

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK



DECEMBER 2016

## Let us begin Advent with thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the time to be thankful, a time to remember and to embrace those who embrace our lives. It is really one of those special days when the entire family sits around the table and eats a delicious and often large meal. I hope you had a great Thanksgiving Day!

You may recall that Thanksgiving is the expression of gratitude, especially to God. Maybe some of you are celebrating some great achievements this year and you are feeling so thankful; maybe you have purchased a package of thank-you cards and wrote short notes of appreciation and gratitude to several people. To the contrary, some of you might be asking yourselves, What do I have to be grateful for? The world is full of pain and suffering, hardships and turmoil, disappointment and regrets. Why should I be thankful? What is do I have to be grateful for?

I invite you to work with me to make a list of things

for which we are grateful. Better yet, I have already made my list and you may compare your list with mine. Here is the composition of my list of things for which I am thankful:

Good health  
A loving family  
Good friends  
Freedom of religion  
Having a home  
Breathing fresh air  
Clean water  
Cell phones  
Opportunity to get an education  
Our church family

We should be thankful for the Incarnation - The embodiment of God the Son in human flesh as Jesus Christ. Jesus took on a human body and human nature to experience humanity in all his/her experience so that he might become our Savior. The Good News - The Gospel is that Jesus came to us; to hear our prayers; and to save us (Luke 17:11-13).

We should be thankful that we have another opportunity to celebrate Advent as a time of expectation, waiting, and preparation for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Be very prayerful and earnest as we observe this Advent season, which begins this Sunday and goes up to the Sunday before Christmas. Traditionally, we observe Advent with a wreath with 5 candles that represent 1) Hope; 2) Joy; 3) Peace ;4) Love; 5) Jesus, which will be lit each Sunday.

Let us with enthusiasm and expectation join the Christian Church in purposeful preparation for Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Let us join the voices of generations of saints past and present in the refrain, "O come, O come Emmanuel!"

*Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion*

# Sunday Servants

## December 4

**Invocation:** Rev. Clara White  
**Scripture:** Mary Bailey  
**Offering:** Leanna Shirley  
**Kids' Moment:** Marti Spaker  
**Greeter:** Debbie Covill  
**Nursery:** BOCE  
**Fellowship:** Betty Heisig

## December 11

**Invocation:** Val Bandemer  
**Scripture:** Joyce Shutts  
**Offering:** Connie Necaster  
**Kids' Moment:** Clara White  
**Greeter:** Debbie Covill  
**Nursery:** BOCE  
**Fellowship:** Leanna Shirley

## December 18

**Invocation:** Kathy Gosnell  
**Scripture:** Patricia Floyd  
**Offering:** Val Bandemer  
**Kids' Moment:** Marti Spaker  
**Greeter:** Debbie Covill  
**Nursery:** BOCE  
**Fellowship:** BOCE Potluck

## Christmas

**Invocation:** Connie Necaster  
**Scripture:** Dan Gress  
**Offering:** Rev. Clara White  
**Kids' Moment:** Marti Spaker  
**Greeter:** Debbie Covill  
**Nursery:** BOCE  
**Fellowship:** Bring Cookies!



*God's handiwork ... Henrietta style.*

## Happy Birthday

Dec. 5 -- Isaiah Buskey  
 Dec. 6 -- Rev. Jim Braker  
 Dec. 6 -- Nancy Chase  
 Dec. 10 -- Tim VanDerMeid  
 Dec. 12 -- Barbara Miller  
 Dec. 12 -- Joquina Tasciotti  
 Dec. 14 -- Theresa Hirschman  
 Dec. 14 -- Michael Shirley  
 Dec. 19 -- Scott Miller  
 Dec. 30 -- Noelle Davis



### Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at  
Peppermints

### Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

### Choir Practice

6 p.m. Thursdays

### Bible Study

7:15 p.m. Thursdays

### Game Night

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2

### Advisory Council

7 p.m. Dec. 5

### Tree Trimming

Saturday a.m. Dec. 10

### Caroling Party

3:45 p.m. Sat., Dec. 10

### Congregational Mtg.

Sunday, Dec. 11

### Moms' Club Meeting

10a.m. Thursday, Dec. 15

### Deacons' Meetings

8:30 a.m. Dec. 16

### Advent potluck

Sunday, December 18

### Candelight Service

7 p.m. Dec. 24





THE SANCTUARY AT CHRISTMAS 2014

# ‘Tis the season . . . once again

Christmas is upon us once again. West Henrietta Baptist offers rich opportunities for celebration, worship, and service. The warm fellowship of starts Dec. 2 with a Game Night planned by our own West Henrietta Activities Group. Bring your favorite game or deck of cards to church at 7 p.m. Friday and enjoy an evening of friendly laughter. Feel free to bring a snack to share, and don't feel compelled to play a game. Just sit and chat, if you prefer.

On Saturday morning, Dec. 10, Karl Hirschman, the son of Loretta and Don Hirshman will deliver the church Christmas tree for trimming. Don for years provided a magnificent tree, but this year Karl kindly follows in his dad's footsteps. Greens will have already been laid for the start of Advent and worship with the Bhutanese held on Nov. 27, but the goal on Dec. 10 will be to make our sanctuary as beautiful as in was in Christmases past, as shown in the photo above.

Later Saturday, Dec. 10, our third annual caroling party with The Church of the First Born will be held beginning at 3:45 p.m. Woodcrest Commons, Brentland Woods, and Westtown Village have already opened their doors to carolers. Arrangements are still being made and more details will follow. Chili and cookies will

follow here at the church.

The eating and celebrating will continue with the Board of Christian Ed's annual Advent Potluck following worship on Dec. 18. The board will provide cake and punch. Please bring a dish to pass.

Fellowship hour on Christmas Day will be a little different. Instead of burdening one person with refreshments, anyone who would like to is asked to bring a plate of cookies.

The annual and always inspiring Christmas Eve candlelight service will begin at 7:30. The pastor's gift will be collected that night. And a rare treat occurs this year with Christmas falling on Sunday. We can celebrate the morning in church with our Christian brothers and sisters, hearing the Word, and singing our favorite carols.

The mission committee has chosen a needy Henrietta family to bless with Christmas gifts and food. A list of needs is in the Fellowship Hall. Share the spirit of the season.

Merriest of Christmases to all!



## God Said

It was God's words the heavens heard  
That brought this world to be.  
"Let there be light," His powered voice  
Boomed out Creatingly.

Commandments came to guide our steps,  
That we would wisely live;  
God's voice kept telling us how we  
Should listen -- He would give!

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life". . .  
God sent His Son to show  
How we should live with hearts of Love  
And let His Spirit glow!

There is no other way to go  
That yields such calm and peace. . .  
"Be still and know that I am God,"  
In Jesus, cares release.

His Victory is ours to live,  
His tells us He will stay,  
"I am thy shield," His word reveals  
We must persist to pray!

"God is our refuge and our strength,"  
The Psalms call out to cheer,  
Take shelter, lift your hearts in praise  
To vanquish numbing fear.

His still, small voice waits to be heard  
To keep us true to course,  
If we will listen deep within,  
We feel his power force!

Because we are our Savior's own,  
Our Father's gifts provide,  
When two or three untie to pray,  
God's blessings full betide!

All that is asked for, here on earth,  
Does reach our Father's seat;  
God sees His son's concern for us,  
So mercies shown are sweet!

When this world sees the end of days,  
And New beginnings start,  
The best in life will bless our souls;  
God's Joy will fill each heart!  
Praise His Name

*Poet: Mrs. Evelyn M. Shoots, July 28, 2008*