

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

AT FIRST BAPTIST SEPTEMBER 2015

DAN MCDOWELL
Senior Pastor

SUE NEELY VANBRUNT
Minister of Music

PENNY SOROKES
Church Secretary

BONNIE KETTLE
Financial Secretary

MILLARD COOK
Asst. Pastor Senior/Adult Ministries

BRUCE LAVERTY
Director of Family Ministries

ROBERT FAULDS
Organist

MICKI ELLIS
Audio-Visual Specialist

JERRY NUTT
Custodian



**"We Were Made
For So Much More
Than Ordinary
Lives..."**

As children of the Living
God and disciples of Jesus
the Christ, we are called
"a chosen people, a royal

*priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession,
that we may declare the praises of Him who called us
out of darkness into his wonderful light."* (1 Peter 2:9)
Think about those words... *"chosen people"*... *"royal
priesthood"*... *"holy nation"*... *"God's special
possession"*. Are any of those terms something you
would use to describe something ordinary or mundane?
Each of those clearly refers to something that is meant
to be far from ordinary. Those terms bring to mind
people who are special... people who are blessed...
people who are noteworthy... people who are making a
difference. Are we those people? We should be!!!

The theme for our 2015 Stewardship Campaign is **"We
Were Made to Thrive!"** The theme song is Casting
Crown's recent hit, "Thrive" and the title for this
article is from the lyrics of this song. If you aren't
familiar with the song, you certainly will be by the end
of our campaign. The song begins with a reference to
a world that can tear us down and make us feel
unwanted, under-appreciated, or unworthy. *"Here in
this worn and weary land where many a dream has
died."* But we are not of this world. We are *"Like a*

tree planted by the water, we never will run dry." The
song continues, *"So living water flowing through, God
we thirst for more of You. Fill our hearts and flood
our souls with one desire. Just to know You and to
make You known, we lift Your name on High."*

Next come the phrases in the song that provide the key
thoughts for our stewardship campaign, **"... we were
made for so much more than ordinary lives. It's time
for us to more than just survive. We were made to
thrive."**

In case you aren't familiar with the word "thrive",
Webster's Dictionary defines it as "to grow
vigorously" or "to flourish". As Christians, we are to
grow in the spirit. We are to grow in our faith! And
we are to put our faith and our gifts into action for the
glory of God! We are made to thrive!!!

In the coming weeks, you will be hearing and reading
more from our
church leaders
about how our
congregation can
grow our
ministries and
programs... and
what you can do
to support that
growth... what
you can do to



have so much more than an ordinary life... *what you can do to thrive!*

The Family of God



We extend our Christian Love and Sympathy to Marilyn Piepho on the passing of her husband, John Piepho on June 17. John's memorial service

was held at First Baptist on August 20; and to Paul and Jamie Geise and family on the passing of Jamie's aunt Magdalene Barron on August 11 and her father, Glenn Lowe on August 12. Glenn and Magdalene's combined memorial service was held on August 20.



*Ken Boser
and
Samantha Wolters
June 13, 2015*

*Don Martin
And
Raquel Biscaro
July 31, 2015*

*Richard Young
and
Kaitlin Taylor
August 15, 2015*

IT'S A BOY!!

Congratulations to Anthony and Hilary Faulds Mason on the birth of their son, **Austin Robert**, on July 13. Austin weighed 6lbs. 13oz. and was 19" long at birth. Bob and Sheila Faulds are Austin's proud, first-time grandparents!

Congratulations to Jeremy and Kelli Sorokes Heiler on the birth of their son, **Owen Michael**, born on August 4. Owen weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20" long at birth. Jim and Penny Sorokes are Owen's proud first-time grandparents; his great-grandparents are Gordon and Mary Ellen Olson, and Bill and Helen Sorokes.

IT'S A GIRL....OR TWO!!

Congratulations to Randy and Carrie Samuelson on the birth of their identical twin granddaughters, born on July 8 to Carl and Candice Samuelson. **Morgan Avery** weighed 6 lbs 14 oz. and **Madelyn Ann**

weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz; both girls were 21". Carl and JoAnn Samuelson are the great-grandparents.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Ashley Sage, Ashley Putt, and Jonah Rosel were awarded Olean First Baptist Church College Scholarships on Sunday, June 28. Both girls graduated in June from Olean High School: Ashley Sage is attending JCC and Ashley Putt is attending St. Bonaventure. Jonah is attending SUNY Fredonia.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Ken and Samantha Boser
437 Derrick Rd.
P.O. Box 225
Derrick City, PA 16727
(585) 307-4235 Ken's cell
(412) 414-1986 Samantha's cell

Michael and Corinne Hooten and family
443 W. Washington St.
Bradford, PA 16701-2860
(814)558-9097 – Mike's cell
(814)558-9098 – Corinne's cell



RALLY DAY 2015

is Sunday, September 13 and we have a full day planned!! The theme this year is "Back to the Bible~ Raisin Your Faith." The church family should bring their bibles and

be prepared to use them! The Verse of the Day is Hebrews 11:1- "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Teachers of the various Sunday school classes will give a brief description of the classes they teach and our children entering the third grade will receive a new Bible! A special Fellowship Time will follow worship.



In the evening, the **SOUTHERN GOSPEL MIXED TRIO "THE JONATHANS"** will join us in concert at **6 pm.** Parker & Paula Jonathan (formerly with the Imperials) along with keyboard player Jake Pitts and Lead vocalist Eric Dunson will share their gospel music style. Check them out at www.gospelgigs.com/thejonathans. Put this on your calendar, share it on social media and help us spread the word.



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....

I hope your summer has been enjoyable and meaningful and that you are as excited about what

autumn has to offer as I am!

Back in June when we put out our last newsletter I shared my sadness over the impending departure of 2 colleagues (Pastors Larry Poelma of First Baptist Church of Cuba and Brad Chesebro from Olean's Trinity United Methodist). Brad left in June to accept the call of a Methodist Church near Utica and Larry will be retiring at the end of September.

I can't tell you how helpful and important it is for pastors to gather regularly and support one another. There is much about ministry in the local church that most people don't get. Most of what we do is pretty private – things like counseling, sermon and lesson prep, visitation, correspondence and administration and meetings to plan future events. Other pastors know about this and we are often able to provide advice and resources to one another to make our ministries more effective and to help us find peace in the midst of what sometimes seems like endless busyness and chaos.

One opportunity for this kind of relief came at the end of June for me when I traveled to Kansas City to be part of our denomination's Biennial meetings. The American Baptist Churches, USA call representatives from all of our churches together every other year so that we can discuss what is happening amongst us, commission new missionaries and worship together. I have only gone to 4 or 5 of these gatherings in the course of my 30-plus years in the ministry but with changes happening so rapidly in our denomination (and across denominational lines in the church in general) I thought that it was important to go this year.

I was not disappointed. In addition to inspiring worship on several occasions every day, this gathering offered bible studies. (Do you know how often I get the opportunity to attend a bible study I am not leading? What a treat!) They also offered several guided discussion groups on the subject of leadership, on revitalizing aging churches and on what the future looks like for our denomination.

I opted for the discussions on revitalizing older churches. What I discovered is we are in pretty good shape compared to most – and that we seem to be following the path that other churches are following in a culture that is rapidly changing. I also heard in more

detail how mission support is changing and I met several missionaries who are in the process of getting commissioned for missionary service in places like Africa and Thailand. I was also able to reconnect with Dave Reed (who was here in March with his wife Joyce to share their ministry with us on a Sunday night). Dave and some pastors from Kansas joined me for lunch at a Kansas City barbecue restaurant for lunch on Saturday. If you haven't had KC barbecue you are really missing something!

Probably one of the things that stood out most about my experience at the Biennial was the profound implications of several major transitions in leadership in our denomination. Our General Secretary, Dr. Roy Medley and the Executive Director of our Home Mission Society, Aidsen Wright-Riggins are both retiring this year. Farewell celebrations were held for both of them during the weekend and presentations were made at worship together. These are men who have served our family of churches well during difficult times and they will be missed.

On my way home from the conference I had the privilege of visiting former Pastor Mac Shotwell and his daughter Paula after the death of Mac's wife and Paula's mother, LaVerne. We had a great time together sharing memories and catching up on people we mutually know and I had the honor of bringing LaVerne's remains back to Olean and Cuba to be buried. I also was given a DVD of LaVerne's memorial service in Illinois to share with anyone interested in viewing it.

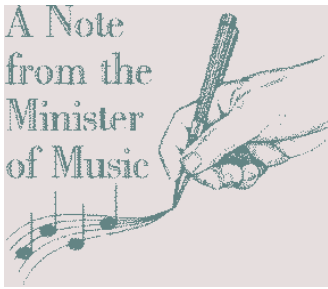
I returned home just in time for the last day of Vacation Bible Camp, which was another great success with over 70 kids attending! And then that very weekend we hosted Gold City for their phenomenal concert here on July 5. Although the crowd was not as large as we anticipated the experience was so great that we are already in the process of negotiating to get Gold City back again next Independence Day weekend!

We also had another fine gospel group, The Jonathans, contact us about hosting them for a concert in September. The Diaconate met briefly after church in July and decided to sign on to host them on Sunday evening, September 13. Please mark this on your calendar! If this event ministry is going to flourish we will all need to be as supportive as possible.

Since then we have planned the stewardship campaign for the fall and started movement toward gathering our nominating committee. I took 10 days of vacation at the end of July and performed a couple of weddings: Don and Jodie Martin's son Don and Raquel Martin and Dave and Nancy Taylor's new son-in-law

Rich Young and their daughter Katie. It's been a great summer!

~Pastor Dan



We hope you enjoyed the worship music this summer. If you have comments, ideas or suggestions for next year, please talk to a member of the Music Committee.

Along with our Minister of Music, Sue Neely VanBrunt, they plan for a variety of music during the summer months, and would appreciate your feedback.

A big **'thank you'** goes to those who prepared special music, provided accompaniment or led singing for our summer services this year: *'Chord'uroy Barbershop Quartet, Yvonne Perry Clark, Lindsay Cummings, Casey, David & Katie DeGroff, Bob Faulds, Bev Firth, Lori & Logan Funden, Jamie Geise, Karen & Cara Goodwin, Alexandra, Corinne, Hannah & Mike Hooten, Matt Sage, Mike Schultz, Jim & Penny Sorokes, and Grace Thurston.* And while we're saying thanks, we include our audio technicians *Dave Anderson, Paul Geise, and Darlene Selph.* What a great job they always do in providing our sound and radio coverage!



Musical Ministries **return to fall schedule**

As this issue is being prepared, many are still enjoying the final days of summer. Although schedules may have been more relaxed, it is great to return to a fall routine with a full variety of musical activities. At Olean First Baptist, September means the return of the *Senior Choir* and the *In One A'Chord Handbell Choir* to worship services. If you like music and enjoy good fellowship and fun, won't you consider being part of these groups this year?

The *Senior Choir* meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm to prepare their worship music. If you are a *singer* aged 12-112, who sings melody or reads harmony ...you are invited to sit through a rehearsal and see if it's for you! Come to the first fall rehearsal on **Thursday Sept 10th** and give it a try!

If you are a *ringer* and can find your way through a piece of music, the *In One A'Chord Bell Choir* might be for you. Talk with director, Bob Faulds this

week about the possibility of ringing or at least seeing what it's all about during one of their **7 pm Wednesday** rehearsals.

Our Praise and Worship music is often led by 3:16. This group is blessed with a full complement of vocalists, guitarist and keyboardists, but would welcome interest from a percussionist, who enjoys worshipping through contemporary music.

Children's Choir and Junior Bells rehearse the 3rd Sunday of each month during the second half of the worship hour. Let's all make a joyful noise to the Lord!!



Our Young Musician of the Month for August was **Xavier Lavery.**

Xavier is 12 years old and will be a 7th grader at Southern Tier Walsh Academy this year. He sings with our Kids Choir,

plays Junior Bells and plays the shofar – an instrument made from a ram's horn, used to call people to worship or to action. Xavier writes "I was born with asthma and was in and out of the hospital, almost every month. There was much concern for me as I couldn't blow air out very well. When I was 5 years old, I wanted to blow the shofar like my grandfather. I heard its sound – like the voice of God. I saved my money and bought my shofar. The shofar takes a lot of breath to blow. I practiced and blew it. Ever since then, I have not had a problem with asthma."

Xavier loves music and believes it can make you feel better! He is the son of Danielle and the grandson of Bruce and Carole Lavery. We thank him for sharing his musical talents with God and with us!

🎵 Sue Neely VanBrunt 🎵



The World Mission Offering will be collected during October. During the month we will gain deeper understanding of International Ministries and how others are blessed through our giving to WMO.

Please give prayerful consideration to your contribution to this special offering.



OUTLINE FOR BIBLE STUDY

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Tim 2:15)

I do not believe that there is anything more important to the successful Christian life than daily Bible study. Too many Christians never open their Bible having been convinced by the devil that they cannot understand it or they may feel that they just do not know how to do it. So I would like to give you a few simple pointers that hopefully will make your time in the Word much more meaningful.

I. OBSERVATION: First you must develop a full awareness of what is present in the Biblical text. Start with small bites. Take a paragraph and read it a couple of times. Awareness involves careful reading and recognition of important elements. Ask yourself such questions as: What is the principal subject of this chapter? Who is speaking? Who is he speaking to? What is being done? When is this taking place? Where are these things taking place? Taking the time to see the details is very rewarding. A passage you may have read many times can take on a whole new meaning to you as you notice that this was spoken late at night or to just one hurting person. In thirty-eight years of ministry I have read my Bible through numerous times. Still I am always amazed at the new things that jump out at me. I often wonder how I never saw that before. But it is the Holy Spirit that guides and teaches us what we need for that day. He knows the trial that you are facing at that very time and knows just what to give you so that you can be victorious.

II. INTERPRETATION: This concerns answering the central question: What does it mean? The process involves investigation for answers. Comparing scripture with scripture. This is where a reference Bible comes in handy. But no matter if you use a concordance, commentary or reference

Bible, it will take some work. However when you have labored over a passage and dug out a golden nugget that is something very special that belongs only to you. Two things that are of vital importance in interpretation are content and context. Whenever a verse is taken out of context you can totally destroy its meaning. There can be many applications to a passage but only one true interpretation.

III. APPLICATION: The final step focuses on how the truth works in your life. We do not study for study sake alone or to show off to others how much we know. We must choose to apply it to our own lives for this day. So as we examine the passage we are asking: Is there an example for me to follow? Is there an error for me to avoid? Is there a duty for me to perform? Is there a promise for me to claim? Is there a prayer for me to echo?

As I close let me say that all of your study should start with prayer. Ask God to open the passage to you and let Him know that you are willing to do whatever He reveals to you. Then keep a notebook of all the wonderful truths that God will give you from His Word. Start today and you will be amazed at what it will do for your walk with the Lord. You will soon find yourself falling in love with the Word of God in a way that you never thought possible.

~Pastor Millard



Pastor Dan is inviting any and all retirees of our church to lunch on Monday, October 12, at noon. He will offer some devotional thoughts as well as an opportunity for food and 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 @ 716-372-5151.



**The Wednesday Ladies Bible Study will
resume beginning
September 16 @ 11:15 a.m.
Newcomers are Welcome!!**



FROM YOUR DIACONATE

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



World Communion Sunday is October 4. Not only will communion be served in our church,

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

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



PRAYER CHAIN

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

THANK YOU'S

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your donation of a total of 106 lbs. of food!
Sincerely - The Olean Food Pantry



Thank you for allowing us to share our music and ministry with your fine congregation! We pray God's blessings as you continue to serve Him!

Gold City



To the Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Friends and Family at First Baptist Church, Pastor Dan, Pastor Millard, Pastor Bruce, and church at large: I would like to thank you all for selecting me to receive the church scholarship. It will help me tremendously with my expenses starting at St. Bonaventure University in the fall. I plan on using the money to purchase the necessary books and supplies I will desperately need for my first year. Without this scholarship I do not know what I would have done and I cannot thank you all enough for your faith in me. I'm very sorry I was not present to receive this wonderful award but I would like for you all to know it warms my heart knowing you all believe in me.

Blessings and Much Gratitude, Ashley Putt



Paula and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who have shown your love and sympathy since the home going to Heaven of our beloved LaVerne. The beautiful flowers at the service, the many cards and letters and telephone calls, Pastor Dan's visit and your ongoing prayers have given us renewed strength and hope. Ten of the happiest years of our marriage were spent in Olean and we cherish the many precious memories that enriched our lives with you. Please continue to keep us in prayer as we adjust to the physical absence of LaVerne and claim the promise of eternal life in Jesus.

In the Bonds of our Eternal Lord, Mac Shotwell



Dear FBC Scholarship Committee, Thank you once again for awarding me with your scholarship. I'm truly honored to be selected without even applying. It is both amazing and comforting to know that I have this family with me so much. First Baptist will always be a home to me. Thank you for all you've done in the molding of my life.

Sincerely, Jonah Rosel



A very deep thank you to the members of FBC for all of your support and assistance that enabled the Southern Tier Symphony's "Walkable Concert" at the end of June. The musicians and attendees alike expressed delight at the opportunity to share beautiful music in such a beautiful space. This was our first endeavor at sharing the symphony beyond our established season. We were delighted and look forward to future collaboration. Please extend our gratitude to your congregation for their assistance and gracious (and delicious!) hospitality!

Betsy Cashing, STS Board President

GOLD CITY 'WOWED' OLEAN AUDIENCE

By Deb Wuethrich

The Olean First Baptist sanctuary was filled to the brim with praise and worship through music on Sunday, July 5 when Gold City came to town. The group consisted of Daniel Riley, Chip Pullen, Robert Fullerton, Bryan Elliott (on piano) and newest member Chris West, who sings with a rafter-rocking deep bass. Gold City's crystal clear voices rang out over the crowd on such well-known hymns as "Victory In Jesus," "Power in the Blood," "It's Still the Cross," with a good blend of fast-paced gospel that make you want to stand up and praise songs that find the audience reaching toward heaven.



Group member Daniel Riley witnessed about how his father, Tim Riley, a member for more than 50 years, had suffered a stroke but has been determined to beat its effects. One of the T-shirts for sale in the lobby, along with CDs, was a shirt Tim had designed that said, "Keep Calm and Pray On, God is in Control (Philippians 4:6).

During one portion of the program, Daniel also said, "If we didn't believe God could take a use an ordinary group of guys like us, we wouldn't be doing this," giving God the glory for their success as a top-tier group in the gospel industry. The concert also included a call for others. "More than anything, it's our prayer if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, before it's eternally too late, just ask Him to be Lord. If you don't have a relationship with Him, it's all in vain." He asked the question, "You may know Jesus, but does He know you? Some people make it so complicated, but the Bible is very clear: WHOSOEVER will call upon Him will be saved. It's how you can have joy in times of trouble." This invitation led into one of the group's signature songs, "Midnight Cry," which, indeed, did make some audience members tear up with its powerful message and the voices singing it.

OFBC leaders had to quickly pull together this event when presented with a surprise opportunity to host

the group as they were passing through Olean, and was covered with a love offering from attendees. Group members expressed an interest in possibly coming back next summer with more time to plan and advertise that event so seats could be filled up.



Pastor Dan McDowell and other church leadership members have been working on growing an event ministry at

OFBC that might draw others in the community, and this concert was one of the first offerings for that. Another gospel concert is on the calendar for Sunday, Sept. 13, 2015 at 6 p.m. Southern Gospel mixed trio "The Jonathans," will perform here then, which includes Parker and Paula Jonathan, formerly with the Imperials, with keyboard player Jake Pitts and lead vocalist Eric Dunson. This should be another great event and an opportunity for community outreach.



SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

September 8 @ 5:30 PM

Board of Christian Education

September 15 @ 6:30 PM

Diaconate Meeting

@ 6 PM

Board of Christian Missions

September 22 @ 7 PM

Board of Trustees

September 29 @ 7 PM

Advisory Council





INSPIRING 'LOVE LETTERS' FEATURES TENDERHEARTED CHARACTER

After a couple of beach reads this summer,

which I often find too graphic or full of offensive language, I returned to more trusted summer fiction, one being Beverly Lewis's "The Love Letters." The prolific queen of Amish tales once again delivers, offering up richly drawn characters in bucolic rural settings. In the author's note, Lewis says main character Marlena Wenger had been in her heart for a long time and was, "perhaps, one of the most tender-hearted protagonists I've written to date."

Marlena is staying with her newly widowed grandmother in Brownstown, Pennsylvania, in the late 1960s when they get word that Marlena's older sister, Luella, has been seriously injured in a car accident. Marlena still struggles with why her sister left the Old Order Amish community and married a soldier, who was then sent to Vietnam.

Soon, relatives bring Luella's baby, Angela Rose, to Brownstown, expecting Marlena to care for the little girl. Marlena hesitates but is willing—temporarily—to do it. She also thinks of her own plans back home being put on hold. She was soon to receive instruction to be baptized into the Old Order Amish church and then be able to marry her beau, Nat.

The plot thickens as Luella experiences complications and passes away. Further attempts are made to contact her husband in the military, all while Marlena begins to bond with their child. Marlena continues to write letters to Nat, who sends letters in return, but he is anything but patient with the fact she hasn't just turned the baby over to someone else and come home. Meanwhile Marlena becomes friends with Sarah Mast and her brother, Luke, who attend a New Order Amish church in Brownstown, and she is curious about its differences from her family's church.

In typical Lewis fashion, alternate story lines are weaved throughout the book, including an adventurous circumstance involving Marlena's younger brother, Small Jay. The lad is mentally challenged and often feels useless on the farm. He befriends a man he discovers sleeping at the old mill.

Trouble is, the man cannot remember much about his own life, only that he is called Boston because he once lived there. Family members believe Boston is just a figment of the boy's imagination until the story takes some turns.

With this title, Lewis continues to follow her interest in all things regarding Pennsylvania Dutch country where she was born, and in creatively pursuing her interest in her mother's Plain heritage through her storytelling.

On a personal note, I once had the privilege of meeting the author and got to watch as she graciously signed books for every fan that turned out for a book event in a Christian bookstore, and there were more than 200. Her inspiring stories of life and faith have endeared her to millions. Fans will also want to watch the shelves in September for a release of her latest, "The Photograph."

—Reviewed by Deb Wuethrich

What's Happening

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

SEPTEMBER 13: 6 PM

Southern Gospel Concert @ FBC

Featuring "The Jonathans"

(a free-will offering will be taken)

OCTOBER 10: 11 AM

Ladies Salad Luncheon

♥ Roll Bandages for the White Cross

♥ Make Christmas Cards for our
Shut-in Members

OCTOBER 31

Harvest Party

NOVEMBER 6-8

ABC/NYS Youth Convention

DECEMBER 5: 10 AM – 1PM

Ladies Christmas Party

featuring Proverbs 31 Ministries Speaker
Wendy Pope!!

INSPIRATION From *The Ultimate Priority*
by John MacArthur, Jr.

Although it is intensely personal, there is nothing self-centered about genuine worship. If believers are to maintain a consistent life-style of continuous worship, they need the fellowship and encouragement of other believers as they assemble for group worship. Individual worship and corporate worship feed each other. So on the one hand, I need the fellowship of the saints. On the other hand, the community of saints needs me to live a consistent life of worship.

The source of most of the problems people have in their Christian lives relates to two things; either they are not worshipping six days a week with their life, or they are not worshipping one day a week with the assembly of the saints. We need both.

If you go to church only when it is convenient, you will never be victorious and productive as a Christian. You can't succeed on your own; you need to have the spiritual stimulation of fellow believers. We live in such an easy-come, easy-go, casual, flippant society that people don't make consistent, faithful commitments, and then they wonder why they fail. The answer is clear. Spiritual success requires commitment to others.....

A pastor went to see a man who didn't attend church very faithfully. The man was sitting before a fire, watching the warm glow of the coals. It was a cold winter day, but the coals were red hot, and the fire was warm. The pastor pleaded with the man to be more faithful in meeting with the people of God, but the man didn't seem to be getting the message.

So the pastor took the tongs beside the fireplace, pulled open the screen, and reached in and began to separate all the coals. When none of the coals were touching the others, he stood and watched in silence. In a matter of moments, they were all cold. "That's what's happening in your life," he told the man. "As soon as you isolate yourself from God's people, the fire goes out." The man got the message.

The church is not the brick-and-mortar building in which the assembly meets; it is God's people in whom He dwells. In the church—among God's people, the true worshippers—we must bring a worshiping heart to stimulate others while being stimulated to love and good works. As that stimulation affects our souls we do good and share. The cycle is complete when we live out the overflow of praise and a continual heart of thanksgiving. Then worship is a way of life. For that we were redeemed.

CALLING SIN, SIN

Excerpted from *Day by Day with Charles Swindoll*,
Copyright © 2000 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.

A bomb exploded in our nation some years ago. In mid-America, of all places. The fuse was lit first in the mind of Karl Menninger, but its effect was not felt until his pen detonated the blasting cap. Suddenly—without prior warning—BOOM! His book *Whatever Became of Sin* stunned and shocked his colleagues.

Most of Menninger's peers had put that hated word to bed decades ago. But now, *the* Karl Menninger, M.D., the Freud of America, whose book *The Human Mind* had introduced psychiatry to the American public back in 1930, that respected, competent pioneer of the profession, actually had the gall to reintroduce SIN to the vocabulary!

All had been relatively quiet on the Western front. America was still licking its wounds from the riots, campus rebellions, and political assassinations of the sixties. We were biting the bullet of a prolonged war in Southeast Asia. We were hearing rumblings with strange names back then—ecological concerns, energy crises, and "do your own thing." Most of us sensed trouble was brewing...*something* was wrong. But none dared call it SIN.

Maybe our president would admit it. Lincoln did, way back in 1863. Eisenhower did, borrowing his words from Lincoln, when the Day of Prayer rolled around exactly ninety years later: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon."

But Eisenhower's subsequent calls to prayer never mentioned that explosive term again. In fact, in 1972, Frederick Fox of Princeton University stated in a compelling article entitled "The National Day of Prayer": "Since 1953, no President has mentioned sin as a national failing. Neither Kennedy, Johnson, nor Nixon. To be sure, they have skirted the word....I cannot imagine a modern President beating his breast on behalf of the Nation and praying, 'God, be merciful to us sinners.'" "As a nation," admitted one wag at the time, "we officially ceased 'sinning' some twenty years ago."

Then came Menninger, who was gutsy enough to declare the truth. Was what he said new? No, not new. It had been there all the time. It just needed to be declared. May we all have the courage to say that—to call sin, SIN.

*Some words need to be deleted from our vocabulary;
others need to be reinstated.*

Let's be gutsy enough to declare the truth and call sin, sin when we need to. —Chuck Swindoll



Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



on your Anniversary!

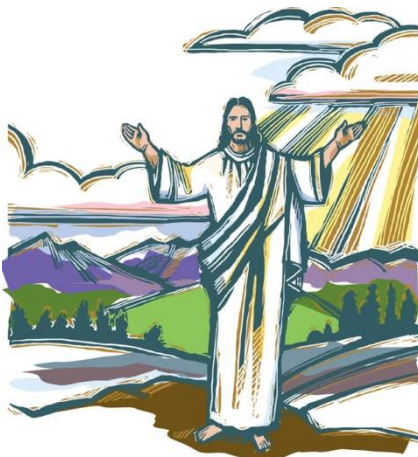
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Paul & Jamie Geise
- 12 Jim & Yvonne Perry Clark
- 16 Paul & Lindsay Cummings



SNOWBIRDS

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



We wait for the blessed hope –
the glorious appearing of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Titus 2:13, NIV

ARTICLES AND INFORMATION
ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 10
FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF
AT FIRST BAPTIST