



Sharing the faith, hope and redeeming love of Jesus Christ with all people.

AT FIRST BAPTIST

DAN MCDOWELL
Senior Pastor

MILLARD COOK
Asst. Pastor Senior/Adult
Ministries

SUE NEELY VANBRUNT
Minister of Music

BRUCE LAVERTY
Director of Family Ministries

ROBERT FAULDS
Organist

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

MICKI ELLIS
Audio Visual Specialist

GERALD NUTT
Custodian

2015 MEN'S CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED AT FBC!!

On Friday and Saturday, February 20-21, First Baptist will once again host the community Christian Men's Conference. This year the keynote speaker will be former Pro Wrestler Ted Dibiase ("The Million Dollar Man"). The theme for our gathering will be "Striving to be Champions". The conference will kick off with a wild-game chili dinner on Friday night at 6:00 followed by our opening worship gathering with Mr. Dibiase.



TED DIBIASE

The conference will resume on Saturday morning with a continental breakfast and opening worship. Several workshop options will be offered in the morning and lunch will be served at noon. After lunch our closing worship gathering will once again feature a message by Ted Dibiase.

On Saturday evening at 7:00 Epic Church (meeting in the former IJN school building) will host a family rally where Ted Dibiase will once again bring a message geared for the entire household.

Cost of the conference is to be determined, but it is likely to be in the \$30 range and will include dinner on Friday as well as breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturday. Organizers are seeking sponsorship

donations as well as donations of venison and other wild game meats for Friday's dinner. Please see Pastor Dan if you can help.



ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING TO BE HELD JANUARY 18

As required by our Constitution and By-Laws, the congregation will gather after worship on Sunday, January 18 to go over the reports of all the church staff members as well as our boards and committees and to pass a budget for 2015. A quorum of 50 active members is required to carry out these procedures and we need your input, so please make your best effort to join us.



During Worship on January 25, we'll celebrate the dedication and ministries of our non-pastoral staff members. Our Fellowship Committee will provide a special fellowship time following worship in honor of our staff. Please be sure to join us in worship that morning and take this opportunity to thank each of them for their service to our church and God's Kingdom.

The Family of God



We extend our **LOVE AND SYMPATHY** to Jean Kwiatkowski on the loss of her mother, Ollene Smith; to Molly DiCapua on the loss of her brother, Mel Follett;

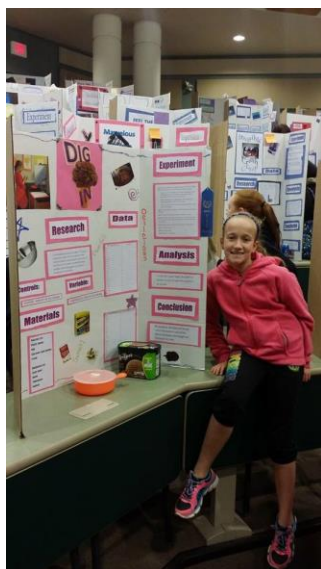
to June Turek, Jeanette & Matt Butler, and James and Shawn VanBrunt on the loss of June's mother, Evelyn Turek; to Ted and Nan Norton on the loss of their nephew, John Whitney; and to Nancy Lennon on the passing of her mother, Hazel Spanneut.



of beloved members of our church family who went home to be with their Lord in 2014:

- ♥ Helen Babcock
- ♥ Barbara Brookins
- ♥ Anne Garey
- ♥ JoAnn Mazza
- ♥ Betty Morrill
- ♥ Clarence Spiller

CONGRATULATIONS!!



To **Maddie Geise** for placing first with her exhibit at the recent Science Fair! Maddie made her own chocolate ice cream, bought some from the store, and then had people taste to see if they could tell which was store bought. Maddie is the 10 yr. old daughter of Jason and Caity Davenport; granddaughter of Paul and Jamie Geise.

To **Sue Chiapuso** upon her retirement from Dresser-Rand on January 9 after 42 years of service.



On Sunday, December 7, we extended the Right Hand of Christian Fellowship to Bill and Julie Harrison, Tim Sherlock, Samantha Wolters, and Deb Wuethrich. May God bless your journey as you continue your walk of faith here at First Baptist.



THANK YOU'S.....

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers, to the Fellowship Committee, and to the pastoral and church staff for everything during the memorial process for Clarence. Everyone was so thoughtful and kind. ~Gloria Spiller and family

Thank yo for collecting and donating 114 lbs of food recently. ~Olean Food Pantry

To my friends at First Baptist Church – Thank you for the prayers, cards and love extended to me at the passing of my brother, Mel Follett. ~Molly DiCapua

EASTER DINNER COORDINATORS NEEDED!

Judy Whiteman, who has served as the director of the annual Community Easter Dinner since its inception in 2008, is no longer able to serve in that capacity. We are seeking people who are willing to serve as coordinators of the following efforts:

- Promotion and advertising
- Food gathering, cooking and serving
- Decorations and set-up for those "dining in".
- Organization of deliveries and take-outs
- Clean-up efforts after the meal

If you are willing to coordinate any of those 5 effort areas please contact the church office as soon as possible!

RADIO MINISTRY

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry at Olean First Baptist by sponsoring a \$45 radio broadcast in 2014, please telephone the church office at 372-5151 for available dates. This is such a nice way to honor or remember someone on a special occasion.

THANK YOU TO BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We extend our thanks and appreciation to the following members who have completed their terms on their respective boards and committees:

Moderator: Jim Sorokes
Assistant Moderator: David Torrey
Board of Christian Education: Micki Ellis
Board of Christian Missions: Terri McDowell, Donna DeLong
Diaconate: Ken Boser, Brian Sanders, Gail Crowley, Geoff O'Dell, Penny Sorokes
Trustees: Matt Sage, Jim Sorokes, Val Kane
Memorial Committee: Sandy Schultz
Music Committee: Pam Nutt, Maunie Ketchner
Pastoral Relations Committee: Donna DeLong, Faith Boyce
Ushers: Cari Matejka, Dana Boser, Ken Boser II, Frank Sherry, Jodie Martin, Brian Sanders
Nominating Committee: , Jim Sorokes, Moderator Val Kane, Sandy Schultz, Brian Sanders, Chris Rosel, Donna DeLong

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

The world-wide Week of Christian Unity is celebrated in Olean with a "Christian Unity Service every year. This year the service (sponsored by the Greater Olean Association of Churches) will be held at 3 PM on January 25 at the First Presbyterian Church, 212 Laurens Street in Olean. Pastor Wesley Gilbert of Rock of Revelation Church will be the keynote speaker. A highlight of this service is the presentation of the annual "Ecumen Award" by the GOAC. This year it will be given posthumously to Dr. John Whitney for his great musical contributions to the ecumenical efforts in Olean. His widow, Kim Whitney will accept the award on his behalf.

COMMUNITY MEETING @ FBC TUES. JANUARY 27 @ 7 PM

Recently, we hosted a community meeting featuring Mayor Bill Aiello, GOACC CEO Larry Sorokes, and Police Chief Jeff Rowley. The meeting was well-received and suggestions were made to continue discussions at future meetings. On January 27, we'll again offer the opportunity to hear from community leaders – this time featuring Olean School Superintendent Colleen Tagerty and possibly superintendents from other area schools. Previous speakers will be invited to join us again. Please come hear from our leaders..... and let them hear from you!

2015 OFFICERS ELECTED

The 2014 Annual Congregational/Corporate Meeting of the Olean First Baptist Church was held December 7, 2014 for the election of 2015 officers with Moderator Jim Sorokes presiding. Those elected include: **Moderator:** David Torrey; **Assistant Moderator:** Open; **Church Clerk:** Penny Sorokes; **Assistant Church Clerk-** Casey DeGroff; **Trustees:** Jim Sorokes, Val Kane, Dick Payne; **Diaconate:** Maunie Ketchner*, Mary Ellen Olson*, Gayle Rockey*, Nan Torrey*, Heather Schultz, Deb Wuethrich, Ken Boser II, Brian Sanders, Geoff O'Dell; **Board of Education:** Terri McDowell*, Valerie Nolan*, Laurie MacNeill*, Darlene Selph, Micki Ellis; **Board of Missions:** Jean Kwiatkowski, Nancy Taylor; **Communications Committee:** Vi Pettigrew, Pauline Glenn, Gwen Tyler, Pat Sherry, Paul Geise, Dave Anderson, Darlene Selph, Micki Ellis, Chris Rosel; **Memorial Committee:** Sandy Schultz; **Music Committee:** Yvonne Perry Clark, Matt Sage; **Pastoral Relations:** Donna DeLong, Faith Boyce; **Ushers:** Dana Boser, Ken Boser II, Jodie Martin, Val Kane; **Fellowship Committee:** Nancy Taylor, Nan Torrey, Maunie Ketchner, Jean Kwiatkowski, Rita Wymer, Lindsay Cummings, Faith Boyce, Cheri O'Dell, Gail Crowley, Becky Peck **Nominating Committee:** Dave Torrey – Assistant Moderator, Penny Sorokes – Diaconate, Terri McDowell – Board of CM, Chris Rosel & Micki Ellis – Board of CE, Matt Sage – Trustees, Jim Kirkpatrick – At Large

(*Filling unexpired terms)



More than 30 years ago, the SOUPER BOWL OF CARING began with a simple prayer. "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Our teens

will partner with the Mission Board to promote this and place labeled boxes in the church foyer on Sunday, February 1. Thank you for sharing your blessing by your continued support of this important project. Proceeds will go to the Olean Food Pantry.





During the long winter months, remember the special blessing of our home-bound and shut-in members and friends. Take time to make their days special with a visit, card, or phone call.

Jim Bartlett

350 Front St. # 202, Olean 397-1739

Jack & Louise Croft: 1304 Old Rock City Rd.
Olean 372-7764

John Garey: 525 E. Spring St. Olean 372-8228

Dave Hollander*: ECMC Long Term Care – Naval Unit, 462 Grider St. Buffalo, NY 14215

June Heineman: 331 Tompkins St. Olean 372-1180

June Hill: 610 King St. Olean 372-4264

Glenn Lowe: 1721 Goodrich Ave. Olean 372-8450

Jim Molyneaux 05B3258
CCF-Main
P.O. Box 2001
Dannemora, NY 12929-2001

John & Marilyn Piepho: 1979 Dugan Rd. Olean 373-7554

Jerry Reynolds: The Ranch @ Cedar Park; 1301 W. Whitestone Blvd; Apt 137; Cedar Park, TX 78613 512-230-4135 jereyolds84@gmail.com

Gen Rinus: 210 N. 19th St. Olean 372-5479

Marian Voigt: 1120 Promised Land Rd. Olean 372-0915

Ken & June Wallace: 1229 Plum St. Olean 372-6090

Harriett Wilday: 2744 Olean-Hinsdale Rd. Olean 372-7917

EDEN HEIGHTS
161 S. 25th St. Olean
Ethel Hopkins
Jeanne Taylor
Marie Johnson*

THE PINES - MACHIAS
9822 Rte 16 Machias 14101
Gloria Button

WELLSVILLE MANOR
4192A Bolivar Rd.
Wellsville 14895
Ruth Osgood



BEING MORTAL

Normally I try to do a devotional in this column. However, this month I would like to do a book review. The book is entitled “Being Mortal” written by Atul Gawande M.D.

The author is a surgeon at Brigham and Woman's Hospital in Boston. Part of what makes this book so interesting and amazing is that is coming from the perspective of the health care provider. He will tell you that his training and the mind-set of the medical care field in general was to extend life at all costs. Yet, his personal experiences with friends, family and patients has taught him the value of the patient's choice as to just how much treatment is enough.

The book reads quickly as you will be led through several real cases and the end of life choices that they were faced with. Each will bring you to grips with many life lessons that we often try to ignore. However the reality is we will either make these choices in advance or we will force them upon someone else to make for us later.

This book will have you answer a few basic questions as to your priorities in life. Questions like: What is your understanding of the situation and its potential outcomes? What are your fears and what are your hopes? What are the trade-offs you are willing to make and not willing to make? And what is the course of action that best serves this understanding?

The book is designed to help both doctors and patients ask the right questions and seek the best possible course of action when we know that there is no good or perfect solution. It will teach people how to stay in their homes and be independent for as long as possible. When steps of care are needed how to align the care to allow the patient to still be himself to the greatest degree possible. For there is far more to life than being safe from falls, fed and cared for.

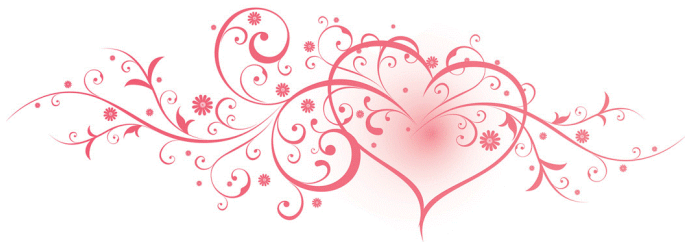
I would recommend this book to one and all. And hopefully it will spur conversation with your loved ones as to just what your goals are.

~Pastor Millard



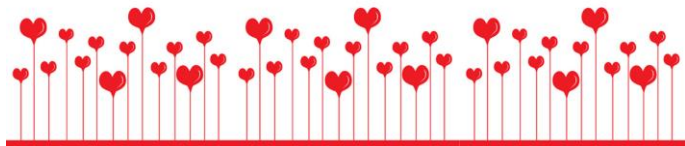
FBC Ladies – You are invited to join us on Saturday, February 7, @ 10 a.m. as we celebrate ways to show our Christian love to members of our church family and to the world. We’ll share a time of devotions and prayer, make valentines to send to our shut-in members, and (of course!) enjoy good food!! Rita Wymer will also be here to teach us how to make and roll White Cross bandages which will be sent to _____.

Wear something red and join us for this fun time together. Register on the bulletin insert or call the church office at 372-5151 by Feb. 1.



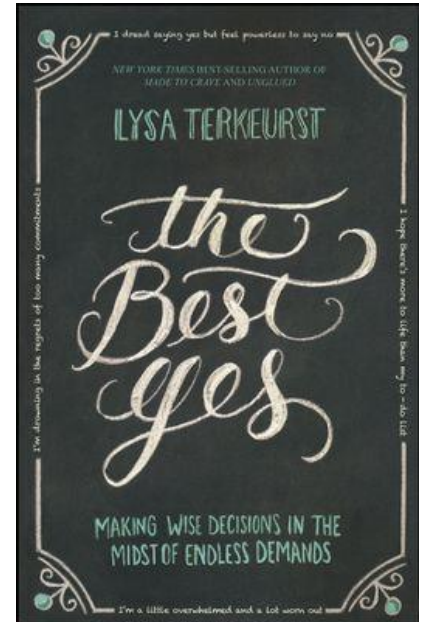
RETIRES LUNCHEON WITH PASTOR DAN

Pastor Dan is inviting any and all retirees of our church to a luncheon on Monday, **February 16** 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, February 12, if you would like to attend.



LADIES SPRING BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MON., APRIL 13 @ 6:30 P.M.

Having trouble deciding which situations deserve a "yay" and which a "nay?" Are you living with the stress of an overwhelmed schedule and aching with the sadness of an underwhelmed soul? Most of us spend a lot of our lives figuring out when to say yes and how to say no. But we don't find space for our souls until we learn to step past the yes and no of daily decisions and seek out a third option: The Best Yes.



The Best Yes is the choice that shapes all our other choices. It's what allows us to play our necessary parts in God's plan, to spend our energy and focus our passion on the assignments that really are ours. Too many of us confuse the command to love with the disease to please.

In this six-session video-based Bible study Lysa TerKeurst shares how to make better use of the two most powerful words, yes and no. Using Biblical teaching and practical insights this study will help you be more equipped to discern the best yes answers for your life.

In *The Best Yes* Lysa will help you:

- ♥ Cure the disease to please with a biblical understanding of the command to love.
- ♥ Escape the guilt of disappointing others by learning the secret of the small no.
- ♥ Overcome the agony of hard choices by embracing a wisdom based decision-making process.
- ♥ Rise above the rush of endless demands and discover your best yes today.

Books for this study are \$10 each and will be ordered on February 24 giving you plenty of time to read the material before we start our study in April. Please register on the bulletin insert page or by calling the church office at 372-5151. Payment for the books is required before Feb. 24.



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

As I write this article we are still in the afterglow of the Christmas and New Year holidays but

by the time you read it, we will be just a month away from the beginning of Lent (which starts on February 18).

I am currently in the midst of a sermon series on the book of Joshua but since we are putting together a January/February edition of "At First Baptist" I want to clue you in on my next series of messages, which will serve as the focus not only of our worship during Lent, but also as fodder for our Lenten study



groups. Those groups will be launched on Sunday, February 22 and will continue through Palm

Sunday. I will put together a study guide for each week, based on the scripture passage and sermon content. We will offer several opportunities (both daylight and evening) during the weeks of February 22-March 29, 2015. The dates of these messages may be subject to change depending on the date of the Easter cantata (which hasn't been fixed as yet). These are the topics:

February 22: Indestructible Hope. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

What is the result of this resurrection? What difference does it make to us? The "new birth" results in a living hope based on the living resurrected Christ.

March 1: The King is Coming. (Matthew 21:1-11)

Jesus, the Passover Lamb, heads into Jerusalem, where He initiates a massive public demonstration as He offers Himself to be King of Israel. This event is the inauguration of the Prince of Peace as King of kings.

March 8: We Would See Jesus. (John 12:20-26)

Having heard and observed, these Gentiles were attracted or drawn to Jesus & they wanted to believe in Him, they wanted to "know" Him. Jesus therefore challenges them - and us - to die that we might live.

Mar. 15: Paradoxes of the Passion (Mk 15:21-32)

To speak of the Paradoxes of the Passion is to disclose the very center of that which is the object of our faith. Paradoxes of the Passion call us to look

past the shallowness of man & see the Crucifixion of Christ from God's perspective.

March 22: Signs and Witnesses (Matt. 27:51-56)

At the moment of the Messiah's death, God provided three miraculous signs. Matthew alone records all the supernatural events that accompany Jesus' death. He also tells us of some of the people who witness the event and how some of them were affected.

After the Advent groups completed their course of study in December, I had a conversation with someone who attended one of those gatherings. This particular individual provided some interesting feedback. She said she enjoyed the devotional study we did but thought she would enjoy a future study that was focused more on the scriptures themselves rather than one author's interpretation of them. I'm not sure that this Lenten study will exactly fit that bill because the sermon series it is based on will certainly reflect my interpretation of the scriptures that I have chosen to focus on. But I plan to make every effort to open discussion beyond the interpretation I will give on Sunday mornings.

Back in the early 1990's when I was planting a church in suburban Detroit, this was the regular format we used for our only Adult Sunday School class. Actually we didn't call it "Sunday School". We called it a "Sermon Feedback Session" and it served as an opportunity to go deeper into the subject I addressed that morning, to raise questions and provide answers for things that might not have been sufficiently addressed during the sermon and to be honest with one another about things we might not totally agree on. I found it helpful in the process of getting to know the hearts and minds of people who were just starting to form relationships with one another and with the Lord. And it seemed to be a popular idea because most of the people who attended worship stayed for the feedback session while their kids attended Sunday School.

What better time than Lent to take the time to reflect on the things we are introduced to in worship? What better time could there be to invest time in one another, picking one another's brains and getting to know one another better in a small group setting?

Lent is a time for sacrifice; a time to surrender things in the spirit of our Lord's sacrifice for us on the cross. But most of all it is a time of preparation; a time to reflect on the deeper meaning of His devotion to us and how we can respond to it. Please join us!

~Pastor Dan

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Kaitlin Taylor
- Nathan Kirkwood
- 7 Bobbi Kirkwood
- 8 Jess Anderson
- 9 Francis Peck
- 11 Cari Matejka
- 17 Steve Rosel
- 20 Pam Nutt
- 22 Gaylord Sage
- 24 Gloria Spiller
- 26 Marian Voigt
- 27 Larry Firth
- 30 Lylah VanBrunt

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dave & Nan Torrey
- 19 John & Marilyn Piepho

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Megan Sorokes
- 3 Miesha Brown
- 6 Lenny Brown
- Mary Ellen Olson
- 7 Alison Kane
- 9 Darlene Selph
- 12 Dana Boser
- Sarah McDowell
- Nan Norton
- 15 Bill Harrison
- 16 Katrina DeGross
- 17 Jacob Peck
- 21 Gloria Button
- 24 Brian Sanders
- 25 Mel Cunningham
- 27 Terri McDowell
- G. Jane Robinson
- 28 Elizabeth Spiller



Articles and Information for the March issue of At First Baptist is needed in the church office Thursday, **February 13**. The Newsletter Committee will meet @ 4 PM on Tuesday, February 25 to prepare the newsletter for mailing to

homebound/shut-in members without email addresses.



February 18, 2015

**Lenten Study Groups
will be forming soon.**



Building A Team

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. - Galatians 6:2

Way up on the top of the Spanish Pyrenees Mountains lives the beautiful but elusive mountain goat. Mature mountain goats are often hunted for their coats, but it's extremely difficult to get within shooting range. Why? Because the mature goat has a companion: a young goat with good eyesight, good hearing and a good sense of smell follows it wherever it goes and sounds the warning if enemies emerge.

The rhinoceros is another magnificent animal. It can run at remarkable speeds and despite its poor eyesight, is fearless in charging its enemies. But the rhino gets help. The rhino's skin is infested with ticks, which are a delicacy to a little bird that rides on its back. The birds have keen eyesight, and when they sense danger they sound the alarm, alerting the rhino.

If you'd like to live your life in Christ to the fullest, you need to team up with others too! We weren't meant to go it alone! Choose to connect and to relate to others.

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." - Michael Jordan (1963-)