



AT FIRST BAPTIST

Interim Pastor
Rev. Ivan Crossno
Minister of Music
Sue Neely VanBrunt
Secretary
Penny Sorokes

Organist
Robert Faulds
Audio Visual Specialist
Casey Sage
Custodian
Rachel Green

PHONE: 716- 372-5151

EMAIL: oleanfbc@outlook.com

WEBSITE: oleanfirstbaptist.com

FACEBOOK: [oleanfirstbaptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oleanfirstbaptistchurch)

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages: 11:00 a.m.

A MUSICAL MOMENT

Sing to the Lord with grateful praise, make music to our God. Psalm 147:7

Thanksgiving Music Sunday & Giving Thanks Dinner

On Sunday, Nov. 10, we will focus on giving thanks to the Lord! On this special Music Sunday, FBC musicians including the Senior Choir, Kid's Choir and instrumentalists will lead our congregation in the music of the Thanksgiving season. Stories behind some of our favorite songs of thanks will be shared along with expressions of gratitude that will help us count our blessings. We are privileged to thank God for the gift of salvation, as we gather around the table to celebrate a service of Communion. What a wonderful morning of worship it will be!

Following the service, there will be an abbreviated Sunday school then everyone will move to Fellowship Hall at 11:30 for an Advent preview and then we'll enjoy our **Giving Thanks Dinner** of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy and beverages prepared by the Diaconate and Fellowship Committee. You will also want to taste the side dishes and desserts provided by those in attendance who are able. It's not too late to join the entire church family as we come together in thanksgiving!

AND...looking ahead to Christmas...

It's that time of year when you have an opportunity to lift your voice in song for a special event. Yes, I'm talking about the Christmas Cantata already! This year the Sr. Choir plans to present "Bethlehem Morning" as a sermon-in-song for the 9:30 a.m. service of worship Dec. 22nd.

It is important for us all to remember what Christmas is really about. The world was in desperate need of a Savior, and Christmas gave us the gift of Jesus. He is

the true meaning of Christmas. This year, you are invited to celebrate this important message through this musical retelling of the Christmas story.



If you like to sing, won't you consider joining us to sing this cantata? We need many voices to join in presenting this work, which includes selections from popular Christmas carols and new worship songs. Please join us at rehearsals each Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

'Sing'cerely, Sue Neely VanBrunt – Minister of Music



Also during worship on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10**, the Diaconate is planning a special tribute to our veterans. Our bulletin will include an insert honoring Olean First Baptist Military Veterans. If you get a chance, ask a veteran to tell you about their service. Some may not care to share, but others may tell you some great stories.

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Commitment Sunday on Oct. 27 signified the completion of the 2024 Stewardship Campaign. If you haven't submitted your pledge card,

please do so as soon as possible. The Trustees need your information to provide an accurate 2025 budget.





The 2024 Nominating Committee is working hard to find candidates for our Boards and Committees.

Opportunities Abound!!

Please prayerfully consider how you can use your spiritual gifts and talents to be of service to our Lord in 2025.

**HANGING OF THE GREENS
ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24**

Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 1. Join us for lunch after Sunday School on November 24 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) and help us put up the Christmas decorations.

Together we can make our church appropriately festive and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season. Sign up on the bulletin insert or call the church office so we can plan for the food.



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETINGS

Sunday, Nov. 3 @ Noon

Board of Christian Missions
Diaconate

Monday, Nov. 11 @ 5:30 pm

Board of Christian Education

Tuesday, Nov. 12 @ 6:30 pm

Board of Trustees

Tuesday, Nov. 28 @ 6:30 pm

Advisory Council



Donations for the flowers and decorations for the sanctuary will be received in the church office until December 10. Please

indicate, along with your check, who you would like to have honored or remembered. Also let us know if you will be taking a plant with you following seasonal worship. A donation of \$10 per plant is suggested.



**POINSETTIA
DONATIONS**

Articles and Information for the December/January issue of At First Baptist are due to Deb Wuethrich by Nov 14 at deborahmarcein@gmail.com

**CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATE
MEETINGS NOTICE**

Save the dates for the Annual Meetings of our church **on December 1, 2024, and January 19, 2025.**

The December Congregational/Corporate meeting will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the 9:30 worship service. The purpose of this meeting is the election of officers, boards and committees for 2025 and to approve a tentative budget. Fellowship Time will be held after the meeting. The January Corporate meeting will review the annual reports from 2024 and finalize a budget for 2025.

Church members are strongly encouraged to attend both meetings.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

Sunday, December 15

The Board of Christian Education also wishes all to know that a Birthday Party for Jesus will follow worship on Sunday, Dec.

15 in Fellowship Hall. Stay tuned to the December AFB for details on this event. Decisions are being made on recipients for this year's gift donations.



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Just a reminder that all annual reports from staff members, boards and committees are due in the church office by **December 27**.

Electronic submissions are appreciated!



Daylight-saving time ends

- Turn your clock back one hour tonight before going to bed.
- It's also time to change batteries in your smoke detectors.



Remember to Set your Clock BACK ONE HOUR At bedtime on Saturday November 2 Or you'll be VERY EARLY for worship on 11/3!!

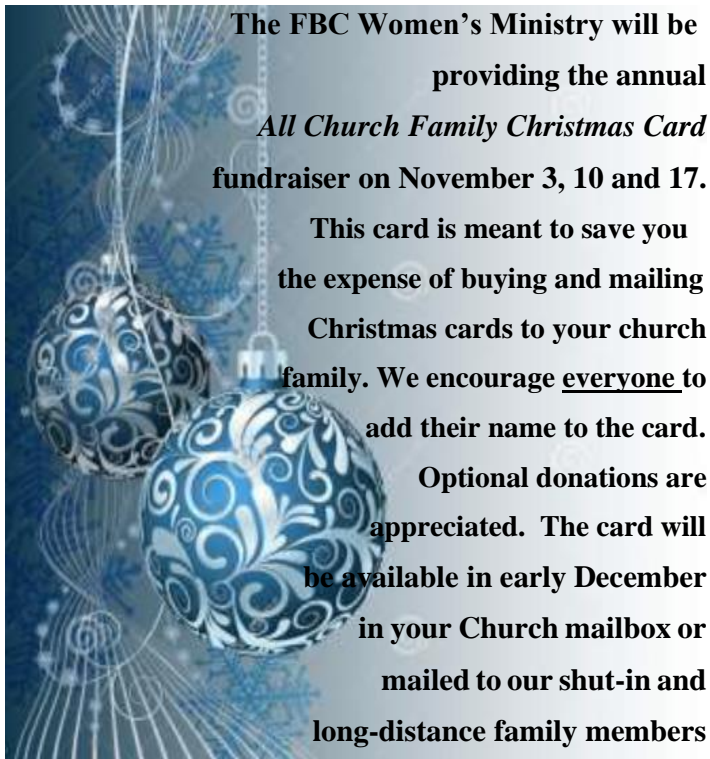
REMINDER: Ladies Cider Soiree FBC Lobby; Sat. 11/3 @ 10 am



Movie Night & Potluck Supper Fri. Nov. 8

The November Potluck Supper/Movie Night sponsored by FBC Women's Ministry will be held on Friday, Nov. 8. Our evening will begin with a pot-luck supper at 5:30 (table service is provided) with the inspirational movie "Cabrini" offered at 6:15 pm. Please sign up on the registration sheet on the office window by Sunday, Nov. 3.

We have a seat saved just for YOU!



The FBC Women's Ministry will be providing the annual *All Church Family Christmas Card* fundraiser on November 3, 10 and 17. This card is meant to save you the expense of buying and mailing Christmas cards to your church family. We encourage everyone to add their name to the card. Optional donations are appreciated. The card will be available in early December in your Church mailbox or mailed to our shut-in and long-distance family members

The FBC Women's Ministry also plans to hold a **CHEESE SALE fundraiser**. Orders for Cuba Cheese products may be placed through group members on Nov. 3 and 10 & 17 with delivery on Dec. 15.



LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT FAMILY LIFE

Ladies from First Baptist who have signed up for the Family Life Network Ladies Christmas Luncheon in Bath on Thursday, Nov. 21, will be carpooling for the event featuring award-winning comedian, Rhonda Corey. Attendees will enjoy a delicious banquet, decadent desserts, and will experience great bursts of joy and laughter. Rhonda's clever wit and charming personality will create a positive and memorable experience for attendees. We will meet at FBC at 10 am to drive to Family Life – drivers are needed! The event ends at 3 pm; we expect to be back in Olean before 4:30.

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ladies Breakfast group that typically meets the second Thursday of the month will be switching from morning to midday for a Christmas lunch celebration together at The Bistro at noon on Dec. 14. Bring a \$10 gift for a fun swapping game (optional). Please register on the office sign up sheet by December 8.



Plans Under Way to Remember Homebound and Nursing Home members:

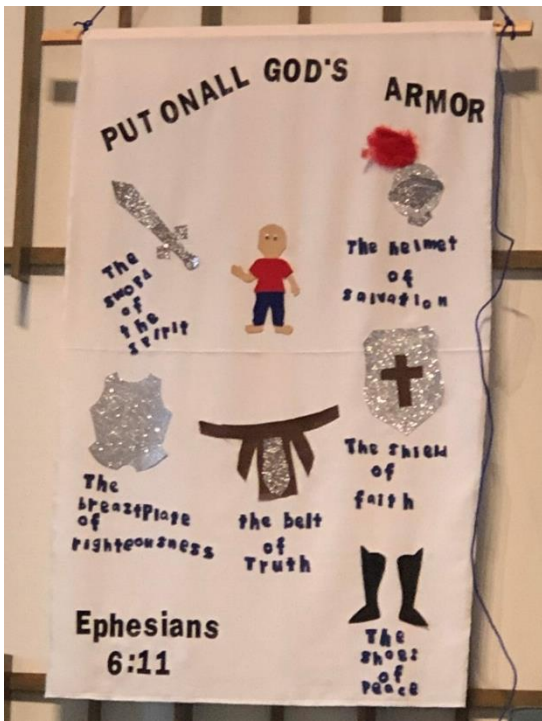
Diaconate members are making plans to reach out to FBC members and friends who are currently unable to attend. Address lists and labels will be available just after Thanksgiving so the congregation can send a card, make a call or a visit to uplift spirits. Deacons will also be taking gift baskets to some of our shut-ins.

LIGHTING THE LONGEST NIGHT FOR GENESIS HOUSE



December 21st is the longest night of the year. To the homeless person, it can be lonely and scary. Details will be coming soon on how to help brighten our area by supporting the Annual Luminaria Sale to benefit the work of Genesis House. Watch coming Sunday bulletins for more details.





Banner in sanctuary made by FBC kids

Wearing the Armor

We hear a lot about putting on the armor of God. It's good to be reminded of this at various points throughout our church experience. Our FBC kids studied this recently and very explicitly shared the lesson with a delightful song as they acted out the lyrics of the message they had learned. One of the best things we can do as adults is study and re-visit the words of Ephesians 6:11. There are some other references in God's Word, but this is a passage that provides a lot of clarity.

We need such armor every day, don't we? We are believers, destined for eternity, but at the same time, members of a culture that can send a lot of negative messages. Hopelessness, even. Seeds of doubt may try to take root in our minds in such a surrounding. But as believers, chosen children of God and followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to activate the gift of this armor the Lord has given us.

With so many mixed messages, isn't it wonderful that we know a stability that others may not yet have? We can keep this armor in place, pray and share Jesus so others may soon know, too.



Some of our teens and chaperones will be attending the American Baptist Youth Conference in Utica, NY on Nov 15-17. We pray for safe travels and

uplifting experiences for this important youth activity!

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!

It's always a joy to hear children's voices, especially during the holidays. Sue Neely VanBrunt will be working with our Children's Choir and Cheri O'Dell and others will be helping prepare for a special holiday presentation as part of the December 15 service for Pageant Day.



Some Thoughts for Giving Thanks

When we eat the good bread, we are eating months of sunlight, weeks of rain and snow from the sky, richness out of the earth. We should be great, each of us radiant, full of music and full of stories. Able to run the way clouds do, able to dance like the snow and the rain. But nobody takes time to think that he eats all these things and that sun, rain, snow are all a part of himself!

--Monica Shannon

THANK YOU, GOD

When you say to me "Thank you," remember I could not have done for you what I did had it not been for what hundreds of other people have done for me. Neither could they have done for me what they did had it not been for what thousands of other people had done for them. And so the thing goes on in infinite time and space. Therefore, when you say "Thank you," you really meant to say "Thank You, God."

--Richard C. Cabot



COME AS YOU ARE!

If you think about it, prayer is an intimate conversation with the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of our lives. And what is incredible, he is genuinely excited about

spending time with you and me.

Can you imagine that? An intimate conversation with the Living God we know as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This prayer is a place of great safety for us where we can pour out our hearts in an ‘unedited’ way, much like we can to our closest friend or family member. And like this close friend or family member, the Heavenly Father accepts us, warts and all.

This reality of intimacy with God in prayer struck me as I was working on a project on a maturity class for a discipleship series. I was reading about how prayer is like a close expression of friendship. Only prayer is with this incredible Being who is Wholly Other from me and you, yet wholly present for us in prayer.

Think about these words in terms of your prayer time with the Father:

Oh, that comfort—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts, nor measure words—but pouring them all right out—just as they are—chaff and grain together—certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them—keep what is worth keeping—and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away!

I like that description of our approach to an intimate encounter with the Father in prayer. It reminds me that prayer is a ‘come-as-you-are affair’. You don’t have to clean up or put on a false front. Just come as you are right now to the Father. You will find God welcoming you into his heart and presence. He has already declared that because you are in Christ you are his beloved child and, incredibly, he wants to be close to you. So let him! Just come as you are! And just start with ‘Father’... and consider the ramifications of what that means. Then share the ‘chaff and grain’ of your life with him. Just come as you are!
~Pastor Crossno



Helping Samaritan's Purse As a Central Collection Site

At nearly 5,000 locations across the nation, volunteers will welcome and pray with

people who drop off Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Other volunteers will fill cartons and load trucks with the millions of shoeboxes prayerfully anticipated. Approximately 80,000 people will serve in these roles in November. We are seeking volunteers for multiple positions for the Olean First Baptist Church drop off. Information sheets will be posted in the Narthex to note when volunteers are needed. For more information, please contact Sharon Anthony (757-773-5329 cell) or anthony.sharon@att.net. The project runs from Nov. 18-24 and individuals (all ages) will be needed to bring in parcels and count them and load the truck as other churches and donors bring their boxes to our church. Shifts that volunteers are needed here at Olean First Baptist are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Generous contributions have come in through the collection barrels, along with monetary donations to help fund sending the boxes to children across the world. Contributions for postage to help send the boxes is also needed. Volunteers also still hope to help children pack boxes here at First Baptist.

RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE



The Mission Board of Olean First Baptist Church plans to schedule a time for FBC members to ring the bell. A sign-up poster will be

available in the Lobby soon for volunteers. The Salvation Army message is based on the Bible: to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Red Kettle Campaign is the oldest annual charitable fundraiser in the United States. The Kettle tradition has spread across the world and grown into one of the most recognizable and important charitable outreach efforts. Locally, there is not a life that isn't potentially touched through a variety of programs and services, bringing comfort, relief and encouragement to hundreds of men, women and children every year. Please prayerfully consider supporting the FBC Red Kettle Bell Ringers and help those in OUR community who need it the most.



THE ASSISTANT MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I am writing this edition of the Moderator's Musings while on the Outer Banks of North

Carolina. The weather outside is not very nice today as we are experiencing high winds, rain, and rather chilly temperatures. There are high waves, rip currents, and flood warnings... not exactly what you would want while on a vacation at the beach. And yesterday was pretty much the same! Now, I could get frustrated or be upset by this weather pattern. I could ask God why he allowed this lousy weather to spoil our vacation. I could sit around pouting... oh, woe is me!! Or I could remember those incredible words from Paul... "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:11-13 NIV) And also from Matthew 5:45: "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

I have written and spoken many times about how time is our most precious commodity. And much as you can tell where a person's heart is by how they spend their money, it is more telling to look at how they spend their time... or maybe more to the point in this article, how they spend their time when circumstances are not to their liking! Yes, it is a miserable day outside, but does that mean I can't make meaningful use of my time? No, it does not. Oh, I could wallow in my personal pity party OR I could do something more fulfilling, like practicing on my guitar, reading a good book, reading the GOOD book, or... well, writing the Moderator's Musings for the next newsletter. As I have grown in my Christian walk, I have tried (sometimes successfully) to "be content in any and every situation." When life gets in the way of my master plan, I try to remember the Master's Plan! Sometimes he puts me in circumstances to nudge me in a different direction... or change the focus of my attention. And as I look back over my life, I have become increasingly aware of how God changed or supported the direction of my life. In my younger, more self-centered years, I thought of these events as coincidences, but I no longer see them that way. It is

very clear to me that these were all part of God's plan for my life. When I responded positively, life was good. When I fought his plan, well, sometimes he hit me with that proverbial "two by four" to get my attention! He really can be quite persistent in guiding my way, so I've learned to be more open to his guidance.

Another way I've grown is to recognize and be more thankful for the gifts God has given me. Many know that our family was quite poor in my younger years. I often had to wear hand-me-down clothes from my Mom's brothers. This made me the brunt of jokes at school. However, I had parents and grandparents who made sure there was always food on the table and a roof over our heads. We took family vacations, stayed in cheap motels or cabins, ate at cheap diners... sometimes sharing our dinners with our parents. I still have vivid and happy memories of these trips. It's funny. I really didn't know we were poor until other kids told me we were. But I saw how hard my Dad worked to provide for his family... often working overtime until late in the evening. And Mom worked hard to keep our home in order and to keep us kids under control... not an easy task! And Mom and Dad both instilled in me a faith in God and a strong work ethic. I learned I needed to work for what I wanted!

So... as I sit in a beach-front house that we have rented on the Outer Banks, thinking about from whence I came, I thank God for my parents, my grandparents, my aunts, and uncles who were so influential in my early life. I thank Him for giving me the gift of writing and my love of science. I thank him for Sister Phyllis, my college English professor who saw my gift for writing that I hadn't recognized myself. I thank Him for convincing Yaz Sharif, my first boss who fought with the Human Resources Department to give a local kid a chance at Dresser-Clark. I thank Him for Charlie Green, my mentor, who put up with an inexperienced physics major and turned him into an aerodynamic engineer. I thank God for keeping me in Olean so that I would meet Penny Olson... marry her... and raise three wonderful kids (Megan, Dan & Kelli). I absolutely thank God for Penny's constant love and support. I thank God for all the saints at Olean First Baptist Church (you know who you are), who accepted me for whom I am and helped me grow in a faith that has become so, so important to me. Obviously, I can thank Him for so many more blessings He gave me, but I'm sure that you are sick of reading about them, so, suffice it to say, I know the source of my blessings. God is good!!

In closing, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, we should all take time to consider the many blessings that God has bestowed on us throughout our lives. It can be a very enlightening experience. Now, I realize that this might be difficult for some... especially those going through challenging times, trials, and tribulations... but it is vitally important to turn to God regardless of your circumstances... because (paraphrasing) "We can do all this through him who gives us strength."

*Seeking first the kingdom of God,
~Jim Sorokes*



HIS WORK OF CREATION

Among the many acts of gratitude we owe to God, it may be accounted one to study and contemplate the perfections and beauties of His work of creation. Every new discovery must necessarily raise in us a fresh sense of the greatness, wisdom and power of God.

--Jonathan Edwards



PRAYER

*O Lord, that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete with
thankfulness.*

~William Shakespeare



Family of God

We extend our **Love and Sympathy** Matt, Casey and Ashley Sage and Katie DeGross on the passing of Gaylord Sage on September 30, 2024; to the family of Shirley Taylor who passed away on October 5, 2024; to the O'Dell family on the loss of Geoff's mother, Elaine Lamphier, on

October 9; and to Donna and Harley DeLong on the loss of Harley's brother, Ken DeLong, on October 10.



Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers and well wishes during Jerry's recent surgery and hospital stay. A special thanks to Pastor Ivan and Beverly for their many visits and prayers!

-Pam & Jerry Nutt



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Brandi Porcello	21	Chris Rosel
4	Marilyn Piepho	24	Ashley Sage
6	Eden Butler	26	Josh Anderson
9	Jeff Nutt	27	Lori Funden
	Dan Sorokes		Dan McDowell
11	Mark Taylor		Eli Rust
12	Josh Keim	30	Cheyenne Rust
13	Zach Faulds		Linda Anderson
15	Michele Schultz-Cone		Stephanie Keim
20	Bob Ketchner II		



9	Dave & Linda Anderson
15	Matt & Jeanette Butler
25	Harley & Donna DeLong
28	Don & Jodie Martin

A Tribute of love for Gaylord

By Deb Wuethrich

When I was a kid, “DottieandSatch” was one word. If they were coming over to our house on Happy Hollow, we kids were told, “Go Play! The adults are going to talk.” And talk they would, for hours over coffee at our kitchen table. Dad and Satch both served in the army and shared military stories.

Dottie was my mom’s niece, therefore, my cousin, but they were close enough in age to be more like



sisters. Dot was the first child down that family tree, born to mom’s eldest sister, my Aunt Virginia and Uncle Joe. Our family stories included tales of how she was the first girl, then came a string of Lemmer and Gray boys. Everyone wondered when another girl would break the male streak. That chain-breaker was me, then real close, our cousin Becky and my sister Cheri. Soon came another string of boys before some younger girl cousins.

I spent a good share of my early childhood in the Fountain Street house under Aunt Virginia’s care, surrounded by “big brothers” — and Dottie, who was more like my aunt. I was 10 or so when she married Gaylord Sage and they forever became DottieandSatch.

As a newly driving teen, I transported my youngest brother, Dale, to the Fountain Street house, by then inhabited by DottieandSatch and their two young sons, Mark and Matt. Dale ran in and he and Mark unzipped the bag to dump out plastic army guys and Gumby and Pokey figures while toddler Matt looked on. Dot had a nice little day-care going there back when youngsters typically didn’t go to school until kindergarten.

When I married and moved to Michigan, I didn’t see the Sages, or a lot of my family, for several years except during a few holiday visits. When I did, I always enjoyed seeing how the cousins had grown, first and second, once and twice removed and all that.

After my husband passed away in 2010, God took this internal longing for family reconnection and led me back home. I wanted to know my siblings better and expand the circle to their kids and grandkids and others in the family line. I was delighted when I found cousins I’d only known as little ones and some I was meeting for the first time. The interactions did something good to my heart. I think my time away intensified my need for family connection.

Satch played a special role in that. With a choice to “try out” First Baptist, remembering an early childhood here with my late father and Grandma Brown, I also remembered DottieandSatch were faithful attenders. Although Dot had passed, it felt good to know I’d still find family here.

Satch claimed me right away. Even though it was by marriage to Dot, we always related as cousins. In the parking lot or at events, he’d call someone over and ask, “Did you know we were cousins?” Soon, I did the same. He greeted me with a “Hi, Cuz,” or more often, “Hi, Kid!” each time we met.

Our cousin, Becky, shared a similar experience. When she worked at Walmart, Satch came in and would tell anyone within earshot, “We’re cousins, you know.” She said Satch and his twinkling eyes made him her first crush.

I came to cherish FBC fellowship time, finding him in his spot behind the food table or near the coat racks. He’d greet me with the “Hi, Kid” and I’d walk in for my hug. I surely miss that! We always talked about family members, many long gone, how Olean used to be, and country music. My mom was a regionally known country singer and in my early childhood, every family gathering brought out the guitars, including Satch’s. Such fond memories.

Some Sundays, I’d share old photos and we’d both get nostalgic. He was one of the few who knew and remembered my birth father. I was one of the recipients of the e-mail song posts Casey mentioned at his funeral. Sometimes I’d post back, telling him I liked one, too. I wish I’d done it more...

God blessed us with one last trip down memory lane together at OGH just before he re-entered the Pines. He was sharp and we reminisced and laughed. I told him I wasn’t allowed to hug him because he was too fragile, so blew him kisses and he lifted his face to catch them, those eyes that entranced my cousin twinkling for a moment. A final sweet memory.

I never knew him as Gaylord, only Satch, and then DottieandSatch. He told me how friends gave him the nickname during the popularity of singer/trumpeter Louis Armstrong, who was called, “Satchmo.” Armstrong said folks in England dubbed him that while on tour. Coincidentally, another of Armstrong’s nicknames, “Pops,” is the one by which most of his growing family knew him.

At the service, I sat in back with my Uncle John, whispering now he’s the sole keeper of the memories from that generation. As we sat there, we realized how those who are blessed with a long life get to play special roles to lots of people through the years.

During my years away, Satch was surrounded by his boys and now a big family that expands outward, like a ripple in a pond with new circles. Some of these, I am only beginning to know; with others, I just want to remain connected. Each Sunday, Matt opens his arms to me like his Dad, and I love that. I can also watch Ashley, Paige and Huntson, see family resemblances, and be in awe at how God uses DNA to connect us through several generations. I can also embrace extended family in another way—through their love of someone I love and passing it on. Satch loved my cousin Dot, joined our family and is now living eternal life with her again. (This “Kid” misses you!)