

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

THE LINK



NOVEMBER 2016

We seek spiritual and numerical growth

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

At West Henrietta Baptist Church our focus is not on religion, but on a relationship with Jesus Christ and a quest for numerical and spiritual growth. We all desire to see our Church grow. Interestingly, there seems to be no discernible “formula” for why one church in this context grows while another does not. Two churches can do the same things and one will “fail” and remain small while the other grows. And if you ask the one that grows why it was able to do so, they will likely give a “religious” answer, “God blessed us,” “God is moving among us,” and “God is doing amazing things.” No doubt, but what does that say about what God is not doing in other churches?

No doubt God is moving among us and God is doing amazing things in our church, but we have much ways to go. We are working to become the people and church we believe Jesus wants us to be, and I am excited to be on the frontline of what God is doing in our midst. I firmly believe that God is calling us “at this time” to attract new visitors, and attract and retain new members. In short, we are being called to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let’s see how we shall approach this assignment.

According to Paul, we are a part of the body of Christ and we are being challenged to function as:

1. The hands to do Christ’s work
2. The feet to run Christ’s errands

3. A mouth to speak for Christ
4. An instrument of reconciliation to bring Christ to the world

Preparation for becoming the hands, feet, and mouth for Christ requires that we become students of God’s Word. Presently, we are studying the Epistle to the Ephesians on Thursdays beginning at 7:15 pm, and you are invited. St. Paul admonishes the Church with these words: *“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). In laypersons’ language, a Christian’s desire for the Truth, the Word of God, must be avid. As believers, we must give the highest priority in our life to learning Bible truths and principles.

Secondly, we are going to dedicate some time to prayer and the study of spiritual gifts. On Saturday, Oct. 15, we had our first retreat reflecting on spiritual gifts, and we look forward to similar workshops in the near future. In Romans 12: 6-8; 1 Corinthians 12: 8-18; 28-30; Ephesians 4:11, we find a list of spiritual gifts we will be studying, listed as follows: Administration, apostleship, discernment, evangelism, exhortation, faith, giving, healing, interpretation of tongues, knowledge, leadership, mercy, miracles, pastor/shepherd, prophecy, serving, ministering, teaching, tongues, and wisdom. Spiritual gifts are given by God to fulfill His purpose in our lives and on the earth. If we do not accept and obediently use our gifts, which are expressions of “the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10), we

neglect God’s work of grace in our lives. God forbid that we would make that choice.

Finally, I am working to equip and entrust to the Board of Christian Education with tasks of playing an intricate and active role in the religious life of the Church, including: Christian education training and leadership; revitalizing Sunday school; attracting and securing Sunday school teachers; planning a Christian Education Week; planning and executing Vacation Bible School, Youth Fellowship, Church nursery and mentoring programs; developing and disseminating a Church brochure; and using exhibits and posters to interpret and dramatize the importance of Christian education.

As your pastor, I pledge to give my best to the preaching ministry, stand with you and beside you in the ministries of the Church. I charge you in the name of Jesus to “sink your roots deeply in our Church, and bloom in ministries where you are planted.” *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship* (Romans 12:1).

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Peter E. Grinion
Pastor

Sunday Servants

November 6

Invocation: Leanna Shirley
Scripture: Betty Heisig
Offering: Kathy Gosnell
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Gretchen Young
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Anne Greco & Joyce Shutts

November 13

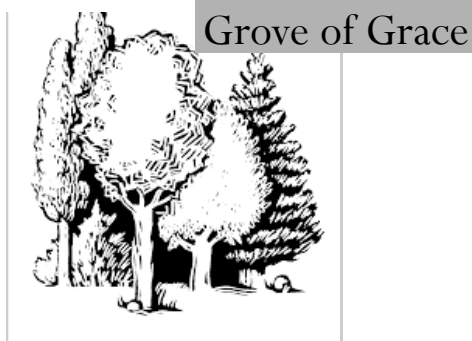
Invocation: Connie Necaster
Scripture: Loretta Hirschman
Offering: Clara White
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Gretchen Young
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Sharon Scurlock

November 20

Invocation: Val Bandemer
Scripture: Clara White
Offering: Connie Necaster
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Gretchen Young
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Virginia Chase

November 27

Invocation: Clara White
Scripture: Mary Bailey
Offering: Val Bandemer
Kids' Moment: Marti Spaker
Greeter: Gretchen Young
Nursery: BOCE
Fellowship: Betty Heisig



To My Children, Treasures of my Heart

When you were born, I felt a joy
 Unknown to me before;
 For you revealed new paths in life
 So thrilling to explore.

Those shining days which brought your birth
 Lit new stars in my sky;
 The love my heart had know till then
 Rose to a lofty high.

Our love stayed strong through toughest times,
 With hopes and dreams alive,
 For every trial held the prayer
 Our family would survive.

I praise our Lord your hearts reveal
 Both selflessness and pride;
 Aware of others, helping when
 They need you close at side.

There is, in you, a special zeal
 Of faithfulness and caring;
 My thankfulness will ever be
 To see your love of sharing.

Thank you, dearest ones.
 God bless you.

Mom
 Evy Lynn Shoots

(See Story Behind "To My Children" on Back Page)



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

**Budget & Nominating
 Committees**
 7:15 a.m. Nov. 1

Congregational Mtg.
 Following worship
 Nov. 6

BOCE Meeting
 7:15 p.m. Nov. 9

Mission Committee
 Following worship
 Nov. 13

Moms' Club Meeting
 10a.m. Thursday, Nov 17

Deacons' Meetings
 8:30 a.m. Nov. 18

Laying of the Greens
 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 26

Offering Envelopes Changing in 2017

To reduce cost and help the environment, we will begin using generic offering envelopes on Jan. 1. These envelopes will look similar to the ones we have been using. You will need to put only your name and date on the outside of the envelope.

If you miss a Sunday, just put your two-week offering in one envelope. If you use a check you may choose to use or not use an envelope.

The Deacon's Fund envelopes will be printed in blue and be available each Communion Sunday. The Deacon's Fund will be used to meet needs of members and the community.

— Clara M. White,
Financial Secretary

Jonah Is on Hold (pun intended)

The busy season is upon us. So Adult Christian Education (ACE) is being paused until January. Starting Sunday, Jan. 8, ACE will begin promptly at 11:45 a.m. and end by 12:30 p.m. Rev. Clara White has given the following tentative schedule for the class:

Jan. 8—Jonah 1 review and begin Jonah 2

Jan. 15—Jonah 2

Jan. 22—Annual Meeting, no ACE

Jan. 29—Jonah 3

Feb. 5—Jonah 4

Feb. 12—Review and Wrap Up.



Nov. 1—Darnel Ashford

Nov. 5—Leanna Shirley

Nov. 5—Betty Heisig

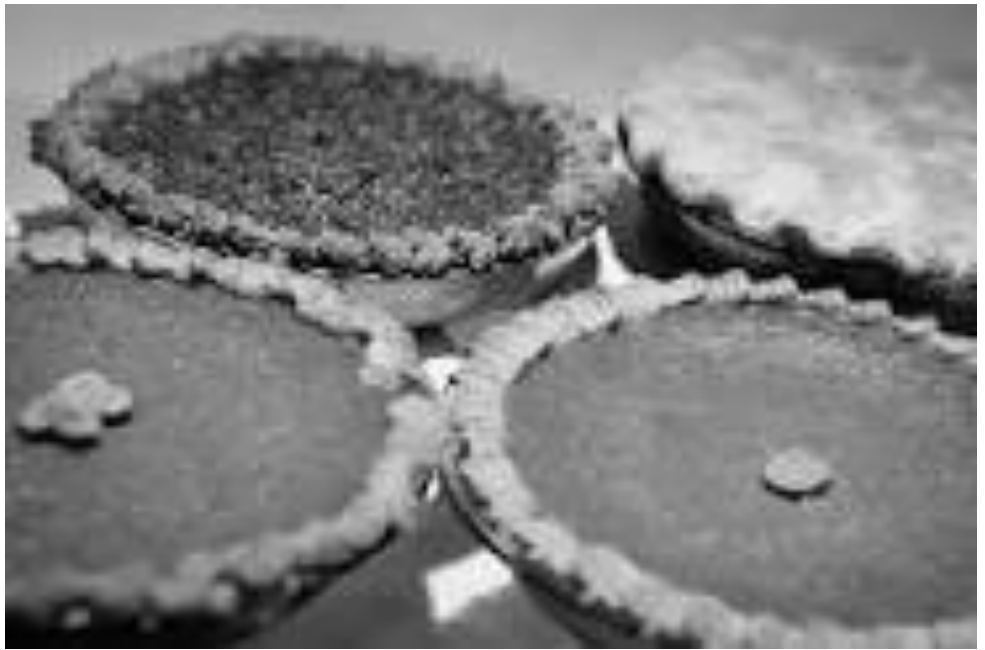
Nov. 8—Lonnie Schultz

Nov. 17—Michael Young

Nov. 20—Rick Pires

Nov. 24—Debbie Covill

Nov. 26—Ian Gress



IT'S NOT TOO LATE to order your Thanksgiving pies through a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser. Order forms are in the Fellowship Hall. Pies are \$16 and apple crisp \$12. Give the money to Mike Shirley, our Harvest Home representative.

Worlds of Wonder

In the shelter of a forest
Where the sunlight filters through,
Nature's creatures seem less "Roar-ist",
More "laid-back", yet foxy, too!

Bouncing forth from bushy hedge-row
Rabbit capers, fancy-free —
Tortoise titters, "Let us go fro",
Finding luncheon, naturally!

Then, when night skies start us gazing,
Searching far beyond our sight —
Heaven's skyways, pass amazing,
Hold our wonder, day and night!

*Written in appreciation of God's creation for over
91 years—Mrs. Evy-Lynn Shoots.*



Note: "Worlds of Wonder" was published in the Poetry Corner of *Discover Conesus* in the September 2016 edition. Congratulations to our own church poet!

Congregation to meet On Sunday, Nov. 6

Pastor Grinin has called a congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, Nov. 6. Issues include: 1. His reflection on his first four months. 2. A Saturday workshop on spiritual gifts as follow-up to the retreat 3. Our vision for our church 4. Expectations from the congregation 5. The Pastor's schedule

Help Lay the Greens

Help decorate the church at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 26. It's always a wonderful to hang the garland and banners and set up the manger.

The tree will be decorated Saturday, Dec. 10.

RHAFT Fundraiser

The 21st Annual Cupboard Craft Sale will be held from 9 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 and 9 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6 at Gro-Moore Farms. Admission is nonperishable food items or cash donation. All proceeds benefit the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal.



Annual R-H Community Thanksgiving Service to be Nov. 22 at HUCC

In these divisive times, it is more important than ever to celebrate the things that unite us: our faith in a Power bigger than our own, our gratitude to our Creator, and our compassion for all of God’s children. The Rush-Henrietta Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will help us come together as one community, united in our thanks to the Creator of us all. Prayers, readings and personal reflec-

tions from the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Baha’i faiths will inspire our gratitude in a variety of voices. The service will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 22, at Henrietta United Church of Christ, 1400 Lehigh Station Rd. Both nonperishable food and monetary offerings will be received for the Rush-Henrietta Area Food Terminal (RHAFT).

The story behind Evy’s poem “To My Children”

I wish to give a tribute to my precious children — and a few years ago, I wrote “To My Children, Treasures of my Heart.” My family and I have been meeting for anniversary celebrations of my husband, Jay Wallace Shoots Sr., and me for over 41 years. I still receive some cards! It was our 71st anniversary this October. Praising Our Savior Jesus Lord.

*Very thankfully,
Evy Lynn Shoots*

Sign the Child Care Petition in the Fellowship Hall

Please sign the child care subsidy petitions in the Fellowship Hall. Seventy-five percent of the families in Monroe County are eligible for child-care subsidies. About 200 families apply each month, but most are denied due to lack of funding. Poverty level is growing, even in Henrietta. Please sign and help.

