

# WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

1815-2015

## THE LINK

MARCH 2015



### CARPE DIEM FOR YOUR SOUL

It is hard to believe that March has come so quickly. While I realize that the time is actually no shorter, it seems to come faster every year. I'm sure it has everything to do with my own understanding of the fleeting nature of time and life, and always feeling like there aren't enough hours in a day.

I'm sure you've heard the saying, "Time waits for no one." It's true! Now is the time for you to make known your wishes for West Henrietta Baptist Church. For the past three weeks there has been a box and sign in the fellowship hall asking you, the members of WHBC, to share your wishes for the church. I am surprised that so few of you have taken the time to fill out a card and share your thoughts. Now is the time to do so.

Very soon, the Pastoral Search Committee will ask the congregation to complete a survey indicating the qualities and credentials necessary for the new pastor. I want to encourage you to take a few minutes and complete the survey. It will be your opportunity to help the search committee faithfully carry out their work. The time is fast approaching.

READ US ON THE WEB

WHBAPTIST.ORG

IT'S OUR NEW SITE!

**From  
Pastor Jill**

This is an important time in the life of the Church Universal. We are making our way, slowly, to Jerusalem. I pray that you would embrace the time of Lent as an opportunity to contemplate your commitment to the things of God. It's not about giving up something just for the sake of giving it up. It's about excluding or maybe including something, that you might discern more clearly the voice of God, for guidance in the living of these days. Time will not wait for us.

May we recognize that life doesn't go on forever, and find new passion to rejoice in the gift of each and every day, and to take none of them for granted. In time, only what we do for Christ will last!

*Cheerfully pleasing God is the main thing, and that's what we aim to do, regardless of our conditions. Sooner or later, we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad.*

*(2 Corinthians 5:9b-10 MSG)*

God's Peace!

### MARCH BICENTENNIAL EVENT

THE ANNIVERSARY OF REV. C. DAVID HESS'S DEATH WILL BE MARKED WITH A RECITAL AT 2 P.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 7, AT THE CHURCH. TO SHARE A MEMORY OF OUR LATE PASTOR, SIGN UP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. ON MARCH 8, PULLED PORK SANDWICHES FEATURING DAVID'S FAMOUS SAUCE WILL BE SERVED DURING COFFEE HOUR.

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MARCH  
LECTIONARY

March 1: Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps. 22:23-31; Rom. 4:13-26; Mark 8:1-38

March 8: Ex. 20:1-17; Ps. 19; I Cor. 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 15: Num. 21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22; Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 22: Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12; Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 29: Is. 50:4-91; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47



March 14: Dan Gress  
 March 17: David Chase  
 March 20: Mark Heintz  
 March 21: Rebecca Hirschman  
 March 21: Ryan Hirschman  
 March 23: Doty Greer  
 March 25: Dylan Pires  
 March 26: Sharon Gress  
 March 31: Alberta Greer

MARCH'S THANKFUL ENTRANTS

ENTER HIS COURTS WITH THANKSGIVING AND HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

Ps. 100:4

**Greeter:** March 1, 8, 15: Betty Wynne

**March 22, 29:** Lonnie Schultz

**Children's moment:** Connie Voss

**Scripture readers:**

**March 1:** Patricia Floyd

**March 8:** Evie Scott

**March 15:** Kathy Gosnell

**March 22:** Connie Voss

**March 29:** Lynne Stewart

**Nursery helpers:** Jasmine Morse and Mike Shirley.

**Fellowship hosts:**

**March 1:** Bonnie Healy

**March 8:** Bicentennial Cmte.

**March 15:** Betty Heisig

**March 22:** Mary Bailey

**March 29:** Palm Sunday

**Student history readers:**

**March 1:** Darnell Ashford

**March 8:** Devonne Buskey

**March 15:** Jasmine Morse

**March 22:** Isaiah Buskey

**March 29:** Colin Chasse



CHOIR PRACTICE

7 p.m. Wednesdays

\*

MEN'S BREAKFAST

7 a.m. Tuesdays at Peppermints Restaurant

\*

PRAYER MEETING

9 a.m. Saturdays

\*

2Bs

10:30 Saturdays

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BICENTENNIAL CMTEE.

3 p.m. Tuesday, March 17

\*

ADVISORY COUNCIL

7 p.m. Monday, March 9

\*

APRIL LINK DEADLINE

Sunday, March 15  
 TheLink@whbaptist.org

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BULLETIN DEADLINES

Wednesday each week:  
 bulletin@whbaptist.org

ABCRGR Delegates' Report

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Rev. Jill Bradway, Lynne Stewart, and I attended the delegates meeting of the ABC Rochester Genesee Region at Genesee Baptist Church.

WHBC received a certificate for its 2014 mission giving. We gave \$7,850 to United Mission and \$14,427 for total American Baptist Missions Support in 2014.

ABCRGR is no longer considered a geographical region, but a region of "common theology and a place of peace." We now have 47 congregations, many from outside our state. At this meeting, we unanimously and joyfully voted to accept into

membership two churches:

1) First Baptist Church of Keystone-Cyprus Park, Fla., a church not welcomed by Southern Baptists because they champion women in leadership roles.

2) Kingdom Come Community Church of Bona Park, Ca. They have 32 people from three different countries, diverse races, many of whom are hurting, unchurched or misfits. Their mission is to create a community as if we live in Heaven now.

Accepting these churches makes me proud to be a part of ABCRGR.

-- Leanna Shirley,  
 Delegate to ABCRGR

**New board chairs: Please submit meeting times for publication in *The Link* and whbaptist.org.**

## March's Prayer Calendar



*Please use this calendar to pray for at least one person in our fellowship every day.*

|          |                   |  |
|----------|-------------------|--|
| March 1  | Marti Faiola      | New deacon leading Better Bodies weight-loss class                           |
| March 2  | Patricia Floyd    | Member of choir and bicentennial and pastor selection committees             |
| March 3  | Valerie Fogarassy | BOCE member and mother of Isaiah and Devonne, who has kidney disease         |
| March 4  | Laura Fojtalok    | Non-attender   |
| March 5  | Sherry Gifford    | Non-attender   |
| March 6  | Dawn Gifford      | Non-attender   |
| March 7  | Carl Godfrey      | Friend to many who moved to Jamestown and is missed                          |
| March 8  | Kathy Gosnell     | Choir member and returning deacon  |
| March 9  | Anne Greco        | Choir member and trustee   |
| March 10 | Alberta Greer     | Longtime member currently living in The Legacy                               |
| March 11 | Dan Gress         | Choir member and trustee who works and attends nursing school                |
| March 12 | Sharon Gress      | Choir member who works and attends nursing school, suffers back pain         |
| March 13 | Connie Harper     | Bluegrass musician and amazing cook wintering in Florida                     |
| March 14 | Jim Harper        | Longtime member and Gay Family descendant working as Connie's "roadie"       |
| March 15 | Bonnie Healy      | Church historian seeking the future  |
| March 16 | Linda Heintz      | Non-attender   |
| March 17 | Mark Heintz       | Non-attender   |
| March 18 | Betty Heisig      | Former moderator who cares for her husband and elderly aunt despite her pain |
| March 19 | Charles Heisig    | Betty's husband  |
| March 20 | Laurel Heisig     | Faithful choir member and financial secretary                                |
| March 21 | Don Hirschman     | Dear member who recently had a heart attack                                  |
| March 22 | Loretta Hirschman | A many-times deacon who sings in the choir and worries about Don             |
| March 23 | Kevin Hooch       | Non-attender   |
| March 24 | Patti Hooch       | Non-attender   |
| March 25 | Eugene Howlett    | Elderly member of Howlett Family retired and living in Webster               |
| March 26 | Helen Howlett     | Eugene's wife  |
| March 27 | Donna Hulbert     | Gay Family descendant living in Woodcrest Commons with Bell's Palsy          |
| March 28 | Ann Jonathan      | Jim and Flo Braker's daughter with pretty blue eyes                          |
| March 29 | Alan Juby         | Golf friend of David Hess  |
| March 30 | Kathy Juby        | Very active leader currently traveling in search of a new home               |
| March 31 | Linda Karr        | Non-attender   |

# THE MYSTERY OF OUR ELDER WEAVER

*This article is the third in a monthly 2015 series by church Historian Bonnie Healy.*

We called him “Elder Weaver” so consistently that in time his title erased his given name. Elder Weaver was the lay preacher who ministered to pioneers in Henrietta’s wilderness as early as 1813 and probably earlier. He led the riverside Baptists until we organized in 1815 and called the Rhode Island-born Rev. Thomas Gorton.

Elder Weaver must have been a solitary figure who, on horseback or on foot, the Good Book tucked in a saddlebag or under his arm, traveled woodland paths to preach in cabins and barns. Who would we be if he had not done so? But who was he?

Only two clues hint at his identity. Former Henrietta Historian Eleanor Kalsbeck, in her book *Henrietta Heritage*, called the itinerant “Elder Weaver of Mendon.” The second clue is a mysterious burial in the cemetery of East Baptist Church at Pinnacle and Reeves roads. From 1827-1838 we were part of that congregation and met together in a brick church in East Henrietta. (A wooden structure built by the Methodist Episcopalians, who bought our old brick church, still stands on the site. Once the Trading Post, the building is now a dog grooming school.)

The man buried behind East Baptist Church is said to be Peter Weaver, who was born in 1772 in Rhode Island. His birth year would have made him about 40 when he started

## WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST

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*... Or who’s buried in Peter Weaver’s grave?*



East Henrietta Baptist Church Cemetery

preaching in Henrietta. His parents, William Weaver and his second wife, Elizabeth Loveland, were married in 1771 in Second Baptist Church of Newport. So Peter Weaver was Baptist from birth.

His 1843 churchyard burial would mean he stayed with the eastside Baptists after the 1838 split, which a Mendon man would have done. Such residency might also help explain why in 1843 the East Baptists left the village and built so close to the Mendon line.

Peter Weaver’s record in the Weaver genealogy ends in 1810, when it is noted that he left Ancram, New York, and “went West.” In 1810, Henrietta was a western frontier.

These pieces all fit a hypothesis that the Peter Weaver buried in East Baptist Cemetery is our Elder Weaver. However, additional confusion is almost humorous. The Weaver woman buried at East Baptist is Margaret Reynolds Weaver, wife of William Weaver, Peter’s older half brother. (Records show

Margaret is also buried with William in Pine Hill Cemetery in Rush!)

Furthermore, Peter’s dates in the East Baptist Cemetery are curiously like his brother William’s in Pine Hill. Both are said to have been born in 1770, although Peter was actually a little younger. Peter is said to have died Dec. 26, 1843 and William Oct. 26, 1843. The question arises: Is Peter really William? William, whose documented New York wanderings disqualify him as our earliest elder?

More curious still is the Rhode Island birth and ancestry of both Elder Weaver and his ordained successor, Rev. Thomas Gorton. Was the connection known to them? And Peter Weaver, if he was our first elder, did he know Michael Brininstool, our first deacon, in eastern New York? When he left Ancram in 1810, he left a town just 16 miles from Rhinebeck, the birthplace of Michael Brininstool. So how did God connect the three key players in our founding? One wonders.