

"Striving to be the Church of Jesus Christ where Every Member is a Minister"

**Olean First Baptist
Church**



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

AT FIRST BAPTIST JUNE 2015

DAN MCDOWELL
Senior Pastor

SUE NEELY VANBRUNT
Minister of Music

ROBERT FAULDS
Organist

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

MILLARD COOK
Asst. Pastor Senior/Adult Ministries

BRUCE LAVERTY
Director of Family Ministries

MICKI ELLIS
Audio Visual Specialist

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

GERALD NUTT
Custodian

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES 2015 GRADS!!



Ashley Sage is the daughter of Matthew Sage and Rae Kyler and granddaughter of Gaylord and Dottie Sage. Ashley is graduating from Olean High School on June 27. She plans to attend JCC in the fall and the University of Pittsburgh @ Bradford in the future. Ashley's goal in life is to continue her relationship with the

Lord. She quotes Jeremiah 29:11 in describing her life purpose: *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."*

OUR SUNDAY MORNING RADIO BROADCAST IS MOVING TO FM!

Starting Sunday, July 5 our services will be broadcast on **Eagle 99.1**. The cost of the broadcast will increase by \$10 per week, but those who have already signed on to sponsor a broadcast this year will not be required to absorb this increase. This move should give us a clearer signal and increase our broadcast radius! Please help us to pass word of this transition on to anyone who might currently listen to our broadcast on 1360 AM radio.



Ashley Putt is the daughter of Robert and Kimberly Putt and granddaughter of Bob and Shelly Woods. Ashley is graduating from Olean High School on June 27. While at OHS, she participated in volleyball, cheerleading, Interact Club, Homeless

Huskies, Susan B. Kolman Breast Cancer Awareness fundraisers, can drives, was a Rally in the Valley volunteer and a senior class officer. She achieved high honors and received the High School Juried Exhibition award and Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau Citizen award. Ashley plans to attend college in the fall and ultimately earn a Master Degree. Her goal in life is to "have a career that I enjoy doing, therefore it will feel like I have never worked a day in my life." In explaining her life purpose, Ashley says "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain."





Church Yard Sale

during business hours (M-Th 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)
Clothing will not be accepted.

The FBC Youth Group will once again host the annual Church Yard Sale this summer on August 1st. Donations will be accepted from July 12 until July 26

Picnic for Seniors

Pastor Dan invites all retirees from FBC to lunch on **Monday, June 1, at noon**. Pastor Dan will be BBQ-ing the chicken, hamburgers and hotdogs....you won't want to miss this treat! We'll also enjoy macaroni salad, baked beans, salad and dessert. 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. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office by Thursday, May 28, if you would like to attend....Come and bring a friend!!



DEVOTION IN MOTION

"Let them praise his name with dancing....For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the

humble with salvation." Psalm 149: 3-4

If you love to worship God through dancing, please consider joining our liturgical dance group. We will be meeting in a classroom near the Youth Center during fellowship time after worship. If you are interested in being a part of this unique expression of praise, or would like more information, contact Hannah Hooten at Hannahoot01@gmail.com or 814-558-9098. This ministry is sponsored by the Board of Christian Education, and advised by Terri McDowell and Corrine Hooten.



Psalm 150:4

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sharing is bedrock to being fully human and it brings incredible joy. We are invited to help people in aching need through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. By sharing our resources, combined with offerings from thousands of congregations in eight other denominations across the United States, we

- ♥ build homes, schools, medical clinics, and clean water and sewage facilities villages devastated by earthquakes, floods, and poverty.
- ♥ bring safety, shelter, and food to refugees after often violent circumstances have made their hometowns uninhabitable.
- ♥ nurture stronger futures and self-sufficiency through health care, education, job training, and tools for livelihoods.

Sharing because we have felt God's love aligns our lives with God's own life and work in our world. By sharing we are renewed and transformed. "Those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them" (I John 4:16). Sharing our love for God through One Great Hour of Sharing, we offer ourselves to others as they need us, imitating Christ's offering of his life for us.

Giving changes so many things---for the receiver and for the giver. Please give generously through One Great Hour of Sharing. It's all about sharing---sharing resources, changing lives!



ANNUAL FBC MUSICIAN APPRECIATION PICNIC

WHO: Current participants & alumni of the Sr. Choir, Handbell Choir, Praise Team, Special Music providers, Cantata Narrators and Audio-Visual Team

WHAT: Fellowship picnic to thank these folks for sharing their time & talents throughout the year! *Meat (pulled pork!) & table service provided – please bring a dish to share!*

WHEN: Thursday, June 4 @ 6 PM **WHERE:** Olean First Baptist

(Reservations due by Sunday, May 31st)

The Family of God



We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to Gene and Ila Felt on the passing of Ila's father, Donald F. Baker, on May 11.



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 May** is *Matthew Kirkwood*.

He is a 7th grader at Olean Intermediate Middle School. His musical interests include playing alto saxophone and flute and singing at church. When asked why he enjoys playing music he said "Playing music makes me happy. I like to share music with other people." Matt's parents are Bruce and Carole Laverty. We are happy to be able to enjoy his talent as he shares it with God's people.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



For Grades K-6

Monday, June 29-Wednesday, July 1
8 a.m. til 5 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast – Snack-Lunch provided daily
Swimming Every Day at War Vets Park
Also...Crafts, Worship, Sports, Chapel, Fun
Concludes July 1 with an awards ceremony
and spaghetti dinner for families

Registrations MUST be in by June 22



The Ladies of First Baptist Church are invited to a **Ladies Night Out** on Friday, June 5. We'll meet at 6 pm at FBC for a Potluck Supper, fellowship, and a fun movie. Wear your comfy clothes (or pj's!), bring a dish to share, and come 'n relax with us!!

THANK YOU'S....

"Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$100. From our Springbrook family to your congregation, thank you for believing in Springbrook and for helping us fulfill our mission. Together, we make the difference."

-Stacey Grady, Asst. Director of Development

"The God we serve is great and mighty! He indeed is the Great I AM! As we look forward to what He has in store for us the rest of 2015, I want you to know how appreciative we are for the blessing you are to us. Your missionary support helps to fund each ministry outreach. Your partnership with Family Life is instrumental in impacting lives with the message of hope found in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much!"

-Rick Snavely, CEO (Family Life)

"We acknowledge with thanks and appreciation your gift to Vick and Pathfinder and Conference Ministries in the amount of \$500."

-John R. Buskey

"Dear Congregation: Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,962.50 which will enable us to continue to meet the ever increasing needs of the men, women and children who come to Genesis House for assistance. Last year would you believe 61 families resided in the one shelter and we provided 26,000 meals, just to name a few programs we were able to do. You are always welcome to drop by Genesis House, join us for lunch, have a visit and perhaps meet the individuals with whom we work. You are always so faithful. Thank you all so much."

~Linore E. Lounsbury, Executive Director
Genesis House of Olean, Inc.



www.oleanfirstbaptist.com



Book Review

By Deb Wuethrich

NEW BOOK EMPHASIZES GRACE OF TRINITY

If you're looking for some insight on our Triune God, "Experiencing the Trinity: The Grace of God for the People of God," may be just for you.

Author Joe Thorn, who also wrote, "Note To Self," continues an exploration of ideas that he wants to embrace himself. When he writes "you," he notes that his original intention was for self-talk and to minister to himself, but readers definitely will benefit from the pastor-theologian's thoughts and discoveries.

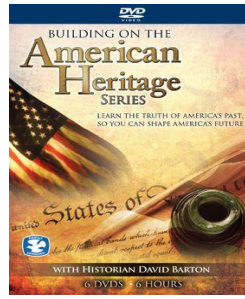
In the introduction, Thorn writes, "I needed to hear these words during a desperate period of my life," one he called a time of "burnout." He hopes the reflections will encourage others who "battle fear, anxiety, temptation, affliction and doubt."

It is a small soft-cover book (140 pages) tackling some big ideas. The 50 two- or three-page meditations are divided into three parts with reflections on God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Thorn reminds the reader of the divine role each plays in our lives.

Titles point out characteristics, such as the first one — "God is Holy" — then explores what this means to a believer. In the section on Jesus, readers will discover more about "His Humanity," "His Deity," and other traits. Part 3 looks at what the Holy Spirit does — "He Regenerates," "He Indwells," and "He Intercedes," among other things.

It's often difficult for us as limited humans to grasp a concept as awesome as a Trinity God, but I found the divided sections helped me begin to know God better. Thorn backs up his claims and experiences with solid scripture and reminders of God's promises in the Bible as he points to the grace of God, available not only to anxious, hurting, afflicted ones, as he was, but to all believers.

The book was published by Crossway, 2015, and retails at \$10.99. Members of Christianbook.com can get it online or with a phone call for a little less. This is one little book that packs a lot of punch and can be read in one day, or as a daily devotional.



Discussion Group on American Heritage

Pastor Dan is interested in leading a discussion group this summer (before election season really heats up) using historian

David Barton's material on the faith of our nation's founders, the influence of the bible on our constitution and other factors often overlooked in the current political climate. Depending on the level of interest, these discussions may occur during the Sunday School hour or on Thursday evenings. Call the church office or indicate your interest and preference on the bulletin insert on Sunday morning.

MEDICINE BOTTLES FOR MALAWI

Anyone on prescription medicines finds themselves a bit uncomfortable when throwing away so many empty medicine bottles. Our landfills do not need these plastic containers, as enough trash is going into them already.

When first world nations throw away perfectly good medicine bottles, medical pharmacies and hospital facilities in Malawi often find themselves with nothing except torn pieces



of paper in which to wrap medicine for their patients. This is often seen in rural hospitals and villages where the poorest of the nation try to live and survive. You can help to change this!

Save up a group of your containers when you have completed that portion of your prescription. Please them in boiling water until you are able to easily remove the labels and the glue (if you can't peel them off) then bring them to church and place them in a container, located by the Mission Area in the lounge and we will send them to the Malawi Project for shipment to Malawi.

This will help families in a third world country keep their medicines clean, out of reach of small children, and safe while they are being used.

-Board of Christian Mission



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART....

Several of my closest colleagues and friends in the area are moving on this year. You might know that Rev. Larry Poelma, who has been the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cuba for over 35 years will be retiring in September. And Pastor Brad Chesebro from Trinity United Methodist Church here in town has been transferred to New Hartford, New York (near Utica).

Larry and I first got acquainted when we served on the Outdoor Ministries Team together for the American Baptist Churches of New York State while I was still the Pastor in Medina. Every summer since I have known him, Larry has served as a counselor at Camp Vick for at least a week. He and I share a passionate belief in the transformative ministry of Christian camp ministry because we have both experienced it personally!

Larry's gentle spirit and quiet passion, not to mention his strong devotion to ministry in his community made it even easier for me to get excited about coming to Olean when that time came simply because it put me in close proximity to Larry. In fact, the first person I told (other than my wife) that I was coming to Olean was Larry. I stopped at his church on my way back to Medina after my second interview with the pulpit committee here.

Since then we have met together at least once a month to share insights on the things we are reading and to encourage and edify one another. His departure from the area will leave a huge hole in Cuba and a similar void in my heart. Friends and colleagues that you truly trust are rare and priceless – and more so the older you get.

Pastor Brad Chesebro is a little younger than me and (as a second-career pastor, having served in retail management for many years before entering the ministry) he has not been in ministry nearly as long as I have. Nevertheless we are kindred spirits in our evangelical outlooks and our conservative interpretation of scripture. We have served in the Greater Olean Association of Churches together, taking turns presiding over that organization and we have cooperatively sponsored several events such as the men's conferences we have hosted in this church.

Brad and his family have come to help out during our Community Easter Dinners and Veteran's Day Breakfasts as well as the Angel Food Distributions we used to host. They also came to the Christmas morning worship service we offered here several years ago.

Brad and his church are known for the church basketball league they host and the Toys for Tots ministry at Christmas. I have been blessed to support those programs in small ways.

Brad has a son who has a pretty significant physical challenge that has required multiple surgical procedures and requires constant attention. That never seems to slow his family down in their dedication to the Lord's work. I know that they will be missed in Olean but I will probably miss them more than most. I have no doubt that New Hartford will be a better place however.

My experience has been that God uses every encounter in your life to prepare you for the next. The challenges and blessings I received during my years in youth ministry in Nebraska prepared me to make the most of my time in seminary for example. And the hardships and highlights of my first church after seminary (in Pennsylvania) motivated me to spend 2 years as a church planter in Michigan. There I healed my wounds after some bitter experiences and developed an appreciation for things I had undeniably taken for granted in my first 2 churches.

In 1993 I arrived in New York, 12 years into my marriage with 3 toddlers in tow. Neither my pastorate in Pennsylvania nor my church planting experience in Michigan could be defined as rousing successes. Yet my sense of call into the ministry had not diminished one iota. With the insights I gained from the successes and the failures I had experienced previously I began a pastorate that would last 9 years in Medina; a time when the church experienced significant growth and renewal and when I finally began to come to grips with what God wants me to do and be in ministry.

In June of 2002 that led me here. One month after Terri and I celebrated our 21st anniversary and with our children in their teens and approaching high school it felt like (at least for me) life was coming full-circle. Olean is less than 50 miles from my hometown and at the time I moved here was within 70 miles of all 3 of my sisters and my mom.

As I begin my 14th year as your pastor much has changed. My mother and one of my sisters have gone on to their eternal reward. Several of my friends have moved on and several more are getting ready to. I also can't begin to list the people from this church who I have loved and laid to rest over my years here. But I feel enormously blessed to have known them and to have you in my life now.

Since I came here I have celebrated my 45th, 50th and 55th birthdays. If I learned anything during that time, it is this: True friends and family are priceless. Treasure them.

~Pastor Dan



DON'T BE A LOSER

In Luke 15 Jesus tell us three parables. One of the lost sheep, one of the lost coin and one for the lost son. When we lose things it can be tragic, it can bring pain and panic. There is nothing like that feeling in the pit of your stomach when you go to reach for your wallet and in is not there. Well the Bible tells of several men who lost things far more valuable them a wallet.

1. Lot lost his family – Gen 19

II Pet. 2:7-8 tell that Lot was a righteous man but by his choices and lifestyle “vexed his righteous soul from day to day.” He is the one that looked for the easy life. Seeking all of the comforts and pleasures this life could offer him, he found pleasure in a city called Sodom. And though he was righteous when the time of judgment came, he had no ability to reach his children with the truth of God’s word. Rather “he seemed as one that mocked unto them” Gen. 19:14. Think of how great his loss was. To have to leave behind his own children that he loved so dearly in a place of destruction. His selfish choices for momentary happiness had cost him the eternal joy of his family.

2. David lost his joy – Psm. 51:12 “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

Unfortunately, I believe many Christians have lost their joy. David had chosen satisfaction of his flesh over the will of God for his life. This led to sin which festered for over a year before it was repented of and God could restore him. During that time there could be no joy for the fellowship with the one who gives true joy was broken. If you ever find the Christian life a drudgery or just going through the motions by habit, then stop and realize it is time to examine your life. David had to be confronted by Nathan the prophet before he saw the reality and the consequences of his sin. Is there anything that is stealing your joy? Then confess it and turn from it. Cry out as David did to restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.

3. Thomas lost his assurance – John 20

How often we hear the name “doubting Thomas”. Thomas said “except I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my hand in the wound in His

side I will not believe.” Many a Christian struggles through life with little faith saying, if I could just see it I would believe. But we have been call to a life of faith and by faith we know that we are secure. “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye man **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of of the Son of God.” (I John 5:13).

4. Christians lost their rewards – Rev. 3:11 “Behold I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.”

John goes on to say “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward” (II John 8). Simply put, keep running the race. Do not allow the actions of today to spoil your testimony and the many good deeds already done.

Therefore, let us labor diligently that we may never lose our family, our joy, our assurance or our reward. Hold these as so valuable that we would do everything to keep them and allow nothing or no one to steal them from us.

~Pastor Millard



SUMMER MUSIC NOTES

“Sing unto the Lord a new song. Let His praises fill the temple. He is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Hallelujah! Glory to God!”. Again this summer we are inviting you to **request one of your favorite songs of faith** to be sung during a summer worship service. So, during the month of May, please suggest a hymn, gospel song or praise & worship chorus by a note with your request in the offering plate or in the registration box on the receptionist's desk. We will try our best to include it this summer. We look forward to joining you in filling our temple with praise!

Also, while our choir takes a much deserved break, if you would like to provide **a vocal or instrumental music selection** during a summer service, please leave a note in the office or talk to Yvonne Perry Clark from the Music Committee to set a date!

SAVE THE DATES! We have already confirmed that on July 12th the Chorduroy Barbershop Quartet will be with us. Also, David DeGroff will be here on Sunday July 17th to share his music ministry in worship. That morning will include a mini-concert after the service with a chicken bar-b-q fundraiser for the Women of Faith trip to Philadelphia in August. This is just a ‘taste’ of great things coming this summer. ~Sue Neely VanBrunt, Min. of Music

OFBC OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO 'DO LIFE TOGETHER'

By Deb Wuethrich

A few years ago, shortly after my husband passed away, I began attending a large non-denominational church. The church we'd attended together had recently disbanded and closed its doors. The new church was independent, but Baptist in its beliefs. It had a large attendance, requiring two services, far different from what I was used to. While I enjoyed the contemporary music from a praise band and the pastor's relevant sermons, I wondered how people got past the impersonal nature I felt at first in a crowd. I soon found out when I was invited to join a new small group that was forming at someone's home. A few of us went one time, and then the hostess was unable to offer her house any longer. The leader asked me, "Would you consider hosting us?"

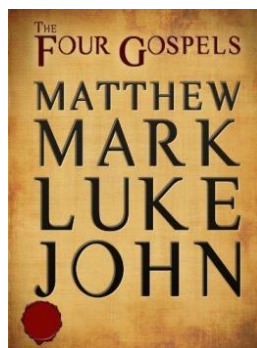
While I knew the biblical viewpoint on offering hospitality, having people come to my home was not something I had done before. (It would mean cleaning up some clutter, providing refreshments, and other excuses I came up with toward declining.) But I heard myself saying, "Sure, why not?" It was among my "Best Yeses," as some of the ladies at OFBC are learning in a current Bible study. Our small group truly was small, with about five regular attendees, but I learned this was where a church's members really got to know each other and "did life together," as the leader put it.

As a newer member here at OFBC, I enjoy the Sunday worship and fellowship that follows, seeing others drawn to the congregation. I also have found something similar to that first small group experience at my old church. It happens in the Sunday school classes here where members get to know each other better, sharing experiences that relate to the lessons they are learning. It happens in the periodic Bible studies where familiar faces from Sunday worship are now becoming friends as we tell each other things we might not so willingly share in other circumstances, personal and even embarrassing things — and we are able to laugh together as well as lift each other up in prayer. It even happens as members get to know each other better on boards, such as the diaconate, trustees and other, while we conduct business for the church. And it happens within the many opportunities I have found offered at OFBC since I retired and came back to New York last summer — volunteering to help with youth events, taking part in special ladies ministry events (I'm sure it's the same for those targeted toward the men), working together for missions and activities like the Thanksgiving and Easter dinners. There's always something going on at First

Baptist. There is no reason anyone should ever feel they have to "do life alone" and there are a variety of ways to plug in and be a part of things. Even when visiting or writing to shut-ins, those who do are blessed as well.

A while ago, I saw a joke regarding various church denominations and their response to different situations. I wish I could remember it all, but the part I most recall is this: "And the Baptists brought another casserole!" That line came to mind at a meeting this week when one woman said, "We are Baptists, after all," as we planned fare for an upcoming gathering. We Baptists do like to eat, and I'm finding the OFBC members are so creative and generous with their offerings at all our events. Food is an important part of fellowship. But most of all, I am happy to have landed at a church that puts such high value on people and provides opportunities where we can go beyond attending church together on Sunday, though this is, of course, important. I'm glad for the many chances to "do life together" and to praise the God we serve through the many activities and events here at First Baptist.

The Bible makes it clear that we are not only to BE the church, but also to take advantage of opportunities to meet and fellowship together, even lifting up and encouraging each other. The group gatherings of all sizes outside of regular worship time provide such opportunities. If you haven't yet plugged in, I invite you to do so. Fellowship, friendship — and food — await!



"The Harmony of the Gospels"

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. Are there truly discrepancies between the accounts?

During the month of June, I will have the privilege of leading a Sunday School class in the "New Library" 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 on the four Sundays in June 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.

~Mike Hooten



- 3 Larry Selph III
- 4 Hilary Faulds
- 5 James Walker
- 7 June Wallace
- 9 Bob Faulds
- 15 Jason Peck
- 16 June Hill
- 18 Alexandra Hooten
- 20 Becky Peck
- 22 Matthew Ketchner
- Christine VanBrunt
- 25 Donny Martin IV
- 28 Bonnie Kettle
- Brad Mitchell

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

- 6 Mike & Sandy Schultz
- 8 Randy & Carrie Samuelson
- 17 Lenny & Brenda Brown
- 23 Bob & Sheila Faulds
- 27 Mike & Valerie Kane



**INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR THE
 JULY/AUGUST EDITION OF
 AT FIRST BAPTIST
 ARE DUE TO THE
 CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, JUNE 11.
 THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
 WILL MEET ON
 TUESDAY, JUNE 23, @ 4 PM
 TO PREPARE THE NEWSLETTER FOR
 DISTRIBUTION.**



***LAST CALL TO ATTEND
 A WOMEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE!!
 Just a few seats left in our group!!!***

We will depart from FBC
 in the morning on Friday, August 21 to travel by bus
 to Philadelphia for the “Loved – Farewell Tour”
 event. We’ll return late Saturday night.
 The group package includes a prime seat on the floor
 of the arena, hotel, bus travel, Friday evening dinner
 for \$205.00. If this is your first trip to WOF, your
 package is available for \$160!!!
 Contact the church office before it’s too late!!!



JUNE BOARD MEETINGS

Monday, June 8 @ 6 PM –

Board of Education

Tuesday, June 16:

6 pm Board of Christian Mission

6:30 pm Diaconate

Tuesday, June 23:

7 pm - Trustees

***“When considering how you should serve, find
 opportunities that accommodate the position in
 which God has placed you and that fit with the
 dreams and passions God has set on your heart.
 Performing only obligatory duties will drain us
 because they aren’t in line with who we were created
 to be.”***