

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2017

THE LINK



JANUARY 2017

Pastor appeals for personal commitment

On the threshold of the New Year 2017, I greet you and convey my warmest greeting. This is an opportune time to be thankful for the blessings of 2016 and to look forward to the possibilities of 2017. When I think about 2017, new beginnings, fresh starts, resolutions, and new promises come to mind. My prayer is that the new year be one filled with faith, hope, love, peace, and prosperity for all of us.

For a while, I have been thinking about what I should write for this *Link* message and the Holy Spirit directed me to certain comments I made in prior messages concerning personal evangelism, personal growth, and church growth. This, I believe is confirmation that we are on the right path to building up Christ's church and strengthening our spiritual growth foundation. The following are revisited thoughts from prior messages:

I trust that we are all energized and excited about our partnership and what the future holds for us. I believe that God has blessed this covenant relationship, and I rely on the power of God's love and grace to make us truly the "body of Christ." As the body of Christ, let

us strive to become: 1) the hands to do Christ's work; 2) the feet to run Christ's errands; 3) the mouth to speak for Christ; and 4) an instrument of reconciliation to bring Christ to the world.

With respect to evangelism, let's plan to set apart some time on a daily basis to: 1) pray for unchurched people in our community; 2) pray for the unchurched members of our family; 3) pray that God will use us to befriend an unchurched co-worker and/or neighbor and lead that person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; and 4) pray that new people/families will begin to attend our church and eventually trust Jesus as Lord of their lives.

The world is full of pain and suffering, hardships and turmoil, disappointment and regrets, but God is moving among us and God is doing amazing things in our midst. Consequently, we should be excited about sharing the Good News that Jesus came to share humanity's suffering; to heal humanity's suffering, pain, and sickness; and to save us from the consequence of sin (Luke 17:11-13). I believe that 2017 will be a great year for exciting and vibrant minis-

tries at WHBC through: worship, fellowship, Sunday School, personal evangelism, workshops on spiritual gifts, bio-psycho-social-spiritual workshops, youth ministry, etc. How blessed we are to be entrusted with the treasures of the Gospel-Good news! Thank God for the way He deals with us in our personal Christian journey! Yes, we have come a long way in our Christian journey and because God will not leave us nor forsake us, the future of our church is blessed. Let us rededicate ourselves. As your pastor, I pledge to lead, stand with you, love you, support you, and encourage you to "sink your roots deeply in our church, and bloom in ministries where you are planted."

Remember God's word of encouragement and hope: *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. I have plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."* (Jer. 29:11)

-- Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion
Pastor

Worship Servants

January 1

Invocation: Leanna Shirley
Scripture: Connie Necaster
Offering: Clara White
Kids' Moment: Clara White
Greeter: Joyce Shutts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Sharon Heisig

January 8

Invocation: Connie Necaster
Scripture: Betty Heisig
Offering: Val Bandemer
Kids' Moment: Clara White
Greeter: Bonnie Healy
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Bonnie Healy

January 15

Invocation: Kathy Gosnell
Scripture: Clara White
Offering: Leanna Shirley
Kids' Moment: Clara White
Greeter: Bonnie Healy
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Val Bandemer

January 22

Invocation: Clara White
Scripture: Kathy Gosnell
Offering: Connie Necaster
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Bonnie Healy
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Potluck

January 29

Invocation: Betty Heisig
Scripture: Val Bandemer
Offering: Clara White
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Bonnie Healy
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: TBD

Grove of Grace



Rainbow Glow

On a window sill,
 Crystal prisms spaced along,
 Teased by the sunshine touch.

Beauty is beheld
 All glorious revealing
 Simple pleasure joy

Picture to recall
 During night time wakefulness
 Relaxation comes.

This haiku, by our own Evy Lynn Shoots, was published in the Lake Country Echo in December. Evy began writing as a child and has been published, with artwork, in the *Buffalo Times* and *Buffalo Courier Express*.



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

Moms' Club Meeting
 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19

**Potluck &
 Annual Meeting**
 January 22

Deacons' Meetings
 8:30 a.m. Jan 20



Jan. 10 - Rachel Gress

Jan. 14 - Don Peoples

Jan. 15 - Loretta Hirshman

Jan. 20 - Barbara Zima

Jan. 23 - Jasmine Morse

Jan. 26 - Eric & Laura Heisig

Jan. 27 - Steve Wenthe

Jan. 28 - Anne Greco

Jan. 30 - Marti Spaker

Jan. 31 - Virginia Bliss

Highlights of 2016 at a Glance



Don's 100th



Harold's funeral



Christmas Eve



**Parsonage
renovation**



Installation Sunday

WHBC is looking for a few good board members...

The WHBC boards are looking for a few good members. Under the church constitution, the church operates with three six-member boards that convene quarterly as the advisory council. The Deacons oversee the church's spiritual needs. The Trustees maintain the properties and handle financial matters. The Board of Christian Education is responsible for education and training.

Unless more candidates accept nominations by the Jan. 22 an-

nual meeting, the 2017 boards will function with fewer than six members. The smaller boards do not violate the constitution, but they will make it more difficult for boards to fulfill their obligations. At present, Betty Heisig has agreed to go on the Board of Deacons and will serve with remaining members Leanna Shirley, Clara White, and Marti Spaker, creating a four-member board. Patricia Floyd has agreed to serve on the Board of Trustees with remaining members John Miller, Dave Chase, Mike

Shirley and Joanne Wilbert, creating a five-member board. Dan Gress, Connie Necaster, Debbie Covill, and Valerie Bandemer have accepted nominations to the Board of Christian Ed and will serve with Gretchen Young, creating a five-member board.

Anyone interested in serving should see Moderator Bonnie Healy or Clara White for deacons, Mike Shirley for trustees, or Betty Heisig for Christian ed.

A word from the top on planning for growth

Editor's Note: *The follow letter from the January newsletter of the American Baptist Churches Rochester Genesee Region was written by Rev. Alan Newton, executive minister of the region.*

Dear Friends,

In days, we move into a new year, one that is filled with many challenges and opportunities. In the secular world, there is a lot of talk about resolutions. There is especially a lot of skepticism about their value as most resolutions are quickly forgotten about in a manner of months if not weeks.

As a year-round "gym rat" I have grown accustomed to the January surge in new memberships and attendance making access to equipment and the pool more trying. As much as I appreciate the multitude's desire for a healthier lifestyle I find myself yearning for March to roll around when there is a sudden drop in enthusiasm and gym attendance returns to "normal" numbers.

The reason I believe that most resolutions lack staying power is that there is no sound plan behind the resolution.

I find the same is true about resolutions we make in the church. However, in the

church we have a different name for them. In the church, we call them goals.

As I visit region churches and have conversations about goals with pastors and church leaders one of the stated goals mentioned unvaryingly is church growth. "We want to see our church grow!" After a few probing questions, I often find that there are few plans or strategies behind this goal, or should I say, this hope.

I ask, "how much growth would you like to see this year?" "In what demographics would you like to see growth?" "What have you done to prepare for this growth?"

One church leadership team indicated that they would like to grow their youth group. I asked, "Is there an inviting space in the church where these youths will meet?" "What program has been planned for these hoped-for youths?" "Has the church recruited and trained a leadership team?" Not one of these questions could be answered by the team.



NEWTON

Occasionally, I come upon a church which has a plan to achieve their goals. An example is the church that wanted to bring in more young families. They recognized that they had little space dedicated to children's ministry so that was their first stage of the plan. Simultaneously they recruited a program staff and trained them. They increased their children's ministry budget so there would be ample resources for programming. Finally, they developed a strategy for ministry to the neighborhood based on a needs survey. In less than a year this church had added more new families with younger children than called for in their original plan.

Finally, important for triumph in meeting growth goals is the motivation for these goals. Is the motivation of God or does it rise from our fear about church survival? This is not to say that God is unconcerned about church survival but to recognize that survival for survival sake is not enough. If by survival we mean that the Gospel must be shared more fully so that more lives will be blessed, then I believe we would be more on track with God's desires for our churches.

Happy New Year and happy goal setting!