Arsenault, Josh Rosel, Casey DeGroff & Matt Sage, Lindsay Cummings, Bob Faulds, Kara Goodwin, Mike Schultz, Jim Sorokes, Lynn Brown, Jack Ellis, Tim Sherlock, the Olean Enchanted Mountain Barbershop Chorus and Three: Sixteen. We also appreciate Grace Thurston, Penny Sorokes, Bob Faulds & Casey DeGroff & Mike Schutlz and for their weekly management of the piano, organ and hymn presentation. And while we're saying thanks, we include our audio technicians Dave Anderson, Paul Geise, and Darlene **Selph.** What a great job they always do in providing our sound and radio coverage!



As we read this, we are still enjoying the final days of summer! But, it won't be long until the leaves begin to turn and we fully return to our fall schedules! At Olean FBC, September means the return of the *Senior Choir* and the *In One A'Chord Handbell Choir* to worship. If you like music, enjoy good fellowship and want to have some fun, won't you consider being part of these groups this year?

The Senior Choir meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm to prepare their worship music. Singers aged 12-92, who can sing melody as well as those who can read parts are invited to join. You are welcome to sit through a rehearsal and see if it's for you! Come to the first fall rehearsal on **Thursday Sept 4th** and give it a try!

If you enjoy the bell selections and can find your way through a piece of music, the Bell Choir might be the avenue for you. Talk with director, Bob Faulds this week about the possibility of ringing or at least seeing what it's all about during one of their **7 pm Wednesday** rehearsals.

The only requirement for participation in these ministries is your willingness to share the musical talent God has given you!

Sue Neely VanBrunt



In 2014 the Memorial Committee was privileged to dedicate the following gifts to the Glory of God and the Service of His Kingdom.

BRIDE'S ROOM AND CHAPEL

New Window Coverings Given by Janet Snyder

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Digital Camera - FUGI Film - SD Card In memory of Diane Brenton, Dorothy Dunshie, Myrne Hazzzard Given by Friends

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Large Wall Clock In Memory of Peggy Grimes, Betty Ortlip, Rita Taylor and Margaret Robinson Given by Friends

OFFICE

Three Hole Punch In Memory of Maxine Porcello Given by Friends

CAMP VICK CAMPERSHIPS

In Memory of Richard and Mabel Lyons In Memory of JoAnn Mazza

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choir Riser Rails In Honor of My Mother Given by an Anonymous Giver

Two (2) Mics for Bell Choir Amplification In Memory of Helen Fortner Given by Bud Fortner and Sue Keim

Adjustable Piano Lights for Electronic Piano and Chapel Spinet In Memory of Marie Williams Given by Friends and Family

Set of Choral Anthem Books with CD's (includes 20 new anthems)
In Memory of Grace Montgomery and Ronald Montgomery
Given by Friends and Family

RADIO MINISTRY

Two (2) Wireless Handheld Microphones Given by Janet Snyder

SANCTUARY

12 NIV Large Print Hardcover Bibles In Memory of Frances Sprague Given by Friends

From Associate Pastor

LOVE FOR THE BIBLE

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psm. 119: 97)

The 119th Psalm is the longest chapter in the Bible. The psalmist takes this lengthy chapter to repeatedly sing of his love for the Word of God. I have long been a believer that no Christian can be truly successful in their daily walk with Christ who is not feeding on His word.

The 103rd verse of this chapter tells us "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" We are to feast daily upon the Word. As I write this I am in the process of reading the biography of Louis Zamperini. He had been on a downed B-24 in WWII. On a life raft for over 45 days with no supplies you must marvel at the ability to survive and just what hunger and thirst can drive you to. At one point he would reach into the sea to grab a shark by its tail drag in into the raft to eat.

Do you hunger for and love the Word of God? Do you make it priority in you daily life and schedule? Those who know me well know that I have a very strange daily schedule that would not work for most people but does work well for me. I am an early riser and the first thing on my schedule is my time in the Word. I am not saying that mine is the only way or even the best way, only that it is the best way for me. Just as when King Saul tried to give David his armor to fight Goliath and David said no for he had not proved it. The armor was good but it did not fit David. Your armor will not fit me nor mine you. But we must each find that prefect way us to draw our strength, power and peace from the Word each day.

We must meditate upon the Word. That means more than just read a chapter and go to bed. To meditate is chew as a cow chews the cud. Going over and over that same thought or passage to draw all the nourishment we possibly can from it. This is far more than a head knowledge that says "I know that story." Rather it is, what does that story have new for me today. Never forget what we are told in Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and

sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

If I love God's Word and meditate upon it than I must obey it. Psm. 119: 47 "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved." To you find following the will of God a joy or a chore? If you are trying to live it in your own strength it is a chore that will wear you out. But when you allow the Holy Spirit to have complete control then you will find you are just along for the ride and what a joy life can be.

So in the coming days commit yourself to the Word. Read the Word, study the Word and obey the Word. You will find the joy peace and victory that the Lord has for you there in His Word.

~Pastor Millard



Pastor Dan is inviting any and all retires of our church to lunch on Monday, October 14, at noon. He will offer some devotional thoughts as

well as an opportunity for food and fellowship.

Transportaion to this event is available for any who need it. There is no charge but donations will be gratefully accepted. Please sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church



Our prayer chain ministry serves our congregation by spreading the word when a prayer concern is shared. Church members can contact the church office or Terri McDowell (who is in charge of the prayer chain) to have their concern passed along to the folks on the prayer chain for support. If you would like to be a member of the prayer chain and support folks through prayer, please contact Terri at terri0254@yahoo.com or call her at 716-307-1327. You can receive notifications by phone or by email, whichever works best for you





Kara Pascucci, Donna DeLong, Terri McDowell, Maunie Ketchner, Megan Sorokes, Penny Sorokes, Nancy Taylor, Marcie Rust, Casey DeGroff, Jodie Martin, Violet Butler, Cheri O'Dell, Sarah Fry*, Gayle Rockey, Cherry Feely*, Deb Hall, Nancy Williams, Andrea Keim*, Sue Keim, Pam Nutt (Missing: Shelly Woods, June Johnston*, Maria Cutler*, Sarah Javed*)

WOMEN OF FAITH 2014 SURVIVAL TO REVIVAL

is now a blessing and a memory to those who attended. We had a **wonderful** time from our progressive dinner Friday evening to hearing from Sheila Walsh and Patsy Clairmont, to praise and worship led by Natalie Grant, to inspiration from Lisa Bevere and Christine Caine, to infectious laughter with Anita Renfro, to moving testimony from Kay Warren, to worship through song with Matthew West, to the humor and wisdom of Lisa Harper, to our closing meal together at Panzari's Italian Bistro....what a blessing to experience of all of that with our Sisters in Christ! Simply A.M.A.Z.I.N.G!!

If you are age 18 or over and weren't able to go with us this year, we are already making our plans for WOF 2015: Loved-- You are seen; You are known; You are free on August 28-29 in Philadelphia, PA. WOF will NOT be returning to Rochester next year but hopes to be back in 2016. We need to make our reservations ASAP to secure the best seating and take advantage of available discounts: Premium seats cost \$85 including a \$30 discount available for tix purchased before 9/15. A buy-now/pay-later option is available but a \$30 deposit is required to purchase a ticket. Contact Penny Sorokes to make a reservation or for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is a wonderful opportunity to: (a) study God's word;

- (b) learn how others apply God's word in their daily lives;
- (c) share experiences, praises, and concerns; and (d) be in fellowship with other Christians.



Join the Flock at Sunday School!

Currently, we have a class for children ages pre-school through grade 5; and a class for our teens. We also have two adult Sunday School classes: The Builders (who meet in the board room); and the Seekers

(who meet in the classroom across from the kitchen).

- Both adult classes (Seekers and Builders) are always willing to accept new members or guests.
- Pastor Dan will hold a Newcomers Class for those interested in church membership and/or baptism or even for those just interested in getting to know our church and denomination better starting on September 7 and running through October.
- There are no qualifications, age limits, or entrance exams and you certainly do not need to be a Bible expert to participate. In fact, if you simply want to sit quietly and listen to the discussions, that is perfectly fine.
- No one will call on you to read those peculiar Old Testament names or ask you some deep theological question.
- You can participate as much or as little as you choose.

And think about the potential benefits you'd derive from attending: the ideas... the sharing... the caring... the fellowship!! It would be the perfect extension to your Sunday worship.

So why not give it a try this coming Sunday? Who knows? You might actually like it!!!



The Family of God



We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to Deb Hall on the passing of Ernest "Scott" Bish on May 16; to Harriett Wilday and family on the of Harriett's great-grandchild on July 29;

to Bob Brookins on the loss f his nephew, Anthony Spalla, on August 1; and to Gloria, Tim and Liz Spiller and their family on the passing of Clarence who went home to his Heavenly Father on Sunday, August 17. Clarence had been a member at Olean FBC for 42 years

WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING.....

Ali Kane

and

Adam Kellwig

were married at sunrise on

July 1 in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Ali is the daughter of Mike & Val Kane.



Sharyn Garey and David Kornburg Were married at

First Baplist on Saturday

July 26, 2014

Carl Park Samuelson and Candice Sheehan Were joined in Koly

> Matrimony in Lincoln Park on Saturday, July 26, 2014



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!!!

- ♥ Dana & Cari Matejka Boser 10 (Aug. 8)
 - ♥ Bob & Sheila Faulds -30 (June 23)
 - **♥** Mike & Sandy Schultz 50 (June 6)
- ♥ Gordon & Mary Ellen Olson 60 (July 6)
- ▼ Jim & MaryAnne Kirkpatrick 70 (July 14)

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jim & Yvonne (Perry) Clark 1672 Olean Portville Rd. Olean, NY 14760

David & Nanette Torrey **1094 Olean Portville Rd.** Olean, NY 14760 372-5578

Paul & Jamie Geise 1721 Goodrich Ave. Olean, NY 14760 372-0844

Jason & Caitlin Davenport 1683 Goodrich Ave. Olean, NY 14760



The Wednesday
Ladies Bible
Study will
resume
beginning
September 10 @

11:00 a.m. Newcomers are Welcome!!

On Sunday, June 22, **Jim Sorokes** became a Licensed Lay Minister at Olean First Baptist Church upon the recommendation of the Diaconate and the Advisory Council and the approval of the congregation. We extend our support and prayers to Jim in his walk and service to the Lord.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 25: Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference Ladies Salad Luncheon with Guest Speaker Sarah Harnisch, Family Life Ministries

October 31: Harvest Party
November 7-9: ABC/NYS Youth Convention



CONGRATS!!

Jonah Rosel was awarded the Olean First Baptist Church College Scholarship on Sunday, June 29. Jonah graduated in June from Olean High School and is attending SUNY Fredonia.

THANK YOU'S

I can't thank you enough for a lifetime of endless love, support, and prayers. I am very honored to be the first recipient of the Olean First Baptist Church Scholarship. It will be used toward my tuition and fees as I am attending SUNY Fredonia. Once again, I thank you all. I wouldn't be the man I am without Olean First Baptist Church. Love, Jonah D. Rosel



Thank you so very much for your faithfulness to the homeless. We ask for continued prayers for our participants. On behalf of the people who benefit from your generosity....Thank you!

Linore Lounsbury, Genesis House

Thank you to all the people who helped make this year's Vacation Bible Camp a success. It was a great experience for everyone and we couldn't have done it without your help!!



Thank you to all the people who helped our young people collect over \$1100 to support their programming! Special thanks to Cheri O'Dell and Casey DeGroff for all the time and effort they donated to this project!

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The Pink Envelopes in the pew racks are for donations to the DIACONATE FELLOWSHIP FUND which offers financial support to our members with extreme needs. Donations may be made in any amount... at any time...and are very much appreciated!!

FROM YOUR DIACONATE

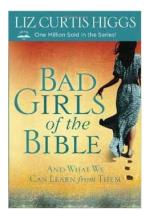
The Diaconate Board will resume monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 16 @ 6:30 pm.



World Communion Sunday is October 5. Not only will communion be served in our church, but

Diaconate members and Pastor Dan will be serving communion to our homebound and nursing home members.

A LADIES BIBLE STUDY FEATURING "BAD GIRLS OF THE BIBLE AND WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM" by Liz Curtis Higgs begins



Monday, October 6 @ 7 PM. Ten of the Bible's best-known femmes fatales parade across the pages of *Bad Girls of the Bible* with situations that sound oh-so-familiar. Eve had food issues. Potiphar's Wife and Delilah had man trouble. Lot's Wife and Michal couldn't let go of the past, Sapphira couldn't let go of money, and Jezebel couldn't

let go of anything. Yet the Woman at the Well had her thirst quenched at last, while **Rahab** and the Sinful Woman left their sordid histories behind. Let these Bad Girls show you why studying the Bible has never been more fun A Novel Approach to Bible **Study**....More than one million readers have already taken a walk on the wild side with Former Bad Girl Liz Curtis Higgs and her eye-opening blend of contemporary fiction and biblical commentary. Laced with humor, solid research, and heartfelt selfdisclosure, Liz's unique brand of girlfriend theology has helped women of all ages experience God's grace anew. "When she was perfect, beautiful, and innocent, I found no toehold where I could connect with Eve. When she was tempted by her flesh, humbled by her sin, and redeemed by her God, I could sing out, 'Oh, sister Eve! Can we talk?"from Bad Girls of the Bible!

Books which include discussion questions and study guide are \$13 ea. and will be ordered September 15.

Call the church office @ 372-5151 to sign up! Location will be determined by the size of the group.



Part of what it means to be a follower of Christ is to share the good news of Jesus not only in your neighborhood but also around the world. Each year, the World Mission Offering (WMO) provides an opportunity to understand what is happening worldwide through the International Ministries (IM) and to support those important mission efforts.

During worship in the month of October, we will gain information about WMO using the theme of the Macedonian Vision in Acts 16—and how this vision is alive even today through International Ministries (IM) in Macau, in China and all over the world.

We will celebrate how our WMO gifts make possible the ministries of 109 long-term IM missionaries and more than 1,800 short-term missionaries and volunteers. They, along with more than 200 partner organizations, work in more than 70 countries in:

- ♥ Evangelism
- Health and Healing
- Anti-Human Trafficking
- **▼** Theological Education
- **♥** Economic Development
 - **♥** Education
 - Peace and Refuge

We believe that when we **Rise to the Challenge**, God will lead us to provide increased support for our worldwide missions. Our 2014 WMO goal is \$1,500. Please join us as we gain deeper understanding of International Ministries and are blessed through our giving to WMO.

The Board of Christian Missions



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Randy Samuelson
- 2 Shelly Woods
- 4 Jodie Martin Rachel Green
- Sharyn Garey HornburgElise KatzensteinQuinn Covington
- 8 Dave Anderson Matthew Buckley Paul Geise
- 14 Hannah Collins
- 19 Larry Selph I
- 20 Louise Croft
- Sheila FauldsAshley Putt
- 23 Cheyenne Peck
- 24 Molly DiCapua John Garey
- 25 Lisa Hennig
- 27 Sheila Milton
- 28 Donna Buckley
- 29 Linda Kennemuth



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4 Paul & Jamie Geise12 Jim & Yvonne Perry Clark16 Paul & Lindsay Cummings



Please let us know in the office when you plan to fly south for the winter months so that you'll continue to receive your church mailings and we won't incur fees for returned mail.

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ARTICLES AND INFORMATION
ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 11
FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF
AT FIRST BAPTIST

