

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK

DECEMBER 2015



### Jesus is the reason for the season

December will undoubtedly be a busy month as we make our mad dash to the end of the year. We've got budgets to finalize, committees to fill, a few more worship services to plan and attend, all before the year is done.

Perhaps we will see much colder weather or even snow before this newsletter is

*By Pastor Jill*

published, but so far we have had an unseasonably warm fall. And while the warm, sunny weather is pleasant, it could be indicative of the changes in our climate due to poor stewardship. As we approach the start of a New Year, let us vow to pay more attention to our individual and communal carbon footprint. After all, Rochester just wouldn't be the same without mountains of snow and grey, sunless winter days. LOL!!

For unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given! The Christmas season is upon us, and quite truthfully I'm not as concerned about unbelievers not acknowledging the reason for the season. It doesn't bother me that Starbucks only has a red cup this year, or that in the minds of some, Santa Claus and Frosty

the Snowman are what this time of year is about.

I am concerned and saddened that so many Christians have traded in the sacredness of celebrating the birth of the Savior for the secular, politically correct version of Xmas.

Ever since I gave my heart to the Lord, Christmas has been about Jesus. I've even gone as far as having a birthday cake for Jesus, and my family and friends would gather around the table and sing, "Happy Birthday!" Jesus is the reason for the season!!

Here are a few questions designed to test your knowledge of events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

Who said, to whom, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord?"

How many children did Mary have before Jesus?

What were the three gifts the wise men gave to Jesus?



*Candlelight  
Christmas Eve  
Service at 7 p.m.*

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# December

## December 6

**Invocation:** Marti Faiola

**Scripture:** Clara White

**Prayer:** Connie Necaster

**Greeter:** Bonnie Healy

**Fellowship:** Leanna Shirley

## December 13

**Invocation:** Connie Necaster

**Scripture:** Marti Faiola

**Prayer:** Leanna Shirley

**Greeter:** Bonnie Healy

**Fellowship:** Anne Greco & Joyce Shutts

## December 20

**Invocation:** Kathy Gosnell

**Scripture:** Valerie Bandemer

**Prayer:** Clara White

**Greeter:** Gretchen Young

**Fellowship:** Potluck

## December 27

**Invocation:** Valerie Bandemer

**Scripture:** Bonnie Healy

**Prayer:** Kathy Gosnell

**Greeter:** Dan & Sharon Scurlock

**Fellowship:** Loretta Hirschman

## Join the prayer chain

We now have a telephone prayer chain and an email prayer chain. To be added to the phone chain, call Loretta Hirschman at 273-6062. To join the email chain, email Leanna Shirley at [ls Shirley@rochester.rr.com](mailto:ls Shirley@rochester.rr.com). Prayer is a very important gift.

## Cherished Rememberings

Along a northland trail, it seemed,

Green fern resembled palm.

Sweet memories of southland trips

Filled me like healing balm.



When I beheld Creation's song,

In flower, grass and field,

God proved to me, continually,

Deep faith in Him would yield.

## Grove of Grace

Day after day, He blesses us

With more we ever see!

My thankful words for all he does,

Begin with family

As first of daughters, five in all,

My memories are dear;

We teamed to keep a unity

Through distant states each year

One Christmas time, my sister wrote:

"Come South, to be with us!"

My way was paid, and I rejoiced

As I stepped in the bus!

All five of us to celebrate

Christ's birth on earth to bless;

Took fifty years up to that date,

To bring this happiness!

Thank you, Father God, for your

Son, Our Jesus, Risen Savior!

"Be Glad and Rejoice." -- Joel 2:21

**Poet:** "Evy Lynn" Shoots

November 14, 2015



## Advisory Council

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7

## Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at  
Peppermints

## Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

## Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

## Candlelight Service

7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24



Dec. 3 - Kathy Henry and  
Sherry Gifford

Dec. 5 - Isaiah Buskey

Dec. 6. - Jim Braker and  
Nancy Chase

Dec. 10 - Tim Vandermeid  
and Carl Godfrey

Dec. 12- Barb Miller and  
Joquina Tasciottii

Dec. 14 - Mike Shirley and  
Theresa Hirschman

Dec. 18 - Scott Miller and  
Eugene Howlett

Dec. 30 - Noelle Davis



# Habitat House rises in Roger's memory



November saw much progress on the Roger Cross House being built by Flower City Habitat for Humanity at 57 Ries Street in Rochester. The foundation was dug and cement foundation walls poured. Completion is expected this month. Another house has been started across the street.

The late Roger Cross, a longtime member of West Henrietta Baptist Church, was responsible for founding Habitat for Humanity in Rochester. Now over 215 homes have been built or rehabbed, providing the stability of home ownership for families and neighborhoods.

Habitat reports that in Rochester 98 percent of children living in a Habitat Home graduate from high school, nearly twice the city graduation rate.

The Nov. 7 Miche Fambro concert fundraiser at St. Peter's Episcopal Church raised over \$1,200 for Roger's house.



## -----Harvest Time-----



Farmlands "frilled" with orange dots  
Pumpkins ready for home pots!  
Sunshine mirrors where the streams  
Pool to Quench God's Creature Teams.  
Autumn's blaze of colors glow--  
Welcome gifts before white snow.  
Harvest time fills days with song,  
Thanks to Father, all along!

"Cease not to give thanks."

-- Ephesians 1:16

Poet: "Evy Lynn" Shoots

November 14, 2015



# Remembering Christmas 1906

*This article is the last in a bicentennial year series for The Link by WHBC Historian Bonnie Healy.*

It's coming on Christmas, and the bicentennial year is ending. It seems appropriate to end where we began our celebration in October 2014 with the romantic and tragic tale of the Mc/MacFarlanes.

Their story is somehow central to the history of West Henrietta Baptist in its message of enduring Christian relationship and caring. That they left an impression is clear to anyone who sees Elizabeth McFarlane's window by the organ in the sanctuary and studies the portraits of the Rev. J.C. and Mrs. Elizabeth McFarlane in the Elizabeth McFarlane Memorial Class in the Fellowship Hall.

The McFarlanes arrived in West Henrietta from their native Canada in September 1904, in time for the 37-year-old minister to begin classes at the Rochester Theological School then located at East Avenue and Alexander Street. Elizabeth and their two young daughters, Jean, 3, and Gracie, 2, took up residence in the parsonage. During the week, J.C. boarded at the dormitory on Alexander Street.

The following fall, Elizabeth organized and taught the Ruth and Esther Class of women. It was wildly popular.

A year of family, church, and academic life passed. J.C. began his third and final year of seminary, and Elizabeth continued raising the girls and teaching the Ruth and Esther Class.

Shortly before Christmas 1906, Elizabeth began feeling tired.



ELIZABETH MCFARLANE

Her condition worsened. On Christmas Eve, the 40-year-old pastor's wife died.

What must be remembered is how the church scrambled to help that Christmas Eve. There were little girls and a grief-numb widower to feed, a dead body to wash and dress and lay to rest in a new coffin for transport to her hometown of Berlin, Ontario, where she would be buried with her Mennonite ancestors. That painful Christmas Eve may well have been one of the brightest hours in WHBC history.

Yet it seems looking at the whole story, that the tender love extended that holy night was not the end of the church's care for Rev. McFarlane. He finished his studies and returned to Canada to minister the following fall. However, the matchmakers who loved him still in Henrietta would not rest. In the fall of 1908, he returned to Henrietta



Photo courtesy Jacquelyn MacFarlane

MELLICENT FENNER MCFARLANE

and married Mellicent McNall Fenner at her Sunny Crest home on Lehigh Station Road.

Mellicent was the DNA heart of the church, descended from Rev. Thomas Gorton, the first pastor; Michael Brininstool, the first deacon; the McNalls, the Remingtons, the Martins and the Fenners. She was the heart they were willing to give to restore his joy, although she too would die young at 42.

After Mellicent's death in 1922, the church once more reached out to their beloved pastor, who by then had changed the spelling of his name to MacFarlane. They brought him back as minister, giving him a home to grieve, a home that loved him well and the one place on earth that had known and loved both Elizabeth McFarlane and their own Mellicent MacFarlane.