

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK

JULY-AUGUST, 2015



## BE OPEN AND GROW

The events in Charleston, S.C., have left many wondering what has to happen before we as a nation are ready to have the uncomfortable but absolutely necessary conversation about race?

By Pastor Jill

In just about every sermon I've preached at West Henrietta I've asked you to think about the question, "How do my beliefs about Jesus impact my attitudes and actions?"

If all we do is sit in the pew and are never confronted or challenged to critically and prayerfully consider the issues that face our society, how can we ever hope to make a difference? Maybe we don't expect to make a difference. One thing is sure, if we are closed off to the reality around us, we can never make a difference in the world for Christ. We must be open to grow!

A few weeks ago someone in the church actually said, "Why does

it have to change?" The answer is simple, because everything changes! Often in imperceptible ways and yet at the end of the process there is a difference. One of the

hardest things for people to do is to be open to change. So, I want to encourage you, West Henrietta Baptist Church, to be open and grow. Grow into what Christ has already called you to be...salt and light!

As we celebrate our nation's birthday, we Christians celebrate another sort of independence. In Christ, we are free to live as if societal limitations mean nothing.

As we celebrate democracy, let us realize that it was Jesus who democratized spiritual blessing and gave us access to God!

May God's peace reign in our hearts and minds.

### JULY & AUGUST BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

IN JULY, AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL WILL BE HELD WITH NEIGHBORING CHURCHES ON SUNDAY, THE 19TH, FOLLOWING WORSHIP.

IN AUGUST, A TIME CAPSULE OF OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR WILL BE PREPARED. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO INCLUDE.

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**Greeters****July 5:** Loretta Hirschman**July 12:** Mary Bailey**July 19:** Patricia Floyd**July 26:** Patricia Floyd**Fellowship Hosts****July 5:** Gretchen Young**July 12:** Joyce Shutts & Anne Greco**July 19:** Ice cream social  
(John and Roberta Miller)**July 26:** Volunteer needed

## August

**Greeters****Aug. 2:** Gretchen Young**Aug. 9:** Mary Bailey**Aug. 16:** Connie Necaster**Aug. 23:** Kathy Gosnell**Aug. 30:** Evy Shoots and Evie Scott**Fellowship Hosts****Aug. 2:** Volunteer needed**Aug. 9:** John & Roberta Miller**Aug. 16:** Volunteer needed**Aug. 23:** Volunteer needed**Aug. 30:** Volunteer needed

## July & August

**History readers:** Bicentennial Committee**Nursery:** Board of Christian Ed**Scripture Readers:** Deacons**Children's moment:** Deacons

## Advisory Council Update

The Advisory Council held its second meeting this year in the Fellowship Hall of West Henrietta Baptist Church on June 8 at 7 p.m. Pastor Jill advised of her hopes to begin having "Town Hall Meetings" as well as a "Trustee Morning Retreat" which would be led by Rev. Alan Newton, executive minister of Rochester Genesee Region ABC. She also has hopes of creating a Mobile Vegetable Stand held by the Church, or maybe a Church-sponsored Cooking Class.

Pastor Jill also announced that the Retirement Gift collected for Beverly Bixby exceeded the goal of \$500. The total collected was actually \$758.

The results of the Pastor Search Committee's survey have been discussed with Alan Newton and the search is now moving right ahead.

It was brought to the attention of the Council that income is down over last year's budget and some adjustments will need to be made.

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July 1 - Jill Bradway

July 2 - Mimi Babcock

July 5 - Randy Heintz

July 9 - Christine Statts

July 13 - Mary Bailey

July 13 - Gene Becker

July 14 - Helen Howlett

July 15 - Marshall Smith

July 16 - Laura Stone

July 19 - Dan Scurlock

July 19 - Annette Enedy

July 19 - Kim Griffin

July 20 - Valerie Fogarassy

July 26 - Betsy Lundy

July 28 - Jesse Becker

July 31 - Desirae Relyea

Aug. 2 - Mary Ellen Lundy

Aug. 2 - Matt VanDerMeid

Aug. 2 - Nancy Cappello

Aug. 4 - Evie Scott

Aug. 6 - Heather Jonathan

Aug. 6 - Beverly Bixby

Aug. 6 - Carol Wilkins

Aug. 8 - Judy Evra

Aug. 9 - Linda Knapp

Aug. 10 - Evy Shoots

Aug. 10 - Joyce Shutts

**Pastor's cabinet**

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 30

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**Town meetings schedule****7 p.m. Wednesday, July 8**

Last names beginning with A-F

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**7 p.m. Wednesday, July 15**

Last names beginning with G-R

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**7 p.m. Wednesday, July 22**

Last names beginning with S

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**7 p.m. Wednesday, July 29**

Last names beginning with T-Z

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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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**Women's Bible Study and Social Group led by Clara White at the church (formerly Bible 101)**

10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays

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## Advisory Council Update

David Chase has donated a snow blower to our Church in preparation for next year's winter; and Mike Shirley is now the sole provider of cleaning for the Church.

The Interfaith League has decided to continue the "Pastors as Waiters" program at Peppermint's Restaurant, and all Church members are encouraged to support this, if possible.

The new Habitat house (Roger Cross House) is moving along. It will be located on Ries Street in the City of Rochester. Money is still needed to meet this goal, and it is to be noted that one quarter of Coalition money comes from Third Presbyterian Church.

It was the consensus that there is a need to form a new Music Committee, and that it should not be totally made up of only members of the choir.

It was also agreed that the everyone should start early looking for people to head departments/committees for the next year. This could begin possibly in September, so that there is plenty of time to make good decisions before the Annual Meeting.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on Sept. 14th at 7 p.m. in the Church's Fellowship Hall.

*Submitted by Barbara L. Miller*

*Church Clerk*



Roberta Miller, center, demonstrates the making of a yarn doll as Jakob VanDerMeid, left, and his brother Joseph, right, watch intently. At right are the boys' parents, Louann and Justin VanDerMeid.

## At annual church picnic

# Something new, something old

The "new" at the annual Sunday School picnic held June 14 was actually the introduction of "old" games by Roberta Miller. A member of both the Board of Christian Education, the annual sponsor of the picnic, and the Bicentennial Committee, Roberta helped transform this year's picnic into a bicentennial event. She spoke about the games and toys that children would have used in 1815, the year of the church's founding by Henrietta pioneers, and taught children how to make spinning buttons and yarn dolls.

Originally scheduled to be held at Martin Road Park, the event was held in the Fellowship Hall where air-conditioning on a steamy, threatening Sunday made an unexpected reservation mix-up a providential blessing. Hots and hamburgers were cooked on the kitchen range and tasted just as good.



Louann VanDerMeid shows finished doll to her baby, Adella,

# Records of United Baptist long gone

*This article is one in a bicentennial year Link series by WHBC Historian Bonnie Healy.*

Sometimes the extraordinary stories uncovered in genealogical or historical research collide eventually with something even more unexpected: Ordinarity. An ancestor's daring move across an ocean becomes a drop in a sea of human migration. A young woman's tragic death in childbirth normalizes in a society of stepparents and blended families.

So it is with the history of WHBC. Our history so parallels the history of East Henrietta Baptist, the church with which we were once united, that a common pattern emerges. If Elder E. Weaver ministered in cabins and barns in our riverside wilderness, Elder Daniel Brown did so on the east side of town. If Michael Brininstool, an 1811 pioneer on the river road, was our one stalwart deacon before the 1827 merger, his counterparts were Sam Wise, an 1812 settler near what is now Pinnacle and Calkins, and Moses Clark of Mendon. If our church organized in the home of Josiah Nichols, the eastside church formed in the home of Sam Wise.

So similar were these churches, that their union must have seemed a perfect match. But exactly why they united in 1827 and why they separated in 1838 will never be quite known. The records are lost. East Baptist records begin in 1855. Their two earliest record books, now in the care of the Henrietta Historian's Office, are brief in comparison with our own. It is only *The History of Monroe County, New York 1788-1877* that reveals a heyday during their union: In 1832, the combined congregation numbered 132.

If genealogy can show us the commonality of our roots, it can also teach us that beginnings do not determine subsequent paths or ultimate outcomes. At present, both congregations are small and struggling, but in the years following the separation, it seems that the church in the east village suffered more. While West Henriettans built a new church and thrived, East Henriettans remained two years in their brick church. In 1840, they sold that building — which soon needed to be torn down — to the Methodist Episcopalians. Then, for two years, the congregation that had stipulated that West Henriettans could leave if they built a church, met in the school house on the Pinnacle Road farm of Alfred Lincoln. Not until 1842 did they build a new church on Reeves Road at Pinnacle. As late as 1855, the church was still calling itself United Baptist.

Following the separation, the history and practice of the churches continued to mirror each other. If we had a long-time 19th century Clerk in C.J. Smith, a prosperous farmer and community leader, they had James Stevenson. If later we



**East Baptist Church on Reeves Road at Pinnacle**

had Emma Sherman as clerk for decades, they had Alma Stone. As we struggled for years with parking even for horses and buggies, they wrestled with the care of their cemetery. If we have a school named for Emma Sherman, they have one named for Floyd Winslow. Both churches used divinity students as part-time pastors for years. Both held monthly covenant meetings. Both disciplined members for failing to attend or give, for dancing and cursing, for drinking, and other misdeeds. Both sang the old hymns we still sing. Representatives attended the same Monroe Baptist Association meetings and attended significant services at each other's churches.

However, the fire that rocked West Henrietta with the 1905 destruction of the Jones and Buckley General Store pales compared with the fire that had destroyed East Baptist at midnight Sept. 18, 1871. Undaunted, they floored their horsesheds and held Sunday School. The existing church — built on the walls of the ruined original — was dedicated July 4, 1877.

Communion between the two churches was fractured again when the church that had been left in turn left. East Baptist left the American Baptist Convention, as American Baptist Churches USA was called in the 1970s, when a majority in the congregation found the convention and its divinity school at Colgate Rochester too theologically liberal. The oldest church in town, it now participates in few, if any, interfaith activities.