



## AT FIRST BAPTIST

**JASON HLADIK**  
Senior Pastor

**SUE NEELY VANBRUNT**  
Minister of Music

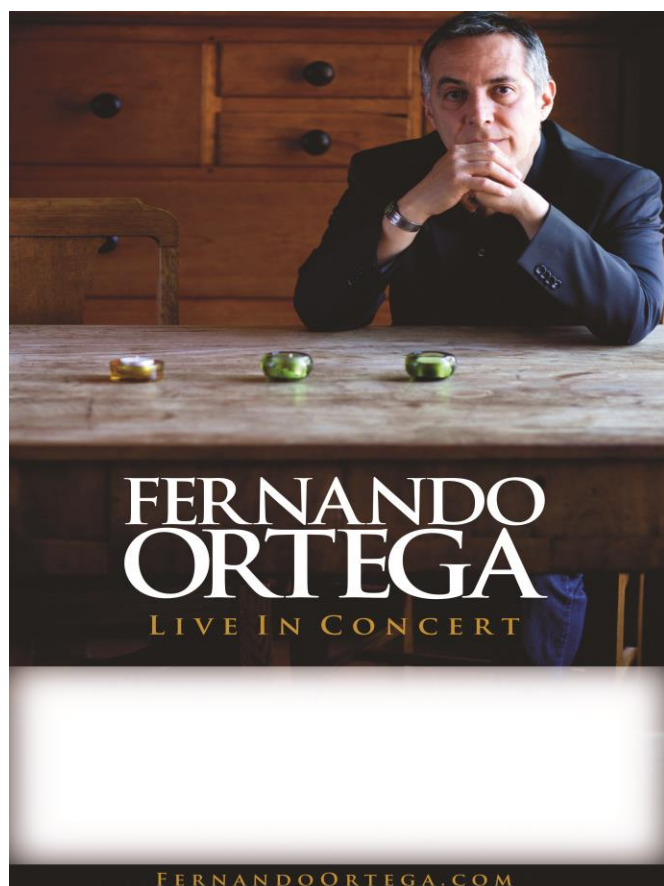
**DEB WUETHRICH**  
Church Secretary

**PAMELA PUTT**  
Financial Liaison

**ROBERT FAULDS**  
Organist

**CASEY SAGE**  
Social Media Specialist  
Audio-Visual Technician

**RACHEL GREEN**  
Custodian



One of Christian music's most popular and respected artists will be bringing his unique style to Olean First Baptist on Friday, May 6. The event is sponsored by the Olean FBC Women's Ministry in cooperation with Family Life Ministries.

Fernando was scheduled to come to Olean in 2020, shortly after our successful and inspiring Nichole Nordeman concert, but pandemic lockdowns prevented going ahead with the event.

With three Gospel Music Association Dove Awards and a Billboard Latin Music Award to his credit, Fernando's Christian radio hits include, "This Good

Day," "Jesus, King of Angels" and "Sleepless Night."

He is renowned for his stirring arrangements of beloved hymns such as "Give Me Jesus" and "Be Thou My Vision," among others. His solo discography features 18 projects in a heralded career spanning more than 25 years.

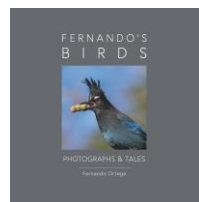
"Every aspect of our lives should be measured out by the narrative of Christ's life," Fernando says.

During the pandemic, Fernando released a Christmas EP in 2020 and more recently explored a different side of his creativity releasing a book titled, "Fernando's Birds—Photographs and Tales." The book is already sold out but he is in the process of reordering.

Pre-sale prices for tickets are: Artist Circle \$35; General Admission \$30; Seniors (65+) and Students \$25. If tickets are still available the night of the concert, all prices will increase \$5 at the door. If you purchased tickets to the previous 2020 event and did not claim a refund, your ticket will be honored at this event.

Doors will open at 6:45 pm for the concert that will begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets are currently on sale by calling 716-790-1948 or on-line at <https://olean-first-baptist-church-womens-ministry.ticketleap.com/fernando-ortega-ofbc/>

FBC looks forward to this exciting event and we hope to fill the sanctuary, so tell your friends!



"Fernando's Birds" will be available to order again soon. The first run completely sold out. It must be good!



spring flowers. Easter Sunday is also a time for celebration through music. The In One A-Chord Handbell Choir will be ringing “Day of Resurrection” and “Because He Lives;” the Senior Choir will sing, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” with “Christ is Risen from the Dead,” and the congregation will sing several Easter favorites. Bob Faulds is preparing special organ selections and Dave Taylor will accompany the bells and congregational songs on trumpet. Come and celebrate. Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!!

## **15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER APRIL 17, 2022**

First Baptist Church and the Olean Food Pantry are once again teaming together to offer a community Easter Dinner to those in need. This is a wonderful opportunity to work together and assist those less fortunate or those that may be alone on this most joyous Easter celebration. The Community Dinner is a community building event, crossing economic, racial, religious and ethnic barriers and presenting a wealth of wonderful, culturally diverse people from our own community. The dinner will be “free of charge” with choice between Ham or Turkey dinner.

Due to health concerns there will be no in-church dining during the event. Take-out and deliveries of meals will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 17. Reservations are needed for both take-out and home deliveries. Call the Church office before noon on April 8, at 372.5151.

**Donations:** Cash donations and checks made to First Baptist Church (please note Easter Dinner on your check or envelope) are also appreciated to assist in defraying the cost of this event. Please make all donations to FBC by Sunday, April 10. Call the church office at 716-372-5151 if you are able to donate, would like to make reservations or need more information.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed for planning, preparation, serving, delivery, and clean up. The sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex or call the church office.

Thank you in advance for your time, talents and monetary gifts!

--Sharon P. Anthony  
Easter Dinner Chair

**PALM SUNDAY** – On Palm Sunday, April 10, our Senior Choir is excited to present the cantata, “**Is He Worthy?**” During the service, worshipers will be encouraged to ponder the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, praise God for the miracle of the resurrection and declare to the world that Jesus is worthy of all blessing, honor and glory! This musical is full of meaningful narration and includes diverse musical selections. In addition to traditional favorites, “Hallelujah What a Savior,” “Jesus Paid it All,” and “Were You There?” you will hear more recent works by Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher, Gaither Vocal Band and Matt Redman. This Palm Sunday worship will include congregational singing, a time for prayer and a special song by our children. Palm fronds will be available for those who might like them as a remembrance of the day. What a wonderful opportunity we have to invite family and friends to be part of this service of worship on the first day of Holy Week. All ages will be moved toward the cross and opened grave!

**CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT** – The Board of Christian Education is planning an Easter Egg Hunt for the children similar to last year’s activity. The youngsters will hunt for filled plastic eggs as part of their Sunday school classes on **Palm Sunday**.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** – Pastor Jason and the Diaconate have been planning a special Maundy Thursday service on April 14, at 7 p.m. The sermon and communion time will be an experience for the senses with the baking of unleavened bread on the premises and the service taking place in the narthex.

**GOOD FRIDAY** – GOAC will host a Drive-in Walk the Way of the Cross celebration on April 15 at Noon in Lincoln Park. Bring a chair or watch from cars.

**EASTER SUNDAY** – Easter Sunday is always a special time with a joyful sermon and children’s talk about Jesus’s Resurrection, bringing hope to the world! Our sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful

## SPRING BREAK DROP-IN CAMP

There's still time to sign up for the Spring Break Drop-in Camp scheduled for April 11-14, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The Board of Christian Education has planned this fun camp in a safe environment to assist parents while youngsters are out of school for Spring Break.

The camp is designed for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and there is no charge to attend. Donations will be accepted to offset supply costs, however. (See Tiffany Hladik or the church office for more details.)

Volunteers are also being sought to assist with shifts from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 12-4:30 p.m. each day. Lunch assistance will also be needed from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sign up on the Volunteer sheets inserted into the church bulletins or contact Pastor Jason, Tiffany Hladik or Pamela Putt if you are able to help.

## State Convention Registrations due March 30

Since the AFB goes out a little ahead of the new month, registrations are still being accepted until March 30 for The American Baptist Women's Ministries of New York State—American Baptist Girls of New York State annual State Convention. The event will be held April 22-24 at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel in Celoron. It's open to ages 12 and up and includes activities and workshops drawing from a theme from Ephesians 2:14.

The theme is "Let the W.A.L.L.S. Fall Down": W=Weakness; A=Anxiety; L=Lies; L=Limitations; S=Separation.

For complete information and a registration form, see a member of the Women's Ministry Team (Penny Sorokes, Casey Sage, Pam Nutt, Cheri O'Dell, Marcie Rust, Jodie Martin) or stop in the church office for a packet.



## IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMPS!

Camp Kickoff Sunday will be coming April 24 when we'll highlight camp during worship. If your child(ren) would like to attend camp in 2022, letters of interest will need to be submitted to the Board of Christian Education. A deadline will be posted soon. Parents are responsible for the registration fee; the Board will review all letters and sponsor as many children/youth as possible. Contact Pastor Jason for more details on the camp options.

Save the Date!

### CAMP VICK 2022: LIVING STONES...MORE PRECIOUS THAN DIAMONDS (1 Peter 2:5; Proverbs 31:10)

July 24-29	Mission Possible	Grades 7-12	\$460
	Frontier Girls	Grades 3-7	\$435
July 26-29	Beginners	Grades 1-4	\$310
July 31-Aug 5	Frontier Boys	Grades 3-7	\$435
	Vick Investigates	Grades 3-7	\$435
	Wet and Wild	Grades 7-12	\$435
Aug 7-12	Splash Camp	Grades 3-7	\$435
	Surviving Frontier	Grades 8-12	\$435
Aug 26-28	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (at Pathfinder)		

## GENESIS HOUSE ANNUAL GERANIUM SALE

The annual geranium sale will be underway at Genesis House beginning April 1. This is the BIGGEST fundraiser for our only local homeless shelter. The top-quality geraniums are sold for \$7 each or three for \$16; available colors are red, white, pink, or coral. Orders can be placed on-line at [www.geneshouseofolean.org/flowersales](http://www.geneshouseofolean.org/flowersales) or by calling Genesis House at 373-3354. Judy Wightman will be in the lobby after worship on Sunday April 3 and April 24 to take your order. All orders and payments are due by April 24. They will be available for pick up at Forness Park (note new location) on May 10 & 11.







## **APRIL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, April 10**

@ Noon Board of Christian Mission

**Tuesday, April 12**

@ 6:30 pm- Board of Christian Education

– Diaconate

@ 7 pm – Trustees

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: WE HAVE A SEAT JUST FOR YOU!**

**FBC would like to invite you to one of several  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES!**

Pastor Jason has been leading “Why Easter Matters,” a video Lenten study by Andy Stanley. This will continue in the sanctuary through the Lenten season. There will be no Sunday School classes on Easter Sunday when it’s “all hands on deck” for meal prep and deliveries. Following Easter, The Seekers Class will continue their study on The Messianic Psalms. The Builders Sunday School Class has been studying Jesus’ teachings to His disciples at The Last Supper and “Living Life Connected to Christ.” Studies after Easter move to “Living With the End in Mind.” Youth and Childrens’ Sunday School classes continue in age- and season-appropriate studies. All classes are open to new participants at any time!

## **HELP US UPDATE OUR MILITARY WALL**

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.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Our church offers financial scholarship to assist with

expenses for church members planning to continue their education. An application for consideration is available in the lobby information tower and should be submitted by **April 29, 2022**. It will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee that is appointed by the Board of Trustees who administers this fund. This committee will consider factors such as dedication to Christian principals, evidence of Christian service, participation in FBC programs, educational achievement, extra-curricular activities and financial need. Letters of congratulation will be mailed to recipients, who will be recognized in worship on a Sunday in June. Eligibility requirements:

1. Be an active participant at Olean First Baptist church for at least 3 years, a church member for 2 years
2. Be at least a high school graduate/scheduled to graduate by August
3. Possess the motivation to pursue post-secondary education/training
4. Demonstrate financial need
5. Submit all available transcripts or copies of grades and/or evidence of growth during recent years of education/training
6. Complete entire application and write accompanying essay





## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

*I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid. John 14:27*

I heard the story of a man who was looking for a job. After applying everywhere else in town, he had the idea of applying at the local zoo, hoping to get a job feeding the animals. The manager at the zoo said they had no openings, but seeing how big this guy was, he offered him another position. "Our gorilla died the other day, and he was one of our most popular exhibits. If we got you a special gorilla suit, would you put it on and imitate him for a few days, until the new gorilla arrives? We'll pay you well for it."

The man was so desperate for work he agreed. In fact, after a few hours, he really got into the part—beating his chest and shaking the bars. Huge crowds were gathering. Maybe this won't be so bad after all, he told himself.

But one day, he was swinging on a trapeze and lost his grip. His momentum carried him right over a tall chain-link fence into the middle of the lion's den. Looking up at this intruder in his domain, the huge lion gave a ferocious roar. The crowds were mesmerized.

What was the man to do? If he cried out for help, it would reveal his true identity. He slowly walked backward away from the lion, hoping to climb the fence back into his own cage. The lion, however, with a hungry look on his face, began to stalk him step by step. Finally, in desperation, the gorilla hollered, "Help!"

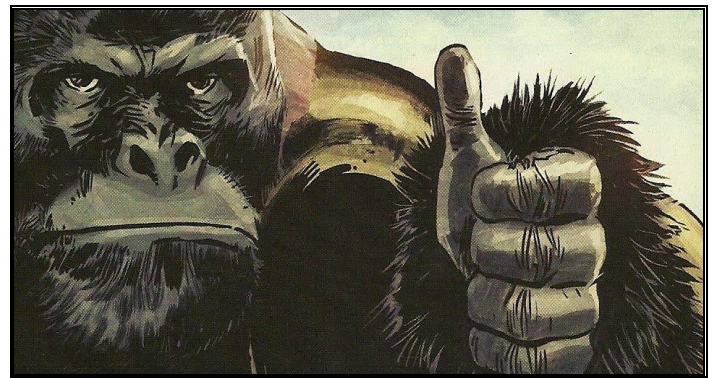
Immediately the lion answered in an annoyed whisper, "Shut up or you'll get us both fired!"

We all face our fears and anxieties differently. Some try to live as if they don't exist while others bottle them up. Sometimes we face our fears like this man in the gorilla suit. We act brave because the people we love the most need to see our strength. We can keep this up for quite a while, but over time the pressures and stresses wear us down until we realize there is nothing between us and a lion but a silly costume of bravado.

One of the most repeated phrases in the Bible is, "Do not be afraid." Some estimates put it at about 365 times that someone is told not to fear. Angels often say this to people receiving messages from God. God himself says this to his prophets and then those prophets are instructed to tell His people not to be afraid. When the Israelites stand on the brink of battle, they are told not to fear because God is with them.

There are things in this world that should cause us fear, but the gift of God through Christ is peace. We can face the uncertainties of this world knowing nothing is going to surprise God. We can face messages of illness or loss knowing God will not leave us, nor forsake us. We can even face persecution knowing God is on our side. The book of Revelation shows God's victory is planned. So, the next time you are facing a lion, whether literal or figurative, remember who shut the mouths of lions before and be at peace.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Pastor Jason





## THE MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

As I sit down to write this edition of the Moderator's Musings, I have so many thoughts bouncing around in my head. In a gross understatement, we are living in very troubling times. It seems we barely get through one trial when another is thrust upon us. COVID-19 finally seems to be waning... though many are reluctant to let it go. In its wake, we are dealing with increases in the cost of living as inflation and other factors are boosting what we must pay for food, gasoline, and utilities. Some folks are beginning to question how they will make ends meet. We are seeing a continuing decline in our culture or society as many of our so-called leaders seem bent on dividing rather than uniting us. They create ways to divide us. They find racism and bigotry in the oddest places. We are taught to shun those who don't *think* like us. And then there is the war in Ukraine! If you have ever doubted that evil exists in the world, you need look no further than the atrocities being committed by the Russian military... indiscriminately bombing hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other civilian targets! The news reports... the video feeds... the photographs are heart-wrenching and sickening! How can any human being... any creation of God... do this to another human being??? What possesses a man that he feels justified in methodically killing the innocent?? The answer?? **Pure evil!!** As Christians, we are repulsed by what we see. We want to strike back but feel powerless to do so! However, regardless of how frustrated and angry we might get, we must recognize that this war is **NOT** God's doing. This is Satan at his best, leading mankind to do our worst!! That's the double-edge sword of free will. We can choose to do good, or we can choose to be evil... and God will allow it... to a point. But a day of reckoning is coming! *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison, and you came to me.'*

*Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."* **Matthew 25: 31-46**

So, getting back to an earlier thought... are we truly powerless to do anything about evil in our time? No, we are **not**! We can **pray**! We can ask the Creator of all things to intervene in any situation. We can pray for our leaders, that they might see the error of their ways and turn to God for guidance. We can pray for the people of Ukraine, that God will comfort them and bring them peace. We can also pray for those who are committing the atrocities... that they, too, will come to their senses, recognize the incredible evil they are doing, and the eternal damnation awaiting them if they do not repent and turn to God. As is also written in Romans 12:20: *"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."* And you know, I can't think of a better way to **"stick it to Satan"** than to pray that God disrupts the devil's evil schemes and that He brings peace and understanding into our increasingly troubled world!

*Blessed are the peacemakers...*  
-Jim Sorokes, Moderator

*The simplest meaning of Easter is that we are living in a world in which God has the last word.*

*--Anonymous*



## CAREGIVER LISTS POSTED

Not sure who your Diaconate Caregiver is this year?  
Check the list posted on the side of the members  
mailboxes near the office door or call the church office for  
that information.

2022 Diaconate Contact Information		
Diaconate	Phone	Email
Yvonne Perry-Clark	413-923-8344 Cell	yjpc91209@yahoo.com
Deb Wuethrich (Chair/Sec)	716-379-8702H	deborahmarcein@gmail.com
Dave Torrey (Vice Chair)	716-307-6652	indpatterns@hotmail.com
Bob Brookins	716-372-0986 H 716-307-2480 Cell	N/A
Laurie MacNeill	716-560-9104 Cell	l.macneill@yahoo.com
Laura Cox	336-682-4045	Coxmisfits@icloud.com
Donna DeLong	716-557-8323 H	dodelong@yahoo.com
Karen Woodring	716-373-3310 H	nerak56@gmx.com
Violet Butler	716-378-6872 Cell	Vrbutler62@gmail.com
Millard Cook	716-472-8273 Cell	mcook2080@gmail.com
Vi Pettigrew	716-373-1935 H	N/A
Lonnie Renninger	814-966-3381 dH 814-598-0797 Cell	N/A
Jodie Martin	716-244-1138 Cell	jodiemartin716@gmail.com



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Yvonne Perry Clark
- 4 Jean Kwiatkowski  
Karen Moore
- 6 Madison Davenport
- 12 Jack Croft  
Geoff O'Dell
- 19 Nancy Lennon
- 20 Carleigh Spiller
- 21 Janell Martin
- 23 Abrianna Hladik



**INFORMATION AND ARTICLES FOR THE  
MAY EDITION OF  
AT FIRST BAPTIST  
ARE DUE TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE BY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 14.**



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Monday thru Friday**  
**Pastor: 9 am to 3 pm (Mon-Thur)**  
**Morning Devotions approx.. 9-9:30 am**  
**Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.**  
**PHONE: 372-5151**  
**Pastor Jason Hladik: 716-307-1721**  
**pastorhladik@icloud.com**  
**EMAIL: oleanfbc@outlook.com**  
**WEBSITE: oleanfirstbaptist.com**  
**FACEBOOK: oleanfirstbaptistchurch**



Linda Kennemuth is the contact person for our church **PRAYER CHAIN**. If you would like to be included in the circulation or if you have a prayer concern to share, please contact Linda at [chico.lindy@gmail.com](mailto:chico.lindy@gmail.com) or 716-372-6878.

If you would like to have a worship service dedicated to a loved one you may choose a date on the sign-up sheet near the office. There is no charge for these dedications and we can have more than one on a given Sunday.

Also, if you would like to provide a flower arrangement for a Sunday in honor or memory of someone, please notify the church office by Tuesday so that it will be noted in the bulletin announcements. You will need to bring the flowers to the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

## Welcome new FBC Financial Liaison

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that **Pamela (Phillips) Putt** has been added to our church staff as **Financial Liaison**. This new role replaces the Financial Secretary position previously held by Bonnie Kettle. Pamela's primary responsibilities include: (1) Acting as the liaison between the Church and Fox Financial; (2) Receiving, tallying, and recording the weekly offering; (3) Maintaining giving records of those donating to the church; (4) issuing quarterly and annual giving statements; and (5) Other tasks related to church finances as requested by the Board of Trustees. If you need to contact Pamela on church-related matters, her work e-mail address is [OFBC\\_Treasurer@outlook.com](mailto:OFBC_Treasurer@outlook.com). (Note: The first part of the address is OFBC\_Treasurer). Her normal working hours are 9AM to noon on Tuesday. Please join us in welcoming Pamela to the church staff and do what you can to help as she "learns the ropes" in her new job. Questions related to this announcement should be directed to Lori Funden (Chair, Board of Trustees) or Jim Sorokes (Chair, Personnel Committee, Board of Trustees).

**EASTER IS NO TIME FOR ARGUMENT.**

**LILIES DON'T ARGUE; THEY BLOOM.**

**SPRINGTIME DOESN'T ARGUE; IT COMES.**

**MUSIC DOESN'T ARGUE; IT SINGS.**

**BEAUTY DOESN'T ARGUE; IT BECKONS  
AND POINTS.**

**LOVE DOESN'T ARGUE; IT OUTLIVES OUR  
GRIEFS.**

**--Frederick B. Speakman**

*"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*

*And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeth thou this?*

*She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. --John 11:25-27*

*God expects from men that their Easter devotions would in some measure come up to their Easter dress.*

**--Robert South**

## Beyond The Trappings of Easter Finery

My Easter memories always include my mother. Mom sewed matching dresses and little fabric purses for me and my sister Cheri. We wore these in the Easter photos, grinning over filled Easter baskets. I was a First Baptist kid then, attending with my Grandmother, Amy Brown, and not just at Easter.

Later when Mom remarried and had our brothers Scott and Dale, she still liked to deck us all out, only we made special trips to local shops for new finery, including hats (Easter bonnets). Mom liked to include a new outfit for herself and usually posed in the photo as well. (Our step-dad wanted no part of this annual activity.) I have to laugh whenever I come across one snapshot with the two little brothers in dapper suits, black hats, making faces and flapping their hands.

While the clothes extravaganza was an Easter event, it was only on the fringes of church attendance. I didn't know then, but we were among the group regular attenders called the "Christmas and Easter" bunch. Some years, mom took us to "our old church" at First Baptist and sometimes a Methodist church that used to sit in the vicinity of the Olean Fire Station until it burned, the church of *her* youth. In my mind, both were cavernous, impressive places and I liked going.

For a period, we were sent to church with neighbors and friends, to a tiny country church in Port Allegany where I remember cutting out Styrofoam crosses to decorate one Easter, and later to the St. Andrews Methodist Church in Westons Mills. As an adult, I accompanied family to FBC on visits home as "one of those Christmas Eve people," but Easter was typically at home with our daughter, Michele.

Gordy and I finally returned to church full time in the early 2000s. It was a time of recommitment in many ways—to each other, and to God. I enjoyed St. Peter's Episcopal Church because the *Book of Common Prayer* held many clues to what Easter was really about, from its rites for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter morning. I've found similar comfort in my circle-back to FBC. Sometimes I remember Mom, the new clothes and her determination to let us experience church at least on Easter. I've also been blessed to experience a much deeper faith than I knew then, thanks to the love of the Resurrected Savior!

(Deb Wuethrich)

*Easter not only happened; it happens. It is not only a past event to be celebrated with new hats and hallelujahs; it is an eternally present fact to be appropriated by faith and obedience.*

**--Leonard Griffith**