

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2017

THE LINK



September 2018

What Kind of Church are We?

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are presently in the process of writing our Mission and Vision statements. The Mission Statement describes the reason our church exists and helps guide decisions about our priorities, actions, and responsibilities. 1 Peter 2:9 describes the church as “... a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellences of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” However, we need to know who we are in this community, what we do well, and what we need to change to attract and retain newcomers. We endeavor to welcome newcomers to our church, but how are we seen by them? How do we welcome newcomers to our church? Darby Jones “Five types of church visitors: Are you ready for them?” offers us a description of the following three types of churches:

- **Stationary** churches say, “You are welcome to join us.” If newcomers fit the existing culture, they become members. If not, they usually leave.
- **Medley** churches welcome diversity because they know they should. This model looks and sounds beautiful. However, if the church does not welcome the rituals of different ethnicities and nationalities, eventually visitors will look for the exit sign.
- **Transformer** churches welcome all newcomers along with their unique gifts from God. They like new ideas, advocate for people and aren't afraid to change the culture and their community (Jones, 2015).

Jones argues that welcoming newcomers means initiating relationships with people who will become members of our faith family. Our welcoming ministry aims to encourage visitors to return and we all endeavor to know what to do to encourage them to become a part of the family. Just as it is advantageous to know about our church's reason to exist, our priorities, and responsibilities, we need to know something about the types of visitors we welcome week after week. Who are they and what they seek are questions we should strive to answer. Jones argued that the ability to identify different types of visitors can help us to understand what each seeks. The following is a list of the types of visitors we welcome to our church:

- **Dissatisfied** visitors are looking for a “better church.” Either yours has what they are looking for or it doesn't. Their decision about returning will be based on these criteria.
- **Invited** visitors come at the request of someone they know. They may not be looking for a church, but they may find a reason to return and stay.
- **Seekers** want something spiritual. They look for real people with genuine smiles. They want authentic answers to their questions.

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Worship Servants

Sept. 2

Invocation: Betty Heisig
Scripture: Anne Greco
Offering: Betty Heisig
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Chris Statts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Gretchen Young

Sept. 9

Invocation: Valerie Bandemer
Scripture: Evie Scott
Offering: Valerie Bandemer
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Chris Statts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Sharon Scurlock

Sept. 16

Invocation: Leanna Shirley
Scripture: Connie Voss
Offering: Leanna Shirley
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Chris Statts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Pot Luck

Sept. 23

Invocation: Valerie Bandemer
Scripture: Loretta Hirschman
Offering: Valerie Bandemer
Kids' Moment: Clara White
Greeter: Chris Statts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: TBD

Sept. 30

Invocation: Betty Heisig
Scripture: Dan Gress
Offering: Betty Heisig
Kids' Moment: Leanna Shirley
Greeter: Chris Statts
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: TBD

What Kind of Church Are We?

- **Skippers** jump from church to church. Some like to meet people or network. Others are transient, moving on when something doesn't suit them. Sometimes their job calls for continual travel.

- **Deep-rooted** visitors are active in their church and looking for a place to settle in for the long haul.

When they move into a community, they are usually ready to serve (Jones, 2015).

Surely, knowledge of what different visitors seek can guide us as we get to know them and help them understand whether our congregation is a good spiritual fit. The truth is that we want visitors to settle in with us. I pray that we all will become intentional about reaching new people and connect them to the life of our church and to a personal relationship with Jesus.

Yours truly, Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion
 Pastor



And attend!!

Prayer Meeting
 9 a.m. Saturdays

Bible Study
 10 a.m. Wednesdays

Deacons' Meeting
 10 a.m. Sept. 14 @
 Valerie Bandemer's

Advisory Council
 6 p.m. Sept. 10

Trustee's Mtg.
 11:30 a.m. Sept. 19

BOCE Mtg.
 TBA

Cabinet Mtg.
 6 p.m. Sept. 25

LINK articles due to
 Sharon Scurlock Sept. 18



Triumph of Truth

*Just knowing He smiled,
 I thank God for the honor
 Of being His child!*

Christ's Holy Spirit
*Teaches us from His Bible,
 Understanding endears it!*

*In our souls, faith dwells,
 Which can build as we journey;
 God's guidance excels!*

*Through living, we find
 Spirit's truths will bless our thoughts,
 To bring us peace of mind.*

Praise Jesus Christ, Our Savior!

--Evelyn M. Shoots, Poet

Jeremiah 29:11



Sept. 3 - Gretchen Young
 Sept. 4 - Jace Morse
 Sept. 5 - Clara White
 Sept. 8 - Zachary Dubois
 Sept. 13 - Ellie Morse
 Sept. 17 - Connie Harper
 Sept. 19 - Rick Pires
 Sept. 22 - Laurel Heisig
 Sept. 27 - Dustin Pires
 Sept. 28 - Charles Bixby

Upcoming Events to take notice of:

Sept. 15 - Jace Morse 1st Birthday Party, 2 PM

Sept. 16 - Women's Sunday/Pot Luck

Sept. 21, 6 PM - Rev. Alan Newton's Retirement Celebration, First Baptist Church, Allens Creek Rd.

Sept. 20-22 - Region Biennial Mtg. There are Speakers on 20th, 21st. & 22nd plus workshops on Sat. afternoon. Registration forms are in the Fellowship Hall & on Bulletin Board.

Sept. 22 - 10 AM - Don Peoples Memorial Service

Rev. Newton's Retirement Celebration

The first three Sundays in September, we will be accepting donations to honor him as he retires as Executive Minister, ABC/RGRC. The donation will be made to ABC/RGRC, & subsequently to the Endowment Fund in his honor. Please give generously, & put in an envelope marked for Rev. Alan Newton.

MISSIONS YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, *Matthew 5:13*

This is the theme of the World Mission Offering this year.

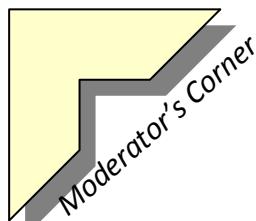
When Jesus says to his followers, you are the salt of the earth, he is urging them to go into all the world and enhance the good that He is doing, so others can be touched by the power of the saving grace of God. As followers of Christ, our church is the salt of the earth, seasoned with the love of the gospel and called to carry that love to all the earth.

Three areas of outreach are the focus this year:

1. Evangelism and Discipleship
2. Health and Wellness
3. Abolishing Global Slavery

During the month of September, we will see short videos, read information from inserts in the bulletin, and pray about how we, at WHBC, can be "THE SALT OF THE EARTH." Please be in prayer with regard to what you can give to help WHBC meet the goal of \$500 for this offering. We need to do our part to help World Mission be effective and salty. Next mtg. Oct. 11.

-- Mission Committee



Becoming the Church We Dream of:

Notes and Quotes from Shane Claiborne

On August 3rd & 4th, the current Board of Deacons went to hear Shane Claiborne, co-founder of The Simple Way in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The reaction to what he had to offer was mixed. We would like your feedback.

In telling us about The Simple Way, Shane made a number of provocative statements. I am sharing some of the three pages of notes that I have. Please read the following statements and make notes about your thoughts, and if/or how they may or may not apply to WHBC.

- "Certainty keeps us from Dreaming."
- "Be still and know that I am God" Be still is actually "Let go..."
- "How can you worship a homeless man on Sunday and ignore one on Monday?"
- "In the U.S., Forty-eight people own half the stuff that the rest of the people have."
- "The circle we put around our family is too small." Mother Theresa
- "A domesticated Jesus can never be The Christ."

Please sign & return your responses to me before **September 16th**. I would like to have a discussion meeting about these and other statements after church **September 23rd**.

Peace and Blessings, Rev. Clara M. White, WHBC Moderator.

Remember to sign up on the Fellowship host list on the Bulletin Board for the Fall months.



November 10 Church Retreat

The Deacons are in the process of planning the event which they trust everyone will attend. Details TBA.

Delegates Select Interim Executive Minister

Rev. Joanne Gilbert-Cannon was approved as the Interim Executive Minister until when the next Executive Minister is voted in and begins to serve. Rev. Gilbert-Cannon recently retired from the pastorate at First Baptist Church in Brockport, NY. She also served as Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church of Rochester and Interim Pastor at The Baptist Temple and First Baptist Church of Penfield.



Rev. Gilbert-Cannon received her MDiv. from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and did further work on her PhD. at the International Baptist Theological Seminary now located in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Rev. Gilbert-Cannon will work one day a week in August alongside Rev. Newton & will work 1/2 time beginning October 1.



These nine boxers made an unexpected visit to say a **HEARTY THANK YOU** to Connie & Jim Harper for hosting & inviting so many of us to their Blue Grass Festival. Good Food, Good Music, Great Fellowship. Sadly they say, "this is the last one here at their home." It has been an enjoyable time for all!! **Thank You!!**



Harvest Home Coalition Ground Breaking & Blessing for 179 Whitney Street held July 31st.

The Harvest Home Coalition along with Thrivent, Christ Temple Apostolic Faith, the home buyer (Mary Sutton), and the Construction Supervisor attended & prayed for the project. The cellar was dug as of 8/15.

You have an opportunity to volunteer & help build the home. Come Sun., Sept. 30 at 1 PM to meet with The Coalition at Henrietta U.C.C., Lehigh Station Road and learn the schedule/volunteer needs. Questions; see Mike Shirley. (Date Change)

Coming in November: A second Vendor & Craft Show, Nov. 23 & 24. More details as time goes on. Interested in having a table, see Jo Wilbert now.



Wondering!!

- Are you reading the LINK Newsletter?
- Are you checking the large Church calendar before scheduling meetings & activities?
- Are you accessing the Web site at whbaptist.org?
- Do you know where to find the information you need -- who to contact?
- Do you know who to tell when you schedule a meeting or activity?

IF the answer is "NO" to any of the above questions, you are missing out & we are not making the latest information available to you if we haven't been given updates.

Contacts:

LINK - Sharon Scurlock/Joyce Shutts
Church Calendar - Clara White
Web Site - Joyce Shutts