

WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

THE LINK

OCTOBER 2015



Checking up on 15 tasks for 2015

In January Rev. Evan Dolive's "15 Things the Church Needs To Do in 2015" was posted on the bulletin board. So, how are we doing?

1. **Review what happened in 2014.** What worked? What didn't? How did we touch people's lives?

2. **Honestly answer the question, "Why in the world would anyone want to come to this church?"** If you answer this question honestly, the answer might surprise you and scare you.

3. **Answer, "If we closed our doors tomorrow, who would miss us?"** Is the church a place to go on Sunday morning or an impactful piece of the community?

4. **Then ask the even harder question—"If no one would miss us, then what are we doing here?"**

5. **Speak up for the voiceless in our own backyard.** The church is called to speak up for those who cannot and be the voice they are longing to have. If the church cannot and does not speak to community, state and national issues, then we are missing a big piece of the gospel.

6. **Have honest conversations about race.** Was Dr. King correct when he said that 11 a.m. on Sunday was the most segregated hour of the week?

7. **Re-evaluate missions.** Reviewing how the work of the church is done will focus the ministry opportunities for 2015.

8. **Remember that failure is not a bad word.** Ministry is more about trial and error than it is an exact science.

9. **Love the people, love the people, love the people.** And I mean no matter what. We need to love people for who they are, not for who we want them to be.

10. **Answer, "If someone came to this community for the first time what would their impression be?"** If someone were to walk into your faith community, what would their first impression be? Is the signage correct? Are things laid out well? Is there someone to greet them yet not ask 100 questions?

11. **Stop the bodies-in-the-pews game.** The church needs to stop defining itself by numbers physically in attendance.

12. **Pray for ... everything.** Patience, peace, mercy, safety, movement of the spirit, direction. Start praying and never stop.

13. **Increase giving.** Watch what happens when a little is given in faith.

14. **Decrease complaining.** Attitude is important—especially in the church.

15. **Don't give up on the church.** God has never given up on us—let's not give up on God.

Rev. Evan M. Dolive is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Follow him on social media: @RevEvanDolive on Twitter and facebook.com/evandoliveauthor.

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

I Corinthians 12:4-8

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October

October 4

Invocation: Marti Faiola

Scripture: Mike Shirley

Prayer: Rev. Clara White

Kids' Moment: Leanna Shirley

Greeter: Joyce Shutts

Fellowship: Annette Eney

Nursery: Board of Christian Ed

October 11

Invocation: Valerie Bandemer

Scripture: Kathy Gosnell

Prayer: Leanna Shirley

Kids' Moment: Clara White

Greeter: Gretchen Young

Fellowship: Roberta Miller

Nursery: Board of Christian Ed

October 18

Invocation: Kathy Gosnell

Scripture: Valerie Bandemer

Prayer: Connie Necaster

Kids' Moment: Marti Faiola

Greeter: Joyce Shutts

Fellowship: Mary Bailey

Nursery: Board of Christian Ed

October 25

Invocation: Marti Faiola

Scripture: Don Peoples

Prayer: Rev. Clara White

Kids' Moment: Connie Necaster

Greeter: Gretchen Young

Fellowship: Leanna Shirley

Nursery: Board of Christian Ed



The WHBC Prayer Chain has been revised, with most participants receiving an email alert of a prayer request instead of a phone call to pass on. However, six members do remain on the phone chain.

All requests are sent to both the email recipients and the callers. A request can be initiated by either Leanna Shirley, who sends the emails, or Loretta Hirschman, who starts the phone calls. Leanna and Loretta work together to guarantee everyone is

Prayer Chain Revised

alerted. Many more members now receive the emails requests than were alerted under the former phone system.

In addition to Loretta, the phone chain includes Sally Kubica, Virginia Bliss, Della Van Doren, Josina McCarroll, and Kathy Gosnell. Your faithfulness in praying is very much appreciated.

In addition to the prayer requests, Pastor Jill has asked that we pray for one fellow member each day.



Church meeting

11:15 a.m. Oct. 4

*

Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints

*

Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

*

Choir Practice

6:30 p.m. Wednesdays

*

BOCE Harvest Day for Kids
Saturday, Oct. 30

Rev. Clara's Bible study, women's social group

Not yet resumed for fall

Birthdays



Oct. 5 - Ryan Scurlock

Oct. 26 - Emily Musham

Oct. 26 - Donna Hulbert

Oct. 30 - Kathy Juby

Oct. 30 - Patricia Floyd

Volunteer to fight violence

Baptists attending the Sept. 26 annual gathering of ABC Rochester/Genesee Region were asked to seek out volunteer opportunities to help children and families impacted by violence in our communities.

Leanna Shirley and Lynne Stewart attended the gathering held at Ogden Baptist as WHBC's representatives. Pastor Jill attended in the afternoon.

A panel of four experts who work directly with children and families in

church or community settings agreed that the key to healing is "seeing and hearing" children until they become "we" and not "Oh, those kids."

Panelists included Rev. Marilyn Cunningham, of Graves Memorial CME Church; Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass, of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist; Kareem Hayes, of the Rochester Youth Development Bureau; Rev. Karyn Carter, of the NYS Office of Children and Family Services/Division of Juvenile Justice at Industry.

Karl Hirschman named to R-H Hall of Fame

Karl Hirschman, the son of Don and Loretta Hirschman, was named to the Rush-Henrietta Alumni Council Hall of Fame the day before the Bicentennial Sunday event he attended with his parents. Karl grew up at West Henrietta Baptist Church with his brother Paul.

A 1985 R-H graduate, Karl is a full professor in the Rochester Institute of Technology's Department of Electrical and Microelectrical Engineering. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from RIT and a doctorate from the University of Rochester. During his graduate studies, he developed a passion for teaching



Photo by Susan Cronmiller

Karl Hirschman, left, poses with his wife, Theresa, and parents, Don and Loretta Hirschman, during the Sept. 20 Bicentennial Sunday open house.

undergraduates.

Karl's work as teacher and researcher is widely respected. His research

work has secured more than \$2 million in public and private grants, and he is credited with securing millions of dollars worth of high-tech equipment dona-

tions to RIT. Karl has published more than 70 technical papers.

In the community, Karl serves as assistant scoutmaster for Troop 334. His son Ryan, a 2015 graduate of Rush-Henrietta now studying at RIT, became an Eagle Scout in that troop. Karl has also volunteered with the Rochester Engineering Explorer Scout post. He provides tours at RIT for Rush-Henrietta students interested in pursuing engineering in college.

Karl and his wife Theresa, a 1986 R-H graduate and the sister of Joe Martin, the funeral director, live in Henrietta. Their daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth, are also students at RIT.

A New Ministry Opportunity!



Trustee John Miller, Pastor Jill Bradway, and Pastor Stephen Grung finalize details for the Ray of Hope International's use of basement space in an Aug. 19 meeting.

Our 200th celebration in ABCs

A is for Almighty God ...with us for 200 years.

B is for Bonnie Healy, Bicentennial Committee Chair... Many, many thanks to you

C is for our congregation ... past and present, plus friends who gathered on 9-20-15.

D is for Deacons ... Thanks to the Deacons for such a lovely and tasty social.

E is for Edo ... Thanks to Edo for guiding fabulous musical presentations.

F is for Family ... Our church family has meant a lot to all of us from its founders and on into the future.

G is for Generous ... So many people to thank for being so generous with their time in preparation for the big day and the monthly activities all year.

H is for "Hallelujah Chorus" ... The choir was full of voices praising God. We thank all of the members who participated.

H is also for Harp ... we were blessed by the heavenly sounds of harpist Susan Morehouse during the banquet.

I is for Images... Thanks to Susan Cronmiller, friend of Dan and Sharon Scurlock, who took so many images of our celebration.

J is for Joy ... What a joy it was to celebrate our 200th anniversary together.

K is for Kitchen floor ... thanks to John Miller for installing a new kitchen floor before the big day.

L is for Lend ... Many had to lend a hand, their time, their talents, their \$\$ or their belongings to make our celebration such a success.

M is for Music ... Thanks to all for their contributions to the musical production in church. We all enjoy it. Oliver inspires us with his piano and organ selections every week.

N is for Nothing ... Nothing was left to chance.

O is for Organized ... Each month's activity was organized and pulled off by many people.

Bicentenn



The men in attendance pose at the open house held between worship and the



The Choir prepares to enter.



ABC USA General Secretary Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, left, who was the keynote speaker at the event, sits with Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Jill Bradway, and Executive Minister of ABC Rochester Gen. Rev. Alan Newton.

ial Sunday



banquet.



Photos
by
Susan
Cronmiller



Nancy Gay Reed speaks during worship.



Henrietta pioneer
who belongs to our
cloud of witnesses.

P is for Published... Bonnie published Emily's book, David's emails, and *Mystic Sweet Communion* for the retreat. Bonnie and Joyce Shutts published our new picture directory. And Sharon, Dan and Ryan Scurlock published the keepsake banquet program. All of these were time-consuming and done so well. Our thanks to you all for your generous use of your time and talents.

Q is for Quandaries ... It's over...No more quandaries regarding the 200th.

R is for Rest and Relax. For those who worked so hard ... give yourself some R & R.

S is for Spirits .. There were others who have gone before that were among us on 9-20-15.

T is for Thanks ... Thanks to each of you who contributed in any way to the celebration. And thanks to all who supported the committee by being at church or the banquet or both.

U is for Unique ... God made each of us ... We are all unique ... We praise God for creating each of us and blessing us with our own uniqueness.

V is for Visitors ... It was so wonderful to see visitors from the past at our celebration. We also thank those who presented their thoughts to us at each service.

W is for Weather ... The weather was perfect in every way.

X is for Xylophone .. We do not have a xylophone ... but, it starts with X.

Y is for Youth ... We are thankful for the youth in our church and pray that six more families will come with many children so our WHBC will live on for 200+ more years.

Z is for Zero ... There are zero activities to plan for our 200th celebration. We can now be in a zone to relax or zoom on as we wish.

This is the ABC end of the Bicentennial Year. We praise God for ALL of it.

-- By **Roberta Miller**, a member of the WHBC Bicentennial Committee, Board of Christian Education, and 37-year member of WHBC.

Thank you, Roberta



Grove of Grace

Alleluia Joy

The praise we raise is music
To God's forgiving heart.
Our songs of love to Jesus
Resound, as anthems start.

How can we show we love Him
Unless we come aside
To honor and adore Him?
For us alone He died!

Rejoice and sing in gladness:
He lives, and loves us so;
Let tributes rise to praise Him,
That all this world may know!



By Evelyn M. Shoots
Age 90

Ring out, old bell

Ring out, old bell
ring loud, ring clear
Your haunting voice
bids us "Rejoice"
as God is present here
In steeple high
you watch below
at passersby
who come and go
When end has come
I hope to hear
your measured toll
assure my soul
That God's sweet mercy's near



By Don Peoples, age 99
Read in church Sept. 13, 2015

O, Father God

O, Father God,
I come in prayer
That I may find
New promise there.

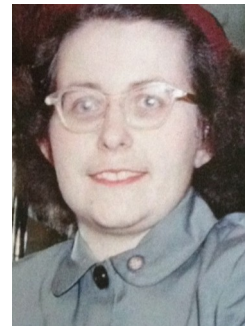
That through my hands,
They work be done;
And through my voice
The words be sung.

I ask from Thee
Not fame not gold,
But that I gain
Fresh life from old.

And help me know
Thy will, and then
Help me to serve
My fellow men.

O God, I ask
That I may see
The selfless life,
Eternity.

O, Father God,
I ask of Thee
To take my Self
Away from me.



By Emily Keyes
Age 20
On Feb. 9, 1947

Editor's Note: *Evy Shoots*
named this occasional Link page
for our creative writing, drawings
and photos.

The Church Clerk's Notes

The Church Advisory Council met on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the West Henrietta Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Joanne Wilbert. Opening prayer was offered by Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. Jill Bradway. Joining us for this meeting was Rev. Alan Newton, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region.

First of all, many "kudos" to Bonnie Healy, Chairwoman, and the entire Bicentennial Committee for the marvelous job they did over the year of the bicentennial celebration for our church. They worked very hard and they did an absolutely fantastic job, ending with a great dinner and the program following it at the RIT Inn and Conference Center.

Other news:

- The Council was advised of the work that has been done in the church, such as John Miller's installation of a new floor in the kitchen, removal of the old carpeting in the nursery, painting, yard work, and weeding;
- Dan Scurlock is now Acting Treasurer and the **Council is searching for an assistant to take Dan's place.**
- The new Roger Cross House for Habitat for Humanity will be beginning very soon on Reis Street in the City of Rochester.
- The Church Retreat for this year has been **CANCELLED.**

- Churches in Henrietta and Rush are invited to participate in the "Make A Difference Day" on Oct. 24. (See article at lower left.)
- The Rush-Henrietta Interfaith League Thanksgiving celebration will be held at Rush Methodist Church on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m.
- Gretchen Young reported that the Board of Christian Education has many plans for the coming holiday season.
- An inspector will be hired to assess, (at tenant Valerie Fogarassy's convenience), and report back to the Trustees as to what repairs are needed in the parsonage.
- **Virginia Bliss has moved** to Glenmere Assisted Living Home, 1 Wheatley Terrace, Apt 201, Pittsford, NY 14534. Her phone is 248-1228.
- Joyce Schutts has donated a set of *Christian Living Hymnals* to our church. Council voted to accept them as an alternate hymnal.
- Leanna brought up the need for a Church Secretary for various duties, and at her recommendation Council formed a committee to determine what a secretary would do and if one would be affordable. Pastor Jill, Leanna, Sharon Scurlock, Bonnie Healy, Joyce Shutts, and Anne Greco were named to the committee.

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for Dec. 7th at 7 p.m.

-- Church Clerk Barb Miller

Make a Difference

Anyone with a community service idea for the nationwide Make a Difference Day should register with the Town of Henrietta Youth Bureau and complete the project on or before Oct. 24. Call

359-2540 or email kmcarthur@henrietta.org. Looking for a project? Check out www.communitywishbook.com.

The volunteer time is 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 24, with a culminating celebration to be held at noon in the R-H High School. A report on the work will be given. Free pizza and drinks will be served.

In the past, West Town Village, the Henrietta Senior Center and Food Cupboard, Tinker Nature Center, School of the Holy Child, local schools and hospitals, and Stonewood Village have benefitted from the volunteer effort.

Give generously Oct. 4

October's Noisy Offering will help Historic Parsells Baptist Church install a much needed heating system. Located in the Beechwood area, the church this summer fed its neighborhood hots and hamburgers daily, planted community gardens and worked with neighborhood children. Members show Christ in a very poor, drug-dealing, high-crime neighborhood. Please give freely.

Drama in WHBC history

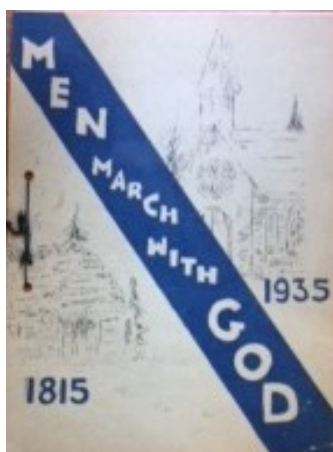
This article is one in a bicentennial year series for The Link by WHBC Historian Bonnie Healy.

When we wonder what our ancestors were like, sometimes we need only look in the mirror. So it seems to be with at least one aspect of our bicentennial observance: the presentation last May of *Mama Emile's Readers' Theater*, the story of the late missionary to Africa and lifelong WHBC member, Emily Keyes.

In its planning and production, the readers' theater seemed like an original idea. But in the compiling of artifacts from prior anniversaries for display on Bicentennial Sunday on Sept. 20, it became clear our actions were more traditional than original, even though the bicentennial committee was unaware of the pattern.

Records from four previous anniversary celebrations - the 100th, 120th, 150th, and 175th - have been found in clerks' writings and basement filing cabinets. Two of those four observances included a dramatic presentation, making our readers' theater the third anniversary production.

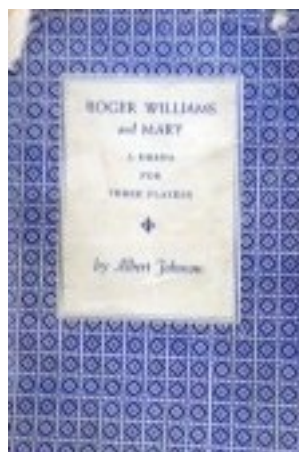
Men March with God in 1935 was an original script written by Mrs. Earl Goodman and George Caswell, the same man who a year later would build *The Book of Golden*



***Men March with God* was produced at WHBC for the church's 120th anniversary, *Roger Williams and Mary* for the 150th, and *Mama Emile's Readers' Theater* for the 200th.**

Memories cabinet now being used for our time capsule. Performed in the Fellowship Hall, it was a complicated production with sets that required forest and cabin scenes, special lighting, and period costumes. The pageant committee numbered 16 and pageant roles 76, although some actors appeared in more than one role.

Men March with God, which Emily would have watched when she was not quite 9, presents early settlers as men of God involved in the issues of their times. They argue over whether the Missouri Compromise will settle the slave question and are shown sneaking escaped slaves into cabins at night as part of the Underground Railroad. When Civil War comes, 135 townsmen go to fight,



and not all of them return. Women left at home raise \$10.64 for "moral and religious readings" for soldiers.

Next, the West Henrietta Baptists fight the evil of liquor as Good Templars. Technology changes: telephones (and eavesdropping on party lines), the Erie Railroad, and automobiles arrive.

The formation of Elizabeth McFarlane's class is noted. Then Rev. James Warner urges young men to fight "the war to end all wars." Disapproval of the message is conveyed by a spotlight on one mother left alone as her boy goes and still alone as the men return.

The 150th anniversary production of *Roger Williams and Mary* was a simpler five-chair, three-person presentation of the play that



Mama Emile's Readers' Theater Presented Mother's Day, May 10, 2015 at West Henrietta Baptist Church

had recently won the Freedom Foundation George Washington Medal of Honor. The play ends with Williams' banishment from Massachusetts for refusing to submit to civil rule on religious matters. He decides to form a new colony in Narragansett, which became Rhode Island. His homesick wife Mary agrees to follow him.

So the question is: did the 1965 WHBC congregation know how deep its own DNA ran in the Rhode Island fight for religious freedom and separation of church and state that followed the end of the play? Gortons, Weavers, Fenners, Shermans, Babcocks and Blys all came to New York and ultimately to Henrietta from Rhode Island. Did they know whose children they were or did they stumble across their tradition unaware?

God knows.