

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## JUNE 2015



## LIFE IMITATES WEATHER

Greetings WHBC!

I know the calendar says June, but wow...the weather can't seem to make up its mind. In May we had a few days in the 90s. It seemed that we jumped right to July/August. Then, within a matter of a few hours, the temperature was down 50 degrees and we were in the 40s.

The life of faith is like that sometimes. There are times in our lives when we are excited about what God is doing in us or through us. We are on fire for the Lord! When the work of ministry seems to produce immediate results, and family and friends are healthy and happy, we feel the warmth of the sun shining on our faces. You might even say we're walking on the sunny side of the street.

There are times in the life of faith, when the fire seems to have gone out. When the cold winds are blowing non-stop...kind of like the winter we can't seem to leave behind!

Or, maybe the heat of tribulation is nipping at our toes, and we long for the cool refreshing of the Spirit?

The life of faith goes back and forth, but there is One who provides stability in the midst of life's most challenging days. His name is the Lord, Jesus Christ. He promised to go with us all the way!

In June, we celebrate D-Day, Flag Day, and Father's Day! Wherever the month takes you, may you be blessed with the love and fellowship of family and friends! God's Peace and Good Journey!!

By Pastor Jill

### JUNE BICENTENNIAL EVENT

As we have for so many decades, the church will hold an annual picnic. This year's festivities will be held at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, June 14 at Martin Road Park. Bring your own meat and a dish to pass. The Board of Christian Education will provide hamburger and hot dog buns, dessert, soda, paper products, and games. To fish, bring your own poles and bait. Adults need a license.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CALENDARS	2
BIRTHDAYS	2
MODERATOR'S MESSAGE	2
PHOTOS	3
HISTORY NOTE	4



## JUNE LECTIONARY

**June 7:** I Sam. 8:4-11, 16-20, 11:14-15; Gen. 3:8-15; Ps. 130; 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35.

**June 14:** I Sam. 15:34-16:13; Ps. 10; Ezek. 17:22-24; Ps. 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Cor. 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34.

**June 21:** I Sam. 17:32-49; Ps. 9:9-20; Job 38:1-11; Ps. 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Cor. 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

**June 28:** 2 Sam. 1:1, 17-27; Ps. 130; Lamentations 3:22-33; Ps. 30; 2 Cor. 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.



**June 6:** Carol Dubois  
**June 6:** Michael Rissew  
**June 11:** Elizabeth Hirschman  
**June 11:** Chris Pires  
**June 12:** Sally Kubica  
**June 15:** Stan Enedy  
**June 20:** Bonnie Healy  
**June 25:** Sean Reesen  
**June 25:** Justin VanDerMeid  
**June 28:** Ashley Marie Dubois  
**June 30:** Betty Wynne

TO YOU I LIFT UP MY EYES, O YOU  
 WHO ARE ENTHRONED IN THE HEAVENS.  
 PS. 123:1

## HELPING US LOOK UP IN JUNE

### Greeters

**June 7:** Joanne Wilbert  
**June 14:** Roberta Miller  
**June 21:** Roberta Miller  
**June 28:** Loretta Hirschman

### Nursery

Board of Christian Education

### Scripture Readers

Board of Deacons

### Children's moment

Board of Deacons

### Fellowship Hosts

**June 7:** Kathy Gosnell and Jo Wilbert

**June 14: Picnic at Martin Road Park**

**June 21:** Mary Bailey

**June 28:** Bonnie Healy

## Remember

Pray each day  
 for a member  
 of the congrega-  
 tion listed  
 in the church  
 directory.



\*

## Moderator's message

I would like to try something different for the Advisory Council meeting on Monday, June 8. It seems to me that we spend most of the meeting reading and discussing reports. That doesn't leave much time for "Old Business" or "New Business." I would like to try having everyone who plans to attend the meeting read the reports before the meeting. Then we can address any questions or concerns about

the reports at the meeting.

This plan will require having the reports ready before the meeting. So, I am asking that everyone bring copies of their reports to church on Sunday, June 7, so people can pick up their copies then. I would like to see the meetings be more efficient and productive and am hoping this will help.

Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,  
 Joanne



### Church picnic

12:30 p.m. Sunday, June 14

\*

### Bicentennial Committee

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16

\*

### Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints

\*

### Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

\*

### Women's Bible Study and Social Group

10-11:30 a.m. Thursdays

\*

### Advisory Council

7 p.m. Monday, June 8

## Deacons' Update

The Deacons are trying to keep better contact with people who cannot get out to church. If you would like a visit or need some help, please let us know. We will be sharing communion soon.

In the planning stages are a retreat for the Board of Deacons in August and a church-wide retreat on Oct. 3. Suggestions are welcomed.



*Mama Emile readers included Susan Deer, above left, Rachel Celmer and Valerie Fogarassy, above, and Leanna Shirley, wearing one of Emily Keyes's African dresses, below.*

*Tribute to  
Marshall Smith,  
Christian Brother & Friend*

This Man of God,  
Who proudly stands  
On promises divine,  
Reflects an inner  
Strength of soul  
Where grace & Peace combine.  
His smiling face  
Shows every trace  
Of whom he treasures most:  
Our father, God,  
With angel Host,  
Through Son and Holy Ghost.

\*

"He (Jesus) is our peace."  
Eph. 2:14

This poem was submitted  
thankfully, by "Mom" Evy  
Shoots and daughter, Evie Scott,  
who appreciated Marshall's recent  
poem honoring them and  
wanted to reciprocate.



## *Mama Emile* drew a crowd

The Mother's Day presentation of *Mama Emile* drew 40 people who do not typically attend West Henrietta Baptist Church, according to a count by bicentennial committee member Roberta Miller. The readers' theater presented the story of Emily Keyes' life in the years before and during her service as a missionary in Africa. Eighteen readers, soloists Dan and Sharon Gress and organist Edo Frenkel participated.

Guest readers Martha Keyes and Susan Deer are the nieces of the late Emily Keyes and Rev. and Mrs. Donald Deer, who served together in Vanga, Congo, in 1960. Before her years in Africa, Mrs. Deer was a Keuka College classmate of Betty Heisig.

# Before Emily, were Esther and Anna Keyes

This article is the sixth in a bicentennial year series by church Historian Bonita Healy.

Long before Emily Keyes was born May 5, 1926, two other girls named Keyes grew up in West Henrietta Baptist Church and are remembered in its records. Esther and (Jerusha) Anna Keyes, daughters of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lived lives quite different from that of the adventurous Emily, their first cousin three times removed. They never sailed to foreign lands to serve as missionaries. Neither lived to be 88, Emily's age when she died Oct. 19, 2014. Neither Esther nor Anna knew Emily's spinsterhood.

Place and name connect Emily to these collateral ancestors, but faith also stretches across the decades to make these Keyes cousins Christian sisters. Esther and Anna were themselves first cousins, the daughters respectively of twin brothers, Solomon and Isaiah Keyes, who came to the area from Connecticut in the 1820s. They were also first cousins to Albert Keyes, the son of Jeremiah Keyes and Emily's great grandfather. Albert's name is memorialized in a stained glass window in the church sanctuary.

Esther, born in 1822, was 17 years older than Anna. She became the first wife of William Bullard, who is also remembered in one of the stained glass windows. William was the oldest son of early Henrietta settlers Leonard and Eunice Bullard. Leonard, a leader in the 1827 union of Henrietta Baptists, died in 1829, leaving 10-year-old William to help his mother raise his six little brothers.

Esther was the only Keyes of her generation who, at 16, signed the letter of dismission seeking separation from United Baptist. Her future husband, William, also signed, as did his



*Emily Keyes's great grandfather, who is remembered in the stained glass window above, was first cousin to Esther and Anna Keyes*

mother and the girl who would become his second wife, Almira Booth. Esther died childless at 31 in 1853. William and Almira named a daughter Marie Ester in her honor. William, who led the choir during his marriage to Esther, continued to play important leadership roles in the church.

Anna was just 14 when her cousin Esther died. Like Esther, she would marry a prominent church leader. Charles J. Smith arrived at West Henrietta Baptist in the middle of the Civil War. A 24-year-old teacher from Cortland County, he joined the church by letter. Two years later, in December 1865, Charles became the church's longest serving Clerk. He served 42 years, until Jan. 6, 1908. Charles became a prosperous Henrietta farmer, served 31 years as town justice of the peace, and spent a term in the New York State Assembly.

Anna, however, did not live to share that future. She died in January 1878. She was 38. The account of her funeral in church records indicates her faith and her importance to the congregation. Two former pastors, the Rev. Walter Holt, who served from 1864-1869, and the Rev. S.W. Culver, who served from 1875-1877, returned to honor her. The young women she taught in Bible class placed evergreen boughs on her casket.



*The gravestone of Esther Keyes Bullard stands in Bushman Cemetery.*

According to local historian and author William F. Peck, Anna Keyes Smith left a son. No record of Anna's son has been found, but looking in plain sight, he may have been William Smith, whose wife Anna is among the McFarlane Class portraits in the Fellowship Hall. That William is the right age with no alternative parents on record.

Anna's husband, Charles J. Smith lived to be 73, marrying three times. His third wife, Minnie Way, is pictured among the portraits in the Elizabeth McFarlane Memorial Class the year he died.