

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK

APRIL 2015



## LET'S PUT IT IN DRIVE

Greetings, My Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

A few weeks ago, Rev. Clara's youth moment used a car metaphor, telling us that we can't go forward by looking back all the time, which got me to thinking. As the church goes through this period of transition it is only natural to look back and to remember, even romanticize days gone by...it seems easier to look back at where and who we've been, than it is to look forward in faith to our unseen future. But, just like the car we drive every day, we Christians were built for the road ahead.

Think about it... Your car has 3 gears for moving forward and only 1 for going backwards. There may be times on this journey that we have to pump the brakes and slow down because the road ahead is slick, or there are obstacles to maneuver around, maybe we've taken a wrong turn and need a course correction. Whatever we encounter, we are still moving forward.

I realize that the road ahead may be fraught with challenges and difficulties that we cannot see, but we have the sure Word of God, in Isaiah 43:1-7, that no matter what we encounter on the road ahead, the Lord is with us!

Don't get me wrong, there are things about our past that we must never forget, positive traditions that need to be remembered, but we carry them forward into our future, we shouldn't constantly

gaze back at them. After all, there is a reason that the rearview mirror is smaller than the front window, it isn't for moving forward.

During this time of Lent, as we move closer to the culmination of the Christ event, it is fitting to look at the commitment of Jesus walking the road to Jerusalem. It was a road littered with traps, tests, betrayals, and at the end of the road He was crucified. Despite that, He never turned around. He wasn't distracted by what He encountered on the road. He knew He was built for the road ahead. Hebrews 12 says, Jesus never lost sight of where He was headed and although He suffered more than we can imagine, He did it for the joy of welcoming us back to God!

So, as we travel this road fraught with challenge and change, let us forget those things which are behind. Let's stop looking through the rearview mirror so much. Let's keep our eye on the road ahead. And let's remember that the Easter story is not complete on Good Friday. Jesus died on the cross, but the story doesn't end there. Early Sunday morning, God raised Him up. This same Jesus, the One with all power in heaven and in earth is beckoning us to join Him on the road ahead.

Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed! HALLELUJAH!!!

**Pastor Jill**

### APRIL BICENTENNIAL EVENT

CHOIRS FROM  
AROUND TOWN  
WILL SING AT  
OUR CHURCH  
FROM 1-3 P.M.  
SATURDAY, APRIL  
18.

COME HEAR THE  
SOUND OF  
HEAVEN ON  
EARTH.

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## APRIL LECTIONARY

**Easter:** Acts 10:34-43 or Is. 25:6-9; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24; I Cor. 15: 1-11, John 20: 1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

**April 12:** Acts 4:32-35, Ps. 133, I John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31

**April 19:** Acts 3:12-19, Ps. 4, I John 3: 1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 26:** Acts 4:5-12, Ps. 23, I John 3:16-24, John 10: 11-18



**April 2:** Betty Trim  
**April 3:** Debbie Rissew  
**April 3:** Lynne Stewart  
**April 5:** Flo Braker  
**April 5:** Jeanie Becker  
**April 8:** Colin Chase  
**April 10:** Katie Henry  
**April 11:** Cliff Thayer  
**April 11:** Sarah Zima  
**April 15:** Ray Bliss  
**April 15:** Sierrah Griffin  
**April 16:** Grayson Lundy  
**April 17:** Bill Henry  
**April 17:** Roberta Miller  
**April 21:** Mark Heintz Jr.  
**April 26:** Don Hirschman  
**April 30:** Ginny Chase

## ASSISTANTS AT APRIL'S GATES

OPEN FOR ME THE GATES OF  
 RIGHTEOUSNESS; I WILL ENTER AND  
 GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD. PS. 118:19

**Greeter:** Valerie Bandemer

**Children's moment:**

**Easter:** Clara White

**April 12:** Leanna Shirley

**April 19:** Deacons

**April 26:** Deacons

**Scripture readers:**

Deacons

**Nursery helpers:** Board of  
 Christian Ed

**Fellowship hosts:**

**Easter:** Leanna Shirley

**April 12:** Lynne Stewart

**April 19:** Kathleen Serianni

**April 26:** OPEN

**Student history readers:**

**Easter:** Devonnie Buskey

**April 12:** Colin Chase

**April 19:** Isaiah Buskey

**April 26:** Devonnie Buskey



## Maundy Thursday

7 p.m. April 2 at WHBC

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## Good Friday Service and Soup Lunch

Noon April 3 at  
 St. Peter's Episcopal

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## Bicentennial Committee

6:30 p.m. April 7

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## Deacon's Meeting

10 a.m. April 17 at  
 Valerie Bandemer's

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## Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

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## Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints

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## Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

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## Better Bodies

10:30 a.m. Saturdays

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## May Link Deadline

Sunday, April 19  
 TheLink@whbaptist.org

## Why in the world?

Deacons would like everyone to ask themselves: **Why in the world would anyone come to West Henrietta Baptist Church?** Think about it, then please share your answer with a deacon. The answers received can affect the ministry, outlook and mission of the church.

The question emerged during the last meeting of the deacons when

### Surveys due March 28

Please don't forget to turn in your search committee survey. The more answers received, the more valuable the survey becomes in helping the committee find the right new pastor.

Clara White brought a printout of Evan Dolive's *15 Things a Church Needs to Do in 2015*. (A copy is hanging on the bulletin board if anyone would like to read it.)

The deacons are also in the midst of calling everyone in the directory to update information and ask if anyone has concerns or questions they can help with.

They also hope to divide the prayer chain into an e-mail chain and a phone chain. Please let Leanna or the deacon who calls you know if you would like to be added to either chain.

On March 27 and 28, the deacons plan to take communion to our members who can not get to church.

## April's Prayer Calendar



*Please use this calendar to pray for at least one person in our fellowship every day.*

April 1	Gene Kehoe	Relatively new member and Legacy resident
April 2	Vera Keyes	Longtime member, Emily's sister-in-law living in the Episcopal Home
April 3	Linda Knapp	Non-attender
April 4	Sara Knapp	Linda's daughter, non-attender
April 5	Sally Kubica	Former choir member, now a shut-in at home due to leg problems
April 6	Mary Ellen Lundy	Longtime member now in Hurlbut Nursing Home on East Henrietta Road
April 7	Paul Lundy	Mary Ellen's son and father of two
April 8	Betsy Lundy	Mary Ellen's daughter-in-law
April 9	Alan McCarroll	Josina's husband battling memory issues
April 10	Josina McCarroll	Former choir member and deacon facing multiple health issues
April 11	Barbara Miller	Longtime member who just returned to the job of church Clerk
April 12	John Miller	Longtime member and trustee, expected home from Florida this month
April 13	Roberta Miller	John's wife and Board of Christian Ed member
April 14	Connie Necaster Voss	Deacon who views herself as a helper to any in need
April 15	Harold Page	Longtime member, former deacon, who can be visited at the Landings of Brighton
April 16	Patti Page	Non-attender
April 17	Don Peoples	A faithful worshipper at 99
April 18	Bill Phillips	Non-attender
April 19	Rick Pires	Non-attender who grew up in our church
April 20	Chris Pires	Daughter of Jim and Connie Harper, grew up in church, former BCE member
April 21	Erick Pires	Rick and Chris's son
April 22	Dustin Pires	Rick and Chris's son graduating from St. John Fisher next month
April 23	Dylan Pires	Rick and Chris's son
April 24	Susan Reesen	Kathy Juby's daughter-in-law who designed the new website
April 25	Sean Reesen	Kathy Juby's son
April 26	Shelley Reynolds	Blind daughter of the late Georgiana Pound
April 27	Lonnie Schultz	A great greeter and snow bird
April 28	Evie Scott	Talented choir member and ventriloquist
April 29	Dan Scurlock	Longtime member serving on pastoral selection and bicentennial committees
April 30	Sharon Scurlock	Dan's wife also serving on the bicentennial committee

# Reports and news

## **Moderator Jo Wilbert**

conducted her first meeting of the church **Advisory Council** on Monday, March 9. Jo shared that she had no idea when she first walked through the door of the church in July 2002 that she would end up sitting in the moderator's chair at an advisory council meeting.

"I'm not sure why I'm here," Jo said in her report. "But I do know with all my heart that God has a plan. And, I'm just trying to follow along, quite often saying, 'Why me?'"

**Interim Pastor Jill Bradway** presented a report that identified both potential for the future and current problems in the church. She has found congregants to warm, friendly, wonderful people.

"I believe the church has great potential for growth and ministry," she said in her written report. However, Pastor Jill wrote that she has also seen in her seven months of observing, "the eye-rolling, sucking of teeth, and deep sighs." She finds "discord and pettiness that smolders beneath the surface of WHBC." Furthermore, the level of passive aggressiveness is "very unhealthy."

"Everyone has something to say, no one seems to have the courage to speak up ...or they're speaking about it in a way that is gossip," Pastor Jill wrote.

She underscored the need for board training. She has met with the Deacons' Ministry and with the Board of Christian Education. As a result, the deacons will contact members on the roll to determine

membership status and needs, visit shut-ins at least quarterly, and collaborate with the Board of Christian Ed on the Youth Moment. BCE will work to provide "intergenerational, educational, and inspirational programming for the entire church family."

Pastor Jill said she has asked ABCRGR Executive Minister Alan Newton to do a Trustees Retreat on a Saturday once the weather improves. The training retreat will be open to current trustees and to anyone interested in serving as a trustee in the future.

Leanna Shirley asked what the congregation could do to help Pastor Jill, and she said a "kitchen cabinet" might be helpful. Leanna, Pat Floyd, Valerie Fogarassy, Mike Shirley, and Bonnie Healy were named to the committee.

## **Other news:**

**Treasurer Steve Wenthe** said the offering is being carefully monitored as the passing of members could impact the already underfunded 2015 budget. As Trustees Chair, he said attempts to schedule a meeting have failed. John Miller and Dave Chase have been away, and Don Van Doren has been ill. Steve is anxious for a meeting to elect a new chair as he is uncomfortable with his dual role as Treasurer and trustees chair.

**Deacons Chair Leanna Shirley** said the board is working to become a ministry. They are sitting together during worship and taking a more visible role leading prayer, reading scripture and doing the children's moment.

## **Board of Christian Ed Chairs Valerie Fogarassy and Ginny Chase**

said they are working to implement policy to protect both children and volunteers during nursery and Sunday School. Pastor Jill said American Baptists have a sexual abuse training program that all volunteers should take. She will arrange for the training. Meanwhile, a BCE member will be with the children at all times. Two workers will be required in the nursery.

Adult Christian Education will continue as it is for now with Pastor Jill leading. Whenever a fifth Sunday occurs, the youth will assume additional roles in worship.

At the request of the communications committee, council agreed to use designated funds to pay Susan Reesen \$600 for designing the church's new website.

Under new business, Valerie Fogarassy said she wanted to let the church know that should the parsonage she currently rents not be needed by the new pastor, she would be interested in a lease purchase. Steve Wenthe indicated something might be possible as the church would look to sell the parsonage if the new pastor does not want it.

Ginny chase indicated that she would like to begin a food ministry at the church, starting once a month. Lynne Stewart volunteered to put her in touch with people currently operating food programs in Rush-Henrietta.

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# On Eagle (Scouts') wings...



Ryan Hirschman, right, heads a basement paint crew that transformed the ladies' restroom, above.



RYAN HIRSCHMAN

## Hirschmans' grandson on leadership track

Ryan Hirschman, grandson of Don and Loretta Hirschman, led a team of Scouts Saturday, March 14th, as they painted the ladies' restroom and other places in the basement. Ryan, who turned 18 the following Saturday, was completing the leadership project required to become an Eagle Scout. He planned and directed the work from

start to finish. Ryan brought a team of nine friends accompanied by Troop 334 Scout Master Jeremy Wyatt and his father, Karl Hirschman.

A senior at Rush-Henrietta High School, Ryan has been accepted into the electrical engineering program at Rochester Institute of Technology. His older sister, Elizabeth, is already studying

chemical engineering at RIT, and Ryan's twin sister, Rebecca, is applying for industrial design, according to their mother, Theresa. Their father, Karl, is an engineering professor at RIT.

Scout Master Wyatt said scouts are looking for work projects and advised the church to make a list of jobs that need doing.



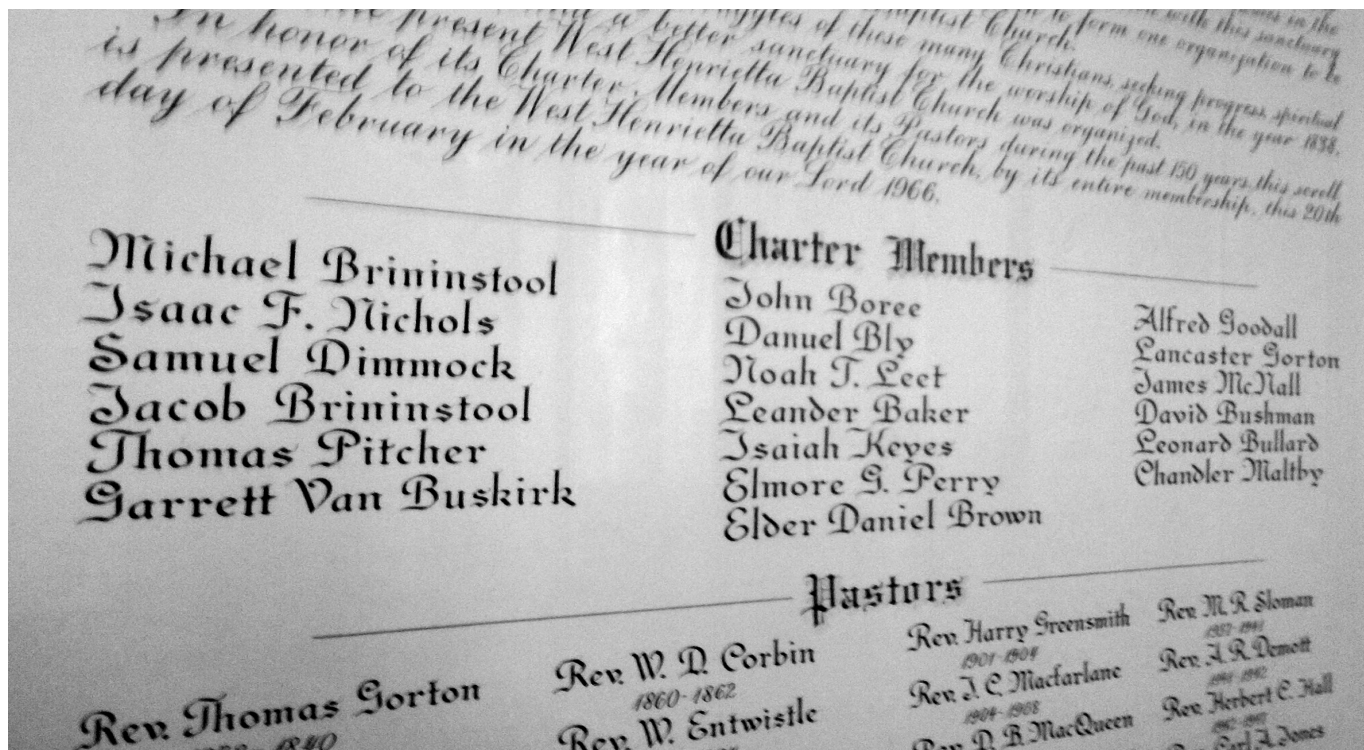
## Spotlight shines on McFarlane Class

The Henrietta Historical Society visited Sunday afternoon, March 15th, to learn about members memorialized in WHBC stained glass windows and the Elizabeth McFarlane Memorial Class portraits.

Two descendants of class

members, Helen Ely and Dodie Greer, attended. Helen's late husband was the grandson of Mrs. Darwin (Erin Bushman) Ely. Dodie Greer is the great granddaughter of Mrs. Charles (Ella Chapman) Flansburg. Both Helen and Dodie are next-door neighbors of the parsonage.





## Sanctuary scroll provides puzzle from the past

*This article is the third in a monthly 2015 series by church Historian Bonnie Healy.*

Its unadorned wooden frame promises simplicity, sturdiness, structure. The calligraphy in its manuscript demonstrates patience and the elegance time yields. The “scroll” hanging in the front left corner of the sanctuary speaks of endurance and stability at just a glance.

The scroll was indeed meant to be special. It was given to the church — to us — on Feb. 20, 1966, as the

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*Charter members are named in the a scroll by the piano in the sanctuary.*

church’s final act celebrating its 150th anniversary. What an excellent idea to present the past so beautifully to the future!

The scroll briefly recounts the church’s history beginning with its pioneer days, continuing through its union with United Baptist, and its return to West Henrietta in 1838. It then lists 19 men identified as “charter members” and church pastors from Rev. Thomas Gorton, the church’s first ordained minister, to Rev. Chuck Bixby, who served as pastor at the time of the 150th anniversary. Retired, Rev. Bixby still faithfully attends church each Sunday.

The puzzle in the scroll is its list of charter members. When were they charter members? Not in 1815. The document itself names those charter members: Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Gorton, Deacon and Mrs. Michael Brininstool, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Nichols, and Sam Parker. In 1838? The scroll implies that date. It reads: “...in the year 1838, the present West Henrietta Baptist Church was organized. In honor of its Charter Members ... this scroll is presented.”

However, if these 19 men were 1838 “charter members,” why did only eight of them sign the 1838 petition for dismission from United Baptist? And where are their wives? Thirty-seven of the 71 signers of the 1838 petition for dismission were women. Since colonial days, couples have often been numbered among charter members..

There is yet another glitch in this list being an 1838 record: Leonard Bullard died in 1829.

So what is this list of “charter members”? The congregation of 1966 didn’t conjure the names. They may well have possessed a document we do not. One theory that fits the puzzle pieces is that these men were charter members in the 1827 formation of United Baptist. Men conducted the merger negotiations, and men would have signed as charter members. Although a few men remain unidentified, the “charter members” in the scroll are West Henrietta men and likely represented the men in the west side congregation when United Baptist formed.

Odd, isn’t it? Rightly remembered they are, but for a dream of unity.