

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK

SEPTEMBER, 2015



### CHRISTIAN LIVES ARE OUR LEGACY

Well, here we are entering the last quarter of 2015. It is amazing how quickly time flies the older one gets. For me, the summer months went by with a seeming blink of an eye.

I have no young children to ready for school, nor am I preparing to continue my studies in any formal manner. But that does not mean that September will not be a time of preparation. What this fall will mean to me is an opportunity to continue preparing you, WHBC, for your new pastor.

Before we can get back to that task, we have a 200th Anniversary to celebrate. That's a big deal! Not many institutions can say they've been around for 200 years. As we gather later this month, we celebrate God's ability to sustain WHBC and make it thrive down through the years.

One of my favorite hymns, "We've Come This Far By Faith" succinctly expresses God's faithful presence in the lives of those who belong to Him. To be sure, God has maintained the physical existence of a building called West Henrietta Baptist Church, but it has been God working in the lives of the members down through the years that is the legacy. The legacy left by those long gone members of WHBC is a legacy for the members of today and tomorrow.

However, in order for our past to be a benefit to us, possibly providing a

light to the future, we have to look at it...all of it. The good, the bad, and the ugly! All of the recorded events are important because as the hymn "We've Come This Far By Faith" declares, "leaning on the Lord, He's never failed us yet." That is how the church has survived for 200 years...leaning on the Lord!

By Pastor Jill

In the 200 years WHBC has been in existence, there have been some ups and downs, some scandals, some heartbreak and pain, some unbridled joy, and periods of spiritual growth.

Our desire to only focus on the "good" stuff keeps us from reaping the benefits of the lessons learned and faith encouraged during the hard times of WHBC's history. Because it was through the storms, through the tragedies, and even through the scandals that God's keeping power was at work! I'm sure there were many times when the members thought the boat would be dashed to pieces on the rocks, but God's grace and mercy allowed WHBC to navigate safely into its future...and here you are!

On Sunday, Sept. 20th, the message will be "A Legacy to Live By." Come out to hear the good word of God's love and care for past and future generations of WHBC!

God's Peace!

### SEPTEMBER BICENTENNIAL EVENT

**IT'S FINALLY HERE. THE CULMINATING CELEBRATION OF WHBC'S 200 YEARS WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPT. 20. FORMER MEMBERS AND FOUNDERS' DESCENDANTS WILL BE AMONG THOSE ATTENDING. DON'T MISS THIS CHANCE TO CONNECT PAST AND FUTURE.**

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# September

## Greeters

- Sept 6: Chris Statts
- Sept 13: Roberta Miller
- Sept 20: Jim & Connie Harper, Betty Wynne, Chris Statts
- Sept 27: Gretchen Young

## Fellowship Hosts

- Sept 6: Chris Statts
- Sept 13: Gretchen Young
- Sept 20: Deacons
- Sept 27: Connie Necaster

## Invocation

- Sept 6: Kathy Gosnell
- Sept 13: Valerie Bandemer
- Sept 20: Bicentennial
- Sept 27: Leanna Shirley

## Intercessory prayer

- Sept 6: Leanna Shirley
- Sept 13: Clara White
- Sept 20: Bicentennial
- Sept 27: Connie Necaster

## Children's moment

- Sept 6: Connie Necaster
- Sept 13: Leanna Shirley
- Sept 20: Bicentennial
- Sept 27: Clara White

## Scripture readers

- Sept 6: Mary Bailey
- Sept 13: Marti Faiola
- Sept 20: Bicentennial
- Sept 27: Kathy Gosnell

## Nursery

## Board of Christian Ed

# WHBC News

## Pastoral Search Committee gets names

The names of four candidates have been presented to the pastoral search committee. Rev. Alan Newton, executive minister of the Rochester Genesee Region ABC emailed the names to committee members on Aug. 21. He characterized the candidates as local and diverse.

Rev. Newton is facilitating the search process based on the criteria developed from a congregation survey completed earlier this year. In a presentation of search results on July 19, New-

ton said that based on the size and finances of the congregation, the search must focus on available part-time candidates.

The survey found the congregation preferred a middle-aged, ordained seminary graduate with a preaching style that is narrative, personal, engaging and logical.

The search committee will now review and interview candidates.

## Council to meet Sept. 21st

Moderator Joanne Wilbert asks board and committee chairs to have their quarterly reports ready for pickup on Sunday, Sept. 20. The advance availability allows reports to be read before the meeting, freeing time for discussion. Advisory council will hold its fall meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, in the Fellowship Hall.

In addition, boards are asked to choose their representative to the nominating and budget committees by the meeting.

In preparation for the work of those two committees, boards and committees should be thinking about who might replace departing members and reviewing their 2015 expenditures to provide an idea of needs for the coming year.

## We have neighbors

The congregation voted Aug. 16 to rent basement space to a small Bhutanese and Nepolese congregation. Pastored by Rev. Steven Grung, who spent years in a Nepalese refugee camp, the congregation will meet at 8 a.m. Sundays in the space by the ping pong table. They will pay a weekly rental of \$25. Say "hi" if you pass a neighbor in the hallway.



## Men's Breakfast

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints

\*

## Prayer Meeting

9 a.m. Saturdays

\*

## Banquet reservation deadline

Tuesday, Sept. 1

\*

## Pastoral Search Committee

7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3

\*

## Advisory Council

7 p.m. Sept. 21

\*

## Bicentennial Committee

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1  
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8  
6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17

\*

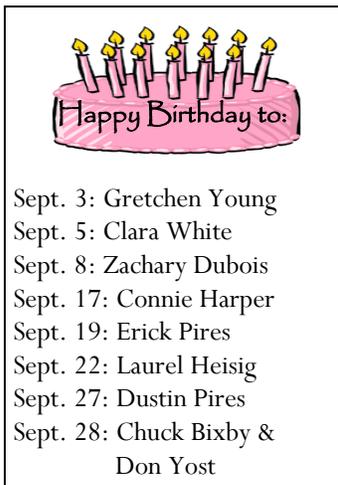
## Bicentennial Sept. 20

10 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Open house  
1 p.m. Banquet at RIT Inn

\*

## Women's Bible Study and Social Group led by Rev. Clara White at the church

Not yet resumed for fall



# An ice cream social is never out of date



Poet Evy Shoots, whose latest poetry is featured at right, and daughter Evie Scott are shown at the July 19 ice cream social where pinwheels made by Roberta Miller provided delightful decorations. More than 20 friends from the Church of the First Born and St. Mark's Lutheran Church joined us for sundaes. Bicentennial committee members John and Roberta Miller hosted the party.



## Our Choice

Every month leaves fingerprints  
Along its daily trail –  
There to last forevermore  
As winds of life prevail.

Ours will be within that group,  
With choice to join or quell  
Harmony life offers us,  
To reach out or rebel.

Guiding hand our Father shows,  
Supports when we will yield  
Spirit, soul, with every heart  
To reap his harvest field.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore, to  
send out workers into His harvest field.”  
Matthew 9:38

## Take Heart

As day's dawn delights the skies,  
Bouquet colors brightly rise,  
Shining forth with message clear,  
Through each hour, fresh hope is near.

If you think you cannot make it,  
Brave enduring, you can take it!  
There is strength built deep within you,  
Forming every vein and sinew!

Carry on as those around you  
Catch the courage that abounds you;  
Love holds hope with faith fast growing,  
Trust in Jesus ever showing.

Philippians 4:13

Poet: Evy Shoots  
Written 7-12-15

**Editor's Note:** Creative writing, photos, and drawings are always welcome submissions to *The Link* and will be printed as space allows.

# Old seminary record tells tales

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

Before Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, there was Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Before Colgate Rochester Divinity School, there was Rochester Theological Seminary.

Baptists founded RTS concurrently with the University of Rochester in 1850. The seminary and college shared classrooms and professors -- but never administration -- on West Main. RTS expanded to its own campus on East Avenue at Alexander Street until 1928 when it merged with Colgate Theological Seminary, America's oldest Baptist seminary, and built the school on the hill on Goodman Street. In 1970, Colgate Rochester merged with Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., Martin Luther King Jr.'s alma mater.

From its earliest years, Rochester Theological Seminary provided West Henrietta Baptist with a ready supply of pastors, many of them still students during their pastorates. Records of 14 pastors are found in the *Rochester Theological Seminary General Catalogue 1850-1920*. These brief records provide a glimpse into the lives of these ministers.

Eight of the 14 were foreign born. Revs. John C. MacFarlane, Donald B. MacQueen, James M. Warner, and James D. MacLeod were Canadian. Warner would ser-



**REV. JOHN C. McFARLANE**  
Graduated 1907



**REV. DONALD B. MacQUEEN**  
Graduated 1907  
Completed graduate studies 1910



**REV. FREDERICK N. SMITH**  
Graduated 1910

vice as a captain in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I. MacLeod was from Prince Edward Island. Revs. Alexander Mackenzie and James Macpherson were as Scottish as their names. Rev. W. Entwistle, who served the church during the Civil War was English.

The average age of a pastor beginning his ministry at WHBC was 36 years. At 51 in 1874, Rev. Uriah Gregory, a veteran of the Civil War who went on to become president of California College, was the oldest pastor. Iowa-born Rev. Frederick B. Iglar was the youngest at 28. His pastorate from January to April 1917 was apparently too brief to note in the sanctuary list of pastors.

Probably because their ministries overlapped seminary training, terms were short. Only Rev. MacLeod served significantly after his seminary training. Rev. W.T. Taylor, the only Rochester native among the 14, and Rev. Mackenzie, both served five years, the longest terms. The average stay was 2.7 years.

Although seminarians, most had been ordained before admission to school. Rev. MacQueen, who was a WHBC member throughout his seminary years and succeeded Rev. MacFarlane in 1908 was ordained at WHBC. He continued graduate studies at the seminary during his pastorate. Seminary records indicate that he served at Camp Cody, a National Guard training camp in New Mexico, during World War I. His successor, Rev. Frederick Smith, was a graduate of Princeton University. As a missionary in China, he taught boys. During his furlough in 1918, he earned his master's degree at Columbia University. He was 32 year old and newly wed while here.

## Pastors who attended RTS between 1853 and 1920

**Rev. George Webster**  
1855-1856 (*Years at WHBC*)

**Rev. W. Entwistle**  
1863-1864

**Rev. Uriah Gregory**  
1874-1875

**Rev. A. B. Sears**  
1890-1894

**Rev. W.T. Taylor**  
1896-1901

**Rev. Harry Greensmith**  
1901-1904

**Rev. J.C. MacFarlane**  
1904-1908

**Rev. D.B. MacQueen**  
1908-1911

**Rev. Frederick N. Smith**  
1911-1912

**Rev. Alexander Mackenzie**  
1912-1917

**Rev. Frederick B. Iglar Jr.**  
1917

**Rev. James M. Warner**  
1917-1921

**Rev. James Macpherson**  
1921-1924

**Rev. James D. MacLeod**  
1926-1929