



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

MICKI ELLIS
Audio Visual Specialist

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

GERALD NUTT
Custodian



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 2** and work will begin at or around 9AM. Dave Anderson will be coordinating the efforts that day so please see Dave when you arrive and let him know what you are willing and able to do. In the event of inclement weather, we will work indoors. If the weather cooperates, we'll have teams working both indoors and outdoors. There is a lot of work to be done so we need a large number of volunteers. NOTE: Even if you cannot do manual labor, you might be able to help with delivering drinks or arranging food or getting tools or the like, so don't assume you can't help! Hope to see you on the 2nd!!



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 24, as we honor the brave men and women from our country who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. We will also be remembering our church family members who have gone home to be with the Lord through the dedication of our memorial gifts.

MOTHER'S DAY MAY 10

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 Exodus 2: 1-8 titled "The Power of a Godly Mother." 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!



MAY BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- Monday, May 11 @ 5:30 pm- Board of Christian Education
- Tuesday, May 12 @ 6 pm – Board of Christian Missions
- @ 6:30 pm – Diaconate
- @ 7 pm – Trustees

Tuesday, May 19 @ 7 pm – Advisory Council

The Family of God



We extend our Love and Sympathy to Gloria Spiller on the loss of her infant great-granddaughter on April 9.

2015 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 14 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.



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

We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and kind words after the loss of our daughter/sister Rebecca Torrey. It all meant so much to us. Our church family has really helped us through this difficult time.

~Paul and Jamie Geise
Glenn Lowe

Thank you to the person(s) who gave the Easter radio broadcast in my honor. What a nice surprise...and another indication of the thoughtfulness and generosity of this congregation!

~With gratitude, Sue Neely VanBrunt



YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH: HANNAH HOOTEN

Each month we continue to highlight various children and youth as they share their musical talents with the congregation. The **Young Musician of the Month for April** is *Hannah Hooten*. She is a homeschooled 8th grader who is fairly new to our congregation. Her musical interests include playing clarinet and piano, writing songs, and singing in Bradford's "Praise Team and Friends" community choir and in a church praise team. Hannah has been dancing since the age of 3 and enjoys choreographing. When asked what she enjoys about music she said "I love dancing to music. Music makes me feel free and relaxed. I love getting completely absorbed in it, because it feels like it's just me and Jesus...almost like I'm praying. It's a place where I can express what I'm feeling and spend time with God".

Hannah is the daughter of Michael and Corrine Hooten. We are glad she gives her talents back to the Lord and will be sharing them with us!



Pastor Dan will be on vacation May 22-30. Please contact Pastor Millard or a member of the Diaconate with any spiritual needs during the pastor's absence.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE

You will be given the opportunity contribute to Church World Service Blankets. Comfort in times of crisis. Contributions to CWS blankets mean Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement, and built viable, sustainable lives and communities. And here in the U.S., CWS Blankets provide comfort in many communities hit by disaster, and in shelters or agencies assisting those experiencing hard time.

Please consider contributing to this worthwhile project and helping to comfort others in their times of crisis. May 10 and 17 have been designated as Blanket Sundays at Olean First Baptist. Someone will be at the receptionist's desk in the lounge following worship each of those Sundays to receive your contributions. -Board of Christian Mission



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.

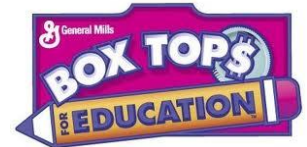


SAVE THOSE STAMPS!!

The Alliance Stamp Ministries of Florida is asking for help collecting cancelled postage stamps. They resell 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.

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.



GIVING STATEMENTS -- Our church financial secretary, Bonnie Kettle, will be issuing quarterly giving statements in the next few weeks. If you don't receive your statement by the end of May, please contact Bonnie and she will get you your summary.



CHRISTIAN CONSECRATION

Romans 12: 1-2 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

After doctrine comes duty
After revelation, responsibility
After principle, practice
The just shall LIVE.

My dictionary says consecration is the act, process, or ceremony of consecrating; the state of being consecrated. Consecrated is to be made holy; sacred or honored as holy; hallowed.

Who can be consecrated ? Only believers for he says “I beseech you...brethren” It is totally impossible to live a victorious, consecrated life for Christ without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in that life. Therefore, the first step to a consecrated life it to know that I have Christ as my personal Savior and that His Spirit dwells with in me. Romans 8:9 *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”* So all who are His has the potential and the responsibility to be consecrated.

What does it mean to be consecrated? First the body, “present your bodies”. This would encompass all the physical life.... all that we do with the body. I Cor. 6:19-20 *“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”* Here we see the body as a temple, a sacred place where God dwells; therefore nothing should defile the temple.... rather it is to bring glory to God. However, it is not only the body here spoken of, but also the mind. *“be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Paul tells us *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* (Rom.8:6). So we must change or transform our minds from the way of this world to that of the world to come. *“To set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth.”* (Col. 3:2)

How to become consecrated – We must yield. “Present” and yield have the same meaning here. Rom. 6:13 tells us not to yield to unrighteousness but to yield ourselves unto God. To yield is to voluntarily surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Too often we know what the will of God is for our life and yet we find that we must be dragged kicking and screaming before God can get us where He desires us to be. Rather the consecrated life is one that immediately sets aside any personal plans or goals and seeks only the plans and goals of God for his life. With each step of willingly presenting ourselves we become a little more “transformed”. The Holy Spirit changes our minds, attitudes and perspective of life. As Rom. 8:29 tell us *“...to be conformed to the image of his son.”* That is to be our ultimate goal.

Why we should be consecrated – Because of “mercies of God.” All that we have received in love, grace and forgiveness we are to respond in giving ourselves back to Him. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation or God's favor. But because of His love we yield to Him. And we are told that this “is your reasonable service.” Not something unusual or extraordinary but only that which is reasonable. It only makes sense that I will love and serve in return the one who loves me to such a degree.

So what area of your life do you need to yield to Christ today? Do it now that you may have peace and joy from the Lord.

~Pastor Millard



VACATION BIBLE CAMP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29-JULY 1

Mark your calendars now and spread the word! **Vacation Bible Camp** will run Monday through Wednesday from 8 am – 5 pm with the theme **GOD OF WONDERS!** Plan to join our leadership team and bring your kids, grandkids and neighbors for this exciting outreach!



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

It is my understanding that the radio broadcast of our worship services began during World War II. Gas rationing was under way and

too many of our members were finding themselves unable to get to church. Dr. Shields Hardin was the Pastor and this was perceived at the time as a temporary solution to a temporary problem. God had other ideas!

For approximately 70 years this ministry has evolved. Can you imagine the difference between the sound system and control board of the 1940's and the one that's in our "Radio Room" today? At the time we began airing our services a weekly "Religion in the News" program during the week was also sponsored. At the time AM radio was just really hitting its stride.

Of course for most of the years these broadcasts were provided live (warts and all) as they went out over the airwaves. If the services ran over (and they usually did) we either imposed on the generosity of the station airing our service to cut into their regular programming – or they cut us off.

All that changed 8 years ago when we moved our worship time to 9:30 and began a tape-delayed format for broadcast. This was done mostly to accommodate the blending of our contemporary and traditional services but it allowed our technicians in the Radio Room to clean up the broadcast, eliminate the glitches and shorten it within the allotted hour of airtime. We often pushed them to the limit, giving them less than 15 minutes to get that done before we had to go on the air.

We don't thank Paul Geise, Dave Anderson, Darlene Selph, Chris Rosel and Micki Ellis often enough for their faithful service not only with the radio broadcast but in making our worship experience as visually and audibly efficient as it is.

FM radio grew in popularity in the 1960's with a more static free, cleaner sound. Given the excellence we are known for in our congregation's music ministry, FM broadcasting has always drawn our interest but whenever we explored the possibility of moving to that side of the radio dial we found it cost prohibitive. The bargain of maintaining an hour of airtime for just \$45 a week has been hard to pass up!

Not long ago someone in leadership here suggested that it might be a good idea for me to network more with business people in our

community. Not long after that I saw an ad in the paper for a membership drive that Rotary Club was having. I decided to check it out. A few weeks later I found myself joining.

During the Christmas season the station manager for a group of FM stations known as "Colonial Radio" happened to sit next to me at a Rotary meeting. As we visited I mentioned that our services were broadcast on WOEN on Sunday mornings and that we had considered moving over to FM.

Colonial's stations include News Radio 96.7 WVTT (Voice of the Twin Tiers), BOB Hometown Country (93.9 and 103.9), Mountain 98.7 (which plays a little of everything) and EAGLE 99.1 – "America's Country". During our conversation she mentioned that she thought Colonial would be able to help us get an FM broadcast accomplished. I gave her my business card and asked her to call me after the holidays.

For the past several months we have been discussing the possibility offered to us by Colonial of moving our service over to EAGLE 99.1 FM. Paul Geise and Dave Anderson have been integral parts of those conversations with the Colonial management team. In addition we started tuning in during the week to both WOEN on the AM side and to EAGLE on the FM and comparing the quality of sound at various locations inside and outside of Olean.

Because of our long-standing (and fruitful) relationship with WOEN we also wanted to offer them the opportunity to match the offer that Colonial was providing us. Unbeknownst to us, we discovered that WOEN has a sister station in Salamanca and that they have been simulcasting our worship broadcast on that station since last December! The broadcast range of the Salamanca station is significantly larger than the Olean station, so apparently that broadcast has been covering the Bradford and Ellicottville areas for the past few months! We were impressed by that.

Unfortunately a move to WOEN's sister FM station (MIX 101.5) was not something they would consider so our choice is now clear. Either we stay with our present (though recently improved) AM broadcast or we move to a new station on the FM side. The big question is which station will serve our listeners best. I agree with those who are hesitant to sever a relationship that has served us well for 70 years but I believe this new opportunity is too good to pass up. It will increase the cost of the broadcast by \$10 per week but I think it is worth it. We will entertain further discussion on this at the congregational meeting on May 10. Please feel free to call or stop by if you have any questions.

~Pastor Dan



CLARKS FIND OFBC 'NURTURING'

By Deb Wuethrich

When Yvonne Perry Clark moved back to Olean from Louisville, Kentucky in 2000 to be closer to family, she knew she wanted to find a Bible-based church to meet her spiritual needs. "I had done some research and found the First Baptist Church online," Yvonne said. One of the first people she met was Carol Molyneaux. "She sat with me at church and just took me under her wing." Soon Yvonne was involved in the Seekers Sunday School class, serving on the Mission Board, and even joined a committee to help develop church growth.

At the same time, she was busy in her career as a counselor. One day she met James Clark over the telephone. He was a counselor for an arm of Yvonne's company based in Massachusetts, and they sometimes consulted. "We would talk, then one day we decided we would like to meet each other face-to-face," Jim said. Jim has a human services background serving individuals and families who were in crisis mode and also providing emergency support for foster care parents. He said he has many years of experience helping people through various stresses. "We knew we were both unattached and we seemed to share interests in the same things," added Yvonne, who said they both found satisfaction in helping to empower people. "We also already had a connection through our conversations."

So the couple agreed to meet in Owego, New York, each driving part way, and soon each visited the other's community. "We knew we felt an emotional connection and a spiritual connection so we kept communicating and meeting with each other," Yvonne said. "And the rest is history," Jim added.

They were married in the Portville gazebo in 2009 before family, friends and church family members. Yvonne moved to Massachusetts and counseled there until August of last year. The couple then made a decision to relocate to Olean, partly due to Jim experiencing some health issues and Yvonne knowing they'd have a support network here. "This is a permanent move," Jim said. "We both love this church, this area, the people and the culture." Both feel right at home at First Baptist. "The church is

down-to-earth and you get a one-on-one connection whether you're a stranger or brief acquaintance or have been here awhile," Jim says. "It seems you can trust people if you tell them something or if you need help, there's always someone there. That's important to us."

Yvonne says they've both been counselors for many years and realize the value of people helping people. Locally, she's also worked at the Rehab Center, the Day Treatment program, and in alcohol and drug education as well as her job at ESI-EAP, an employee assistance program based in Wellsville. She will soon go part-time, but that doesn't mean she won't be busy. She sings in the choir, among other activities, and likes to be involved. "I get nurtured by my friends here — socially and emotionally," she said. "This has been a wonderful connection for us." To that, Jim nods. "I agree," he said.

...COMING IN JUNE !!!.....

"The Harmony of the Gospels"

New Sunday School Class w/ Mike Hooten

Occasionally, skeptics have accused the gospels of contradicting one another. Sometimes one gospel gives an account which is totally omitted in another, or the order in which the events are recorded in Luke differs from the order in Mark. We are all familiar with Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount; however, Luke records the Sermon on the Plain with nearly identical content. Did the famous sermon occur on the Mount or on the Plain or were there two? The last recorded words of Christ in Mathew and Mark are "My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me." The last words recorded in Luke are, "into thy hands I commit my spirit." In John, the last words recorded are, "It is finished." Are there truly discrepancies between the accounts?

In June I will have the privilege of leading a Bible Study during the Sunday School hour in which we will do a comparative study of the Gospels. Where do they parallel each other? Where do they seem to diverge? How can we learn from what at first glance may seem like discrepancies? I would like to invite you to join me as we explore and discover the beautiful harmony of the Gospels and deepen our understanding of Christ and His story as we delve into God's Word together.

This class will be held from 11:00 to noon in the "New Library" (across from the men's room on the main floor). ~Mike Hooten



BOOK REVIEW: by Deb Wuethrich **“Battlefield of the Mind”**

Preacher/evangelist Joyce Meyer has sold a lot of books throughout her career, but her most popular bestseller is “Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle of Your Mind,” (Faith Words, 1995). When I recently faced a time of experiencing intrusive and unwanted thoughts, I remembered the book. After a move, however, I couldn’t find my copy and figured I must have loaned it to someone in the past and forgot about it. I was pleased to find a copy in a local Christian bookstore, and more so that the book had been updated. It was just the review I needed as Meyer points out strategies God has laid out in the Bible to combat such affliction.

The introduction right away reminds readers, “As a man thinks in his heart, so does he become,” (Proverbs 23:7), and that negative thinking can result in a negative life. One reason we must learn to direct thoughts in positive ways is that Satan is eager to offer wrong thinking, even to put the thoughts right there in our minds — but the good news is we don’t have to accept those thoughts and can learn to counter them. As we learn to approach life “according to the Spirit,” as it says in Romans 8:5, by setting our minds on and seeking those things that gratify the Holy Spirit, we develop tools to live a more satisfying life.

Meyer points out the first step is recognizing our minds are a battlefield and our thoughts do matter. Jesus called the devil “the father of lies and of all that is false” (John 8:44) and will largely bombard our minds with doubt, suspicions, fears and other negative influences. But we can learn to counter his tactics. One tactic is to keep a positive mindset (Chapter 5) and Meyer provides Scripture to help reinforce this. Prayer and supplication is another way, even to battle demons and what Meyer calls “mind-binding spirits.”

Part II of the book addresses various “Conditions of the Mind,” with encouragement to learn to become aware of what we’re thinking. Meyer then provides real advice on how to counter wrong thoughts and to help us get back to a place where we realize we really

do have the mind of Christ and should be thinking accordingly. I especially liked Chapter 12 regarding “An Anxious and Worried Mind,” with its many verses that lead to victory and less distraction. There are reminders that God has always met the needs of His people — and meets our needs now. It encouraged me to be reminded we can learn to trust God and not be anxious even facing trials. “Being at peace, enjoying the rest of God in the midst of the storm gives much glory to the Lord because it proves that His ways work,” Meyer writes. Chapter 14 warns against a passive mind, however, and points out we must remain “alert, cautious and active,” and stay away from general apathy, lukewarmness, and laziness, largely so the devil doesn’t get a toehold.

In Part III, Meyer uses the biblical experiences of the Israelites to address “Wilderness Mentalities” and how to keep from repeatedly going around the same mountain. Another passage that resonated for me was this: “If you know God has asked you to do something, don’t back down just because it gets hard. When things get hard, spend more time with Him, lean more on Him and receive more grace from Him,” (see Hebrews 4:16).

While I sought out the book for tips on a specific type of defeating thoughts, I was reminded of everyday tactics to keep fostering “a renewal of the mind” as God does a work in us. I’m keeping the new copy of the book within arm’s reach.



FBC WOMEN’S MINISTRY **Upcoming Events in 2015**

- ♥ Mother/Daughter Banquet –
Sat. May 2 @ 6 pm
- ♥ Ladies’ Night Out –
Fri. June 5 @ 6 pm
Potluck Supper and a movie
- ♥ Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser for WOF trip –
Sun. July 12 @ Noon
- ♥ Women of Faith Loved Conference –
August 21-22
- ♥ Fall Tea Party/White Cross Bandage Rolling –
Sat. October 3
- ♥ Third Annual Ladies Christmas Party –
Sat. December 5

TREASURES IN CLAY POTS

I visit in a different church nearly every weekend and often one or two more during the week. Some congregations are enjoying growth and expanding ministry; others are facing challenges and strategizing how to move forward; and some are simply trying to place the buckets to catch the leaks. When I think back over the churches I've visited, these differing circumstances are not what leave a lasting impression. I've seen so many buildings, honestly sometimes I lose track of which building belongs to which church. I usually remember: big or small, brick or stone or wood, and was it hot or cold that day. These are not the things that organize my memories.

Rather, I carry in my memory a sense of whether these folks enjoyed being with one another. Were they caring for and listening to each other? Did they laugh and smile? Were they comfortable in one another's presence? Did their conversations show evidence of trust? Did they look for the best in one another? In other words: were they having a good time as they gathered?

Paul writes about carrying the treasure of the Gospel in jars of clay (2 Cor. 4:7). I've always liked the picture he paints: something irreplaceable in a container that would lead us to believe otherwise. Who would guess that an invaluable treasure lies within a jar lying about the kitchen? It rings of that treasure buried in the field that one sells all that one has in order to buy that wonderful field (Matt. 13:44) Who could have guessed that the field held such a wonderful surprise?

Our churches are like that field or that jar of clay. Embedded within them is the treasure we have in one another. Our churches are not fundamentally buildings or a set of programs; rather they are fellowships, families, and communities. What takes place among the people within them is a good measure of the health of the congregation! And does that health spawn a shared passion to transform one another, their community, and their world in the name of Jesus Christ? This is a good barometer of their ministry.

When you arrive at church the next time, look for the treasures being carried in the clay vessels of those whom you meet in that place. You might find that you are having a better time and that you feel a renewed vigor for ministry.

Blessings,
Jim Kelsey
Executive Minister

*An honest confession: I do remember churches by the quality and variety of their potlucks, in particular the desserts.



Birthdays of the Month

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Terry Schnell
Sue Neely VanBrunt
- 3 Josh Rosel
- 4 Frank Sherry
- 5 Joan Rote (80)
- 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.

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF
PRAYER CEREMONY WILL BE
HELD AT 6 PM ON THURSDAY,
MAY 7, IN LINCOLN PARK.**



happy anniversary

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
Francis & Becky Peck
- 27 Mike & Lori Funden
- 29 Dan & Terri McDowell



**INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR THE
JUNE EDITION OF
AT FIRST BAPTIST
ARE DUE TO THE
CHURCH OFFICE BY**

THURSDAY, MAY 14.

**THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
WILL MEET ON
TUESDAY, MAY 26, @ 4 PM
TO PREPARE THE NEWSLETTER
FOR MAILING**