



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



Almost 2,000 years ago, the Apostle Paul saw a vision of a man saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

Today, that same call is being echoed all over the world—from Myanmar and Brazil to South Africa and Macau. People are crying out for the hope and light of the gospel in a world darkened by sin.

Just as Paul and his fellow believers immediately looked for ways to respond to his God-given vision, International Ministries needs YOUR immediate and ongoing help to respond to the urgent call to preach the gospel.

That's why we're counting on your prayerful, generous support of the 2014 World Mission Offering.

IM's response to Macau: A modern-day translation of Acts 16

The materials in this Guide offer you a powerful means to **inform** your church about the urgent spiritual needs around the world and to vividly **demonstrate** a God-honoring biblical response.

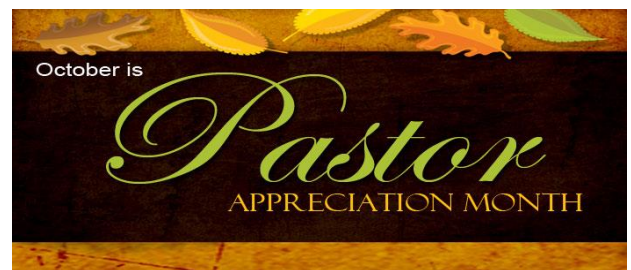
Worldwide mission requires your response

With God's help—and your support through the World Mission Offering—116 International Ministries global staff members are opening new doors and changing lives!

When you give generously to the World Mission Offering, it plays a vital role in sending out missionaries and development workers all over the world.

Join us in praying that people will **come** to Christ, **grow** in their relationships with God and **change** their worlds through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you in advance for your prayerful and generous support of the **World Mission Offering!**



During the month of October, we will be celebrating Pastor Dan and Pastor Millard and saying "Thank You" for all that they do for our church family.

Special Appreciation Calendars have been created to offer individual opportunities for members to remember our pastors in special ways each day of the month of October. This can be in the way of prayers, cards, gifts, words of appreciation, etc.

Following worship on Sunday, October 5, we are planning to dedicate the ornamental trees that were purchased last year in honor of our pastors. The trees were planted earlier this year at the south-east corner of the property ...just outside the offices.

On October 12 we'll be paying tribute to Pastor Dan during worship; we'll honor Pastor Millard individually on October 19. Card baskets will be available those mornings if you would like to offer your appreciation in that way.

You'll especially want to plan to be here on October 26 when our Fellowship Committee will be offering an extended fellowship time in honor of our pastors following worship.

Of course, you are encouraged to find your own ways to express your appreciation to Pastor Dan and Pastor Millard. They give SO MUCH to all of us....let's be sure to give this year's Pastor Appreciation Month our best effort.



IS GOD CALLING YOU TO HELP OUT IN NICARAGUA? The American Baptist Churches of New York State are sponsoring a **10-day mission project April 10-19, 2015** to help provide safe water and a sanitation program

to rural communities in Nicaragua. The total budget per person (including transportation, room, board, logistics and project contribution) is \$1450. Pastor Dan, Val Nolan and Donna DeLong have signed on so far. If you would like to join this endeavor, a \$200 deposit is needed. Dr. Martinez, the Nicaraguan physician who will be the team leader for this, will be joining us for worship and a luncheon following Sunday School on October 5 to give us more details. Join us!

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6 is World Communion Sunday. Members of the Diaconate will serve home communion to the shut-ins and those in nursing homes.



RETIREES LUNCHEON

Pastor Dan is inviting any and all retirees 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 good fellowship. Transportation 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 office by Thursday, October 10, if you would like to attend. A flu shot clinic will also be held in fellowship hall that day; come and enjoy lunch and fellowship...and knock out that nasty flu bug at the same time!!



The 2015 Nominating Committee has begun the process of electing candidates to our Boards and Committees. ***Opportunities Abound!!*** Please prayerfully consider how you can use your spiritual gifts and talents to be of service to our Lord in 2015.

Answer "YES" to the call!!

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

Martin Luther King

Committee: Matt Sage, Terri McDowell, Chris Rosel, Jim Kirkpatrick, Penny Sorokes, Chairman



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

- **PASTOR CHIP INGRAM** will be the speaker at a **FREE EVENT** at FLM in Bath on Tuesday, October 21 @ 7 PM. Registration is required. You can call Family Life at 1-800-927-9083 or call the church office for assistance.
- Family Life's Performing Arts Department will present **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** at this Dinner Theater on Sat. Dec. 6. Tickets are \$33.50 and include a buffet style dinner. Doors open at 5:45 pm. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call to church office to register. Payments are due at the time of registration. Tickets will be ordered soon to get the best seats available.
- **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES PRESENTS FERNANDO ORTEGA** on February 14 at the ministry headquarters in Bath, NY. This event is a dinner/concert beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$33.50 each; a table of 8 pays \$30 ea. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office to order tickets. You can also register at www.flm.org or by calling 1-800-927-9083.

Family of God

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Jonah Rosel
SUNY FREDONIA
306 Chautauqua Hall
280 Central Ave.
Fredonia, NY 14063

Brian Sanders
129 S. Third St. #2
Olean, NY 14760
585-403-2612

Leroy* and Victoria* Lovell
301 W. Henley St. Apt. 205
Olean, NY 14760
585-981-0184
585-378-0881

Rev. Malcolm Shotwell
2521 Lindbergh Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
172-546-3422

Laverne Shotwell
Saith Joseph's Home Room 221
3306 South Sixth St.
Springfield, IL 62703

THANK YOU'S

Thank you for your generous gift of \$792.00 (Easter Offering). Donations such as yours enable Genesis House to continue ministering to temporarily homeless people.

~Linore Lounsberry, Director

I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards during my absence from church and for the many prayers said for me. Thank you also to Pastor Millard and Pastor Dan for their visits.

~Joan Mitchell

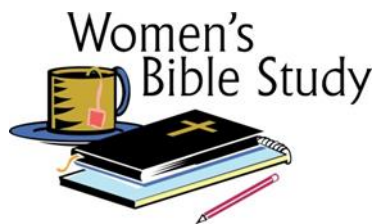


STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

COMMITMENT SUNDAY
is October 5.

Remember to turn in your pledge card.

May God Find Us Faithful



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The Ladies' afternoon Bible

Study resumed at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10. The group is studying Angels and is led by Rita Wymer. All ladies are welcome.....Come and join us!



OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

The monthly Board meetings will be held on
Monday, October 13, the Board of Christian

Education will meet at 6 PM

Tuesday, October 14, using the following schedule:

5:30 Board of Christian Missions

6:00 Diaconate Dinner/Meeting

7:00 Board of Missions; Trustees



The Pastor Will Be Away

Pastor Dan will be on vacation beginning October 30. He will return to the office on November 10. If you have any pastoral care needs, please call Pastor Millard or your Diaconate Care Giver.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

If you've had an important event in your life such as a birth, death, wedding, or an accomplishment, or if you can provide an update to a prayer concern, please let us know in the church office. The staff tries to watch for notices in the newspaper but we don't always catch all of them. We like to acknowledge everyone's special moments but we need your help to make sure that we have the correct information. It is also imperative that you let us know when you or a loved one are going to be in the hospital and would like to be visited. Current privacy laws make it difficult to know who is hospitalized.

IRON SHARPENS IRON

**THE "IRON
SHARPENS
IRON" MEN'S
EQUIPPING
CONFERENCE"**
will be held in
Buffalo on Sat., Oct.
25. Keynote
speakers include

Bryan Carter and Ted DiBiase. Rev. Bryan L. Carter has been the Senior Pastor at Concord Church of Dallas, TX since 2003. Ted DiBiase is a Hall Of Fame professional wrestler, best known as the villainous "Million Dollar Man" of the World Wrestling Federation. Ted is now a full time evangelist and motivational speaker, speaking to church congregations, youth groups, men's meetings, corporate businesses, and in public schools and universities all over the world. The cost is \$65/person including the ticket and travel. Sign up on the bulletin insert or talk with Pastor Dan to register.

"As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another."

-Proverbs 27:17



**WOMEN
OF FAITH
2015**

*You are seen. You are known. You are free.
Connect with a community of women that gets what
you're going through . . . and with the God who
loves you more than you know.*

Our Women of Faith Conference trip next year will be a bit more of an adventure as we will be traveling to Philadelphia PA on August 28-29 for the **Loved** Conference. We have purchased a block of 30 tickets on the floor of the arena (great seats!). Twenty (20) of those seats are available for purchase at \$65 each....a deeply discounted price! Fourteen ladies have already expressed an interest in those tickets. A minimum deposit of \$30 is required to reserve a ticket; the balance of \$35 will be due by January 1.

Full payment at registration is appreciated if possible. If you haven't made a deposit – you don't have a ticket!

The other ten (10) seats are for the purpose of outreach to women who have not attended a conference before or maybe don't even know Jesus. Those tickets will be offered at a further discount or possibly as gifts.

The cost of travel and hotel will be available soon. If you are age 18+ and interested in reserving a ticket or would like more information, please call me at 372-6379 or 372-5151. We would **LOVE** to have **you** join us!!

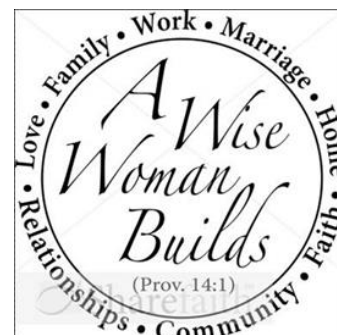
~Penny

LADIES: YOU ARE INVITED TO A SALAD LUNCHEON ON AT NOON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25.

Bring your favorite salad to share.....
and the recipe!!

Sarah Harnisch, Morning News Anchor at Family Life Network, will be joining us again as our guest speaker. Sarah and her family have had quite a year! She will be sharing a very special journey that she and her family have been on recently with their oldest son, Gabe. You won't want to miss her moving testimony, our time of fellowship and all of the delicious salads!! We'll have some time to enjoy each other as we share some fellowship, food and fun!

Sign up on the bulletin insert during Sunday worship or call the church office at 372-5151 by October 19. A love offering will be collected to thank Sarah for her time with us.





FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

For logistical reasons I am writing this article earlier than I normally would. It is mid-September as I sit at my computer. Rally Day just occurred and we are getting ready to begin the 2015 stewardship campaign. Meanwhile, I am in the midst of a 3-part series on the mission of our congregation and the Nominating Committee recently met to begin their annual recruitment process. We have a lot of balls in the air right now and things aren't going to let up anytime soon. In just a few weeks the choir will start rehearsing the Christmas cantata and boards will start crunching numbers for next year's budget.

As I have mentioned many times over the years, fall is my favorite time. I love the weather, the beauty of the turning leaves, football season and the prelude to the wonderful holiday season that is just around the corner. If I am lucky I can get out on my motorcycle a few more times before the snow starts falling and I can enjoy the beauty of the mountains that surround us. But it is also a bittersweet time as the trees grow bare and the warm weather leaves us (as do our "snowbirds").

We often refer to our church as a family. Truly I can't think of a better description for our congregation. Families are tied together by a common heritage and birthright. Even when there are issues of disagreement in a family, the bond between us remains unbroken because (as the saying goes) "You can pick your friends but you cannot pick your family". They are who they are. Even when we don't spend time with family members they still remain our brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins, don't they? Family members are a part of us.

Perhaps that is why Paul used the metaphor of Christ's body to describe the church. Each member as an organ, playing our individual parts to contribute to the health of the whole. No limb or organ is disposable. Some are more prominent or visible than others but all suffer if any cease to function.

Recently my knee stiffened up on me (probably due to over-stressing it during several full days of football officiating). At this point I don't know if it is permanently damaged or if it will improve with rest and proper attention. Either way, I know that right now I can't get around as well as I should, especially if I sit still for more than a few minutes at a time and give it time to stiffen up again.

I can't do what I need to do as fluently or productively because one joint in my body is

disfunctional. It's not a good situation but it could be a lot worse. Some of my friends have had chronic knee issues to the point that they have had to have them replaced. I don't see that on the horizon yet.

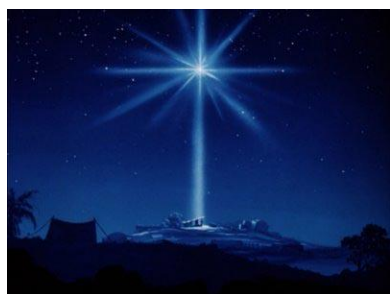
Not long ago, a very prominent, long-time member of the church came to my office to express his concerns about the overall vitality of our congregation. Those concerns were not misplaced. They are not unique to our congregation by any stretch – and in fact I would contend that we are doing far better than most in the climate that surrounds us – but there is no denying the fact that comparatively speaking our numbers (in terms of attendance and in terms of our giving) are not what they once were.

There is an old truism, "We count people because people count." I believe in that saying; which is why you find the attendance and giving figures listed in the bulletin every Sunday. At the same time, it should not be news to us to recognize that far fewer people live in our community than was the case 30 years ago and far more churches are here to serve that reduced population. Why is that the case?

New churches spring up because people are looking for something different than the status quo. We can argue whether that hunger is healthy or not, but it is hard to deny that the hunger is there.

Traditions are important in family life. They are an expression of the history, heritage and legacy that binds us together. They should not be easily discarded. Our congregation has some sacred traditions such as the Christmas and Easter cantatas, monthly communion services, the radio broadcast and hymns sung to an organ. Some of those traditions have compromised over the years in various ways. The radio broadcast is now tape-delayed rather than live. We sometimes sing choruses to guitar music as well as the organ and piano. Sometimes we do a cantata on Christmas Eve, sometimes it is on the Sunday before that. Is this enough?

That is the question that is constantly before us. We are a family... a family with traditions and a treasured history of more than 180 years in our community. But the world around us is changing. It is said that "Methods are many; principles are few. Methods may change but principles never do." So the question we must grapple with is this: ***What methods can we and should we adapt in order to carry out the mission of "Sharing the faith, hope and redeeming love of Jesus Christ with all people." How do we go about "Striving to be the church of Jesus Christ where every member is a minister?"*** Ultimately we have to realize that procreation is the most vital function of a family. If that doesn't happen, our legacy fades into history. ~Pastor Dan



CHRISTMAS RHAPSODY A Special Christmas Experience

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PRACTICES BEGIN OCT. 9

CHRISTMAS. The countdown seems to start earlier every year. But this countdown has nothing to do with shopping days! This year the Sr. Choir will get an early start on Christmas cantata preparation to avoid the mad rush in December. So, we will begin our countdown of rehearsals on Thursday, Oct. 9th, to prepare our musical celebration of the Christmas story.

If you've ever thought it would be fun to sing with the choir at Christmas, this is the year to try it! The Senior Choir wants to invite YOU to join other 'seasonal singers' Thursday nights at 7 pm. If you have any questions talk to Sue or a choir member this week!!



Often times in my life I come to spots in the road where I just don't know which way to turn. I have a great desire to know God's will for my life at

those times. Those of us who love the Lord, know that our true joy and peace lies in the very center of His will for our lives. Therefore, it is of prime importance that I be willing to seek out what that will is for my life at this time. This will involve several things. Prayer and Bible study are key for by them we speak to God and God speaks to us. God will never lead us contrary to the Word of God but we must truly be willing to open ourselves before God if we are to be led by Him. This is what David learned as he penned Psalms 139, look at the last two verses of the chapter.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

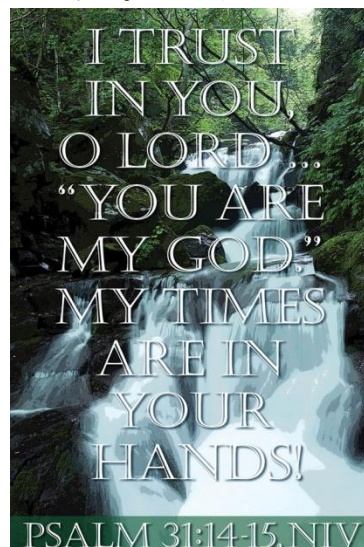
Here is a good man, a man after God's own heart, who desires to be led but he starts with "search me". For you see, a good man's desire to know the worst of himself. He is saying, "Lord, I hope I am not in a wicked way, but if there be any wicked way in me, any corrupt inclination remaining; let me see it; and root it out of me for I do not allow it."

So as I face a decision I find that if I truly desire God's will I must choose to allow Him to search my heart. What are motives in this project or problem? Am I seeking my glory or His? Will this bring eternal rewards or only temporary joy? These are questions that all too often I don't really want to ask. Like many of you I allow my will to become more important than God's plan. But in truth my heart, mind and soul needs to be searched before I can hear from God. In that searching process He will tell me things that must be done before I can go any further. First get a right heart; then you will be able to listen with a right ear.

Not only does he search me, but he also tries me. David is saying test me. This goes against our nature in a big way. I don't like tests or trials and I am sure that there are not many who do. Yet, I have learned that not all tests are to be feared. When we have prepared and are ready, the test can bring great satisfaction as we pass with flying colors. Many of us have learned from experience that the testing times are growing times. Therefore, as I grow closer to Christ it is easier for Him to lead me.

Are you seeking His will today? Be open before Him and allow God to reveal anything in your life that maybe hindering you from His will. Then expect a test to see if you are ready to move on to the next step in the life God has planned for you.

~Pastor Millard

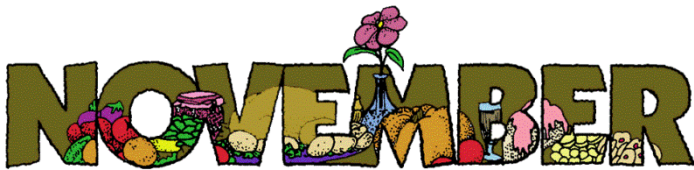


YOUTH AND CHILDREN



October 31st
6:00 – 7:30 PM
In the Fellowship Hall
Fun, games and candy!

Sunday Mornings
there will be a barrel in the foyer
to receive donations of
wrapped candy
for our Harvest Party.
Thank you for helping with this event!



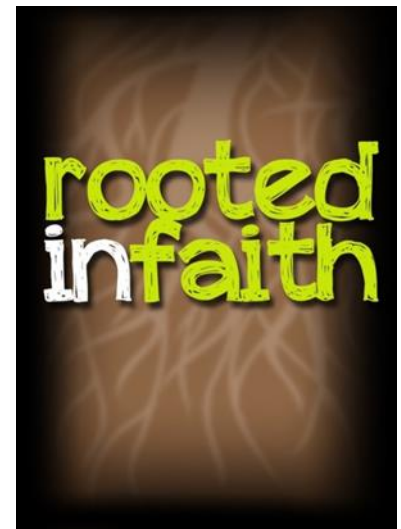
Coming Up in November:

- ❖ The American Baptist Youth Convention will be held in Syracuse on November 7-9 for grades 7-12.
- ❖ A Veteran's Day Breakfast will be held at FBC for veterans, their families, etc. on November 11. Any veteran and spouse will receive a FREE breakfast, with donations accepted from families and others attending. These donations will be used to benefit Veterans in some way.
- ❖ Giving Thanks Dinner Nov. 22 – 6 p.m.
- ❖ Hanging of the Greens Nov. 22
- ❖ Community Thanksgiving Service – Nov. 23 @ United Pentecostal Church

AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH (ABY) CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 7-9

Last year most of our teens attended the ABY Convention in Syracuse and were greatly blessed by the experience. This event, which cost \$150 each to attend, offers opportunities for worship, small and large group sessions, workshops, an "International Carnival" and several meals. The Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn in Syracuse.



Nate Maxfield will be the musician and worship leader for the convention and David Hertweck will be the keynote speaker. Workshops will be held to allow students to explore a variety of different topics and small groups will give participants the chance to discuss scripture passages with their peers. The registration fee covers lodging for both nights, both evening meals and all program costs. This event is for students in grade 7-12 and young adults up to age 22. See Pastor Bruce if you are interested.

"And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6





- 2 Matthew Kirkwood
- Robert Woods
- 3 Janice Collins
- 5 Larry Nenno
- 6 Pam Wynn
- 7 Sue Chiapuso
- Carl Park Samuelson
- 8 Leroy Lovell
- 11 Gayle Rockey Peterson
- 15 Jessie Selph
- 19 Aaron Geise
- 20 Joan Mitchell
- Lucas O'Dell
- 21 Grace Thurston
- 22 Maunie Ketchner
- 23 Ken Boser II
- 26 Willie Anderson
- 28 Debbie McDowell
- 30 Jerry Nutt Sr.
- Gen Rinus
- 31 Logan Funden



- 4 Willie & Sheila Milton
- Ken & June Wallace



**Monday thru
Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays
Morning devotions
Approximately**

9:30-10:00 a.m. There is no secretarial staff on Mondays. The pastor's schedule can sometimes be unpredictable due to visitations, emergencies, etc. If you stop by and find "nobody home", we ask for your patience and understanding. We will do our best to be here during posted office hours.

**Articles and Information for the
November issue of
At First Baptist
are due by October 16.
The Newsletter Committee
will meet on Tuesday,
October 28,
to prepare the paper
for mailing**

