



# 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



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

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

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

That's why we're counting on your prayerful, generous support of the 2016 World Mission Offering.

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

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

### **Worldwide mission requires your response**

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

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

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

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

A pastor never gets to say "I'm off duty". Never gets to punch out at 5. Never gets to have a normal schedule. We don't know how many sleepless nights they spend on their knees praying for their church. How much opposition they face. How many family opportunities they miss to meet with hurting people. We can't carry their burden for them but we can do what the Bible tells us to: **Pray for them. Encourage them. Support them.** By blessing them we will only be blessed in return.

It's that time of year again – Pastor Appreciation Month is upon us. And this October will be a little different – as it will be the final opportunity for us to honor Pastor Dan as the Senior Pastor here at FBC. Calendars are available for individuals to sign up to honor both Pastor Dan and Pastor Millard on a dedicated day. Please see Vi Pettigrew to sign up on the calendar – it doesn't matter if the calendar is full – multiple people honoring them on the same day is not a problem!!!!

We will honor Pastor Dan on October 16 as he ends his tenure at First Baptist. In addition to special music, there will also be a farewell gift presentation. A special extended fellowship following the 11 AM Farewell Event will be available in Fellowship Hall during the Open House from Noon – 3 PM.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> we will honor Pastor Millard as he begins his journey with us as our Interim Senior Pastor. There will be special music that morning as well as a presentation of a gift.

*Please take a moment in the month of October to honor and thank both of our pastors for all that they do!!*

**“WAIT AND SEE!  
FINDING PEACE IN GOD’S  
PAUSES AND PLANS”**

**2-DAY WOMEN’S CONFERENCE  
AT FBC – OCTOBER 7 & 8!!**

**Friday 7-9 pm; Saturday 9 am – 4 pm**

The FBC Women’s Ministry Team is excited to offer a 2-day conference at First Baptist Church! You may have enjoyed Women of Faith events or maybe you haven’t been able to participate in those trips for some reason....but now you can get a taste of those experiences with an opportunity right here in your own church!!



Author and national speaker Wendy Pope from Proverbs 31 Ministries will be returning as our featured speaker for this event with her theme based on her new book “Wait and See : Finding Peace in God’s Pauses and Plans.” Every woman struggles with times of waiting –

for a spouse, a child, a job. Wendy guides readers to focus on the Person of their faith rather than the object of their wait drawing on the story of King David who was anointed king nearly twenty years before he took his throne. Wendy will speak on Friday evening and again on Saturday afternoon. Workshops on Saturday morning and afternoon will be led by area women who are involved in ministry: Rev. Megan Cusumano (Unequally Yoked Relationships); Corinne Hooten (It’s Worth the Wait); Sue Neely VanBrunt (From David’s Pen -To Where I’ve Been Psalms and songs to keep you calm); Rev. Marie Meeks; Rev. Kim Rossi; Rev. Paris Maine; Deb Wuethrich (Christian Writing); Penny Sorokes (Essential Oils of the Bible). Ticket pricing includes both days of the event, worship, workshops, Fellowship Time on Friday evening and Saturday morning as well as a soup/sandwich lunch Saturday afternoon. The Early Bird ticket price is just \$45 with the price increasing to \$55 after September 25. Tickets will be available in the church office beginning September 1.

*28” Her children arise and call her blessed;  
her husband also, and he praises her:*

*29 “Many women do noble things,  
but you surpass them all.”*

*30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”*

**Proverbs 31: 28-30**

**YOUTH AND CHILDREN**



October 31  
5:30 – 7:00 PM  
In the Fellowship  
Hall  
Fun, games and  
candy!

There will be a barrel in the foyer  
on Sunday Mornings  
to received donations of  
wrapped candy  
for our Harvest Party.

Thank you for helping with this event!

**AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH  
(ABY) CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 6-8**

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

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

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

**WORLD COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

October 4 is World Communion Sunday.  
Members of the Diaconate will serve home  
communion to our homebound members and  
those in nursing homes.

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES AT FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

- **SENIOR LUNCHESES:** feature a program and delicious lunch October thru May (excluding Dec) for just \$9. Reservations are required @ 1-800-927-9083. Dates: Oct 6, Nov 3, Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, Mar 30, May 11.
- **LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND CRAFT BAZAAR**– 11/19 @ 11:30. \$13.00
- Those dreaming of a “**WHITE CHRISTMAS**” will be delighted by Family Life’s stage adaptation of the 1942 Irving Berlin film that popularized the song. The classic musical will present at Family Life in Bath, Dec. 2-4 and Dec. 15-17, as dinner shows, one dessert show, and one show-only performance. Join us on one of these dates for an enjoyable time of food and conversation around an inviting table twinkling with the holidays. Afterward, relax and take in one of the most classic song-and-dance stories ever written – “White Christmas.” The show is full of dancing, laughter and some of the best songs ever written, including “Blue Skies,” “I love Piano,” “How Deep is the Ocean,” and the perennial favorite “White Christmas.”
  - Friday, Dec. 2 – Dinner Show 6:30 pm**
  - Saturday, Dec. 3 – Dinner Show 5:30 pm**
  - Sunday, Dec. 4 – Dessert Show 2:30 pm**
  - Thursday, Dec. 15 – Show-only 7:30 pm**
  - Friday, Dec. 16 – Dinner Show 6:30 pm**
  - Saturday, Dec. 17 – Dinner show 5:30 pm**
- You can usher in the Christmas season with **SELAH** as Family Life brings their Christmas Tour to this area. Music has a unique ability to touch lives and transform hearts. Over the course of 17 years in ministry, Selah has seen that power over and over again. For Todd Smith, Allan Hall and Amy Perry, it’s both humbling and exciting to be part of a force that inspires, entertains and encourages. **Ticket Prices:** Artist Circle \$24.50, General Admission \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door.
- This **VALENTINE’S DAY** weekend, treat the ones you love to a **DINNER CONCERT WITH MICHAEL CARD**. In Card's 30 years as a Christian artist, he has recorded over 33 albums and penned such favorites as "El

Shaddai”, “Love Crucified Arose”, and “Emmanuel.” On Feb. 10 and 11, guests will enjoy a buffet-style meal at candlelit tables after which Card will share his music and heartfelt stories about a God who meets them where they are at and loves them unconditionally. Tickets for Friday's dinner concert are \$34.50 per person and doors open at 5:45 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday’s dinner concert are \$34.50 per person and doors open at 4:45 with dinner beginning at 5:30.

- **DINNER CONCERT WITH ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND.** From its formation in 2003, Ernie Haase has built Signature Sound into one of the most popular and beloved quartets in all of Southern Gospel music. On April 22, guests will enjoy a buffet-style meal at candlelit tables after which Ernie Haase & Signature Sound will serve up some energy, excitement and encouragement through their powerful brand of gospel music. Tickets for Friday's dinner concert are \$34.50 per person and doors open at 5:45 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.; **Saturday’s dinner concert are \$34.50 per person and doors open at 4:45 with dinner beginning at 5:30 pm.**

**Purchase tickets online** or call the ticket office at 800-927-9083. Group discounts are available, but only by calling the ticket office.



**Articles and Information  
for the  
November issue of  
At First Baptist  
are due by October 13.  
The Newsletter Committee  
will meet at 1 PM on  
Tuesday,  
October 25,  
to prepare the paper  
for distribution**



# Family of God



We extend our Love and Sympathy to Pastor Dan and Terri McDowell on the recent passing of Terri's brother, Dan Island.

## CONGRATULATIONS.....

### IT'S A GIRL!!!

..... to Grace Thurston on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Lyla Leonore Thurston on August 29. Lyla is the daughter of Jonathan and Leslie Thurston; granddaughter of Kevin and Edwina Thurston.

.....to Josh and Annie Anderson on the birth of their daughter, Josie Ann, on September 2. Josie is the granddaughter of Dale and Ann Anderson; great-granddaughter of Don and Willie Anderson.

### IT'S A BOY!!!

.....to Richard and Kaitlin Taylor Young on the birth of their son, Rowan Wallace, on September 17. David and Nancy Taylor are Rowan's proud grandparents.



Congratulations to James and Rachel (Abraham) VanBrunt who were united in marriage on Sunday, September 11.

Weddings

## STEWARDSHIP

### REMINDER

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

is **November 6.**

Remember to turn in your pledge card.



## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The Ladies' afternoon Bible Study resumed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14. The group is led by Rita Wymer. All ladies are welcome.....Come and join us!



Women's Bible Study



## OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

The monthly Board meetings will be held on:

**Sunday, October 9 @ Noon**

Board of Christian Missions

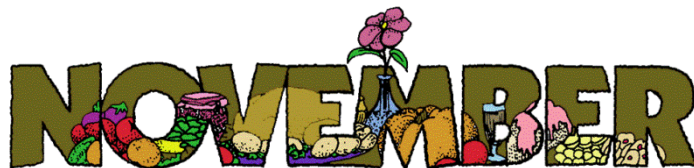
**Monday, October 10 @ 5:30 pm-** Board of Christian Education

**Tuesday, October 11 @ 6:30 pm –** Diaconate @ 7 pm – Trustees



## PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

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



## Coming Up in November:

- ❖ The American Baptist Youth Convention will be held in Syracuse on November 4-6 for grades 7-12.
- ❖ A Veteran's Day Breakfast will be held at FBC for veterans, their families, etc. on November 11. Any veteran and spouse will receive a FREE breakfast, with donations accepted from families and others attending. These donations will be used to benefit Veterans in some way.
- ❖ Giving Thanks Dinner Nov. 19 – 6 p.m.
- ❖ Hanging of the Greens Nov. 20

# OFFERING ADVICE TO OUR YOUNGER SELVES

By Deb Wuehrich

In a recent *Home Again* column for the *Olean Times Herald* I visited a trend that I've been noticing. People tend to be reflecting on their lives and sort of reviewing with an "if I knew then what I know now" attitude.

In a secular newspaper column, I can't always expand on where my heart of faith wants to go. While I do bring in inspirational thoughts—and the occasional faith, God and Bible reference—*Home Again* is to be more of a mainstream column. I've been criticized at times in the past 23 years of making references that are "too churchy" for a secular publication. As one who belongs to Jesus Christ, however, I am generally confident that He will shine through because I am a Christian and can't help but write with a Christian worldview, even when told to "tone down" on the Christianese. That is not to say the local paper has done that yet, but I've been cautioned in the past elsewhere.

That said, sometimes there are topics I address where I feel more needs to be said. First, I noticed MercyMe's song, "Dear Younger Me," and read some background on Bart Millard's writing of the song, based on an abusive childhood.

Then, a professor friend at Keuka College asked others what she might include in her freshman college course on decision-making. She asked us what we wish we'd known when we were younger, stating she might share the wisdom with students. Advice ranged from warnings against too much debt through student loans or credit cards, how good grades and professionalism do matter and even, "Don't take yourself so seriously."

Last week, a correspondent on the TV show "Insider" asked Hollywood legends, "What would you say to your younger self?" I asked the same question of some friends this week. One noted she'd tell herself not to stress so much and worry about pleasing everyone. She's comfortable with herself now and sees that it was wasted time and effort.

Another scanned her memory but essentially said she was happy with the way things had turned out though she might have at times questioned how life would have been different had she gone to college. But she could see the blessing in the way God laid things out—she was available for her kids and worked part-time as they got older.

As I've looked back, I know I would tell a younger me to stop fretting so much over decision-making and

just choose. I have more of an awareness now of how choices have consequences and they can be long term. I also see where I waffled and stressed in case I'd make a mistake. What I didn't expand on in the secular column was how merciful and full of grace our God is. Even when I did make mistakes, and there were some pretty big ones, or sometimes didn't choose and just let the chips fall, **HE WAS STILL THERE IN IT! HE BLESSED ME ANYWAY!** And when there was hurt or suffering, clear lessons resulted.

As I continue to reflect on things, I realize that God does offer us options and choices, opportunities that may take us in totally different directions. We have just one life here on Earth and can't do everything. But I think we should talk things over with Him, pray about decisions, then make the choice that seems to settle onto our heart. And then, we should relax! God will direct our footsteps. He will be with us, when there are obstacles and when the path is smooth. And like Bart Millard says in the song, "You were never meant to carry this beyond the cross." Jesus is Present for that!



Philippians 2:1-4, "Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (NIV)





## ***FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART.....***

Well, here we are. In a way it seems like a lifetime ago when I arrived with my family in Olean. Thoughts of grandparenting were far from

my mind then. And now (God willing) I will become a grandfather in November. So much has changed since 2002.

Back then Sandy Schultz was still our secretary, Jerry Nutt was full-time with a part-time assistant (Bob Isaman), Alex Freer was the Director of Family Ministries (not yet ordained), and although Sue Neely VanBrunt and Bob Faulds were firmly planted as the leaders of our music ministry, we had not yet launched our bell choir.

At that point the Builders Class was still the easily identified backbone of the church with over 30 people in attendance each week and an active social schedule. Jim Elling was the strong leader of the Trustees, Dave Torrey of the Diaconate, Chris Rosel of the Christian Education Board and Helen Babcock on the Board of Christian Missions. Jim Molyneaux was our Moderator.

We had not yet launched our Retirees Luncheons, our Free Community Easter Dinners, Free Veteran's Day Breakfasts, or any of the outreaches to the local housing projects. I wasn't writing the column in the Times Herald yet (and wouldn't start until 2008). We had two worship services at 8:30 and 11 am with Sunday School in between. Worship attendance then was recorded at around 180 per Sunday (although we estimated that 20 or more people stayed for both services).

Yes, the landscape of our congregation has changed a lot since then; in some ways that are unfortunate and in other ways that point in a more positive direction. Through it all I have been honored to hold the title of Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Olean, NY.

If you know my story, I was born in Buffalo in 1959, moved to Syracuse shortly thereafter and my father lost his life in an industrial accident in 1965. From there we moved to Emporium, PA to live near my paternal grandparents. We made frequent shopping trips to Olean and (since my church was such a big part of my life growing up) I often wondered if there was a Baptist Church in Olean.

One would have thought I would see it since we drove right by Lincoln Park on our way into town (and I was always fascinated by the lighted ornament display there at Christmas time). But I didn't.

In 1971 my mom remarried, I accepted Christ and got baptized. In 1974 I was called into the ministry and in 1975 my family moved to Nebraska where I graduated from high school in 1977. In 1978 I enrolled at ABC related Sioux Falls College in South Dakota to pursue my degrees in Religious Studies and Speech Communications.

Upon graduation from SFC in 1981, Terri and I were married and I accepted the call to Youth Ministry in North Platte, Nebraska. In 1984 I left that church to pursue my seminary Education at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, where I served as Student Body President and as the Young Adult Minister at a Presbyterian Church near the campus of the University of Pennsylvania.

When I graduated from seminary in 1987 I accepted the call to (VERY rural) Lincolnville Baptist Church near Erie PA, a church planting assignment in suburban Detroit, Michigan in 1991 and then in 1993 I was invited to be the Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Medina, NY (halfway between Buffalo and Rochester on the Erie Canal).

My years in Medina were some of the happiest of my life as our kids came of age and God blessed us in so many ways. The church was growing and thriving and some of my dreams came true when Terri and I had the opportunities to travel to Israel (twice!). I also got to coach several football teams and even take one to (what was then known as) Rich Stadium to play a Sunday morning game just prior to the Doug Flutie led Bills played the Brett Favre led Packers. Those two celebrities stood on the sidelines and watched our kids play!

In 2002 the Lord led us here. Some of you may remember that not all of my kids were thrilled with the prospect at the time but thanks to people like Ted and Nan Norton, several of the public school teachers in our church (like Chris Rosel and the first April Prutsman) they eventually adjusted and blossomed. They (like my wife of 35 years) are my pride and joy.

Huntington Baptist Church is not a climb up the ladder for me. It is a much smaller church in a much bigger town. They have been through very hard times recently and they need help. In ways too numerous to go into here, it became clear to me that the Lord wants me to serve that church in the twilight of my ministry. I'm excited about the possibilities and yet I leave a big part of my heart here.

I lived longer in Olean than any other place. I buried my mother and sister here and I watched my kids graduate from High School (and one from SBU). It will always seem like "home" ~ *Pastor Dan*



## THE HEART OF A CHILD

*“Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted,*

*and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat. 18:3)*

Jesus is talking to men far removed from childhood, grown worldly-wise, shifty, calculating, hard-boiled, place-seekers, job-hunters, rainbow-chasers.

Jesus was in the business of establishing a kingdom. And He says to all that if you are to have any position in this kingdom you must go back to the heart of a child.

### I. CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Jesus has a kingdom. It is a kingdom of integrity, of uprightness, of justice and principle of courage, sobriety, and truth, of gentleness and mercy and love, of all those graces which are marks of kinship between the human and the divine, between man and his Maker. The secret of it is to have the heart of a child.

There is a kingdom to come in which He will rule and we will enjoy the benefits of a perfect kingdom. But there is also a kingdom now within the heart of every believer. Christ can bring about a condition on earth now in which His people acquire happiness and character. A work of the Spirit that over comes circumstances and produces a joy and peace unknown to world. The secret is to possess the heart of a child.

### II. THE DISCIPLES AND THE KINGDOM

What answer did the disciples expect Christ to give when they asked Him who should be greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Perhaps they thought He might say that the people who know the most will be the greatest. Knowledge is power.

The disciples might have expected Him to say money. Money is the road to greatness. They held that riches were a sign of God's approval of your life.

They might have thought the people who live the purest lives will have the highest place in the kingdom. Certainly this is what the pharisees taught and endeavored to live. They had long lists of do's and don'ts that they believed would make them acceptable to God.

But Christ says the way to the kingdom was

not by knowledge. For many know but do not apply. Nor was it by money. As many make money itself their God. And He did not say that morality was the way into the kingdom. For it is not by works of righteousness that we are saved but by grace. Rather He tells them that they must turn about and have the heart of a child.

### III. BECOMING LIKE A CHILD

What does it mean for a grown man to become as a little child?

Christ does not leave us to wonder or speculate what is meant for the next verse clearly states *“Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Mat.18:4)* Humility is the step toward the kingdom. There are people unsaved today because they are too proud to admit that they need salvation. They will never get through the door of the kingdom until they loose themselves from the burden of pride

Children are not sceptics. Childhood is the period of perfect trust. Faith is as natural to a child as light to the sun. Faith is the start toward greatness. *“According to your faith be it unto you.” (Mat.9:29)*

The heart of a child is seeking love. Perhaps this is the strongest characteristic of childhood. The first thing a baby does is to put out his little arms. He wants to love and be loved. Christ came to love us into heaven. God has shown us His great love by the great gift of His Son to us.

So today if you do not know Christ, humble yourself to admit your need realizing that there is nothing you can do to obtain salvation on your own. Rather you must trust Him, as a little child trusts, as your only hope for salvation. Then live in the fulfilling warmth of His love for all of eternity.

*~Pastor Millard*

Give Thanks to the LORD,



for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

