

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



2021

In This Issue

Pastor's Meditation	1
Moderators Musing	2
CORRECTION!	3
January Birthdays.....	4
Note from the Trustees.....	4
Financially Speaking.....	4
Pledges and Donations.....	5
The Missions Committee	5
A Note from the Pastoral Relations Team.....	5
Garden Space is Available.....	5
Message from the Deacons	6
Thank You.....	6
Thank You.....	6
Thank You.....	6
The 2020 Annual Report.....	7
Happy New Year!.....	7

Pastor's Meditation

“Who is Your “Lyle”?”

In 1999, Disney released a movie directed by a David Lynch. Lynch was known for directing unusual projects, such as *Blue Velvet* and the *Twin Peaks* TV series. For Disney, though, Lynch “played it straight,” directing an accessible, heartwarming film, appropriately titled, *The Straight Story*. This film is based on the true story of an elderly Iowan named Alvin Straight. In the early 1990s, due to failing eyesight, Straight lost his driver’s license. In 1994, when his brother

Henry (named “Lyle” in the movie) suffered a stroke, Alvin rode his John Deere lawn tractor 240 miles to visit his brother in Wisconsin. The movie depicts Straight’s slow, uncomfortable journey as kind of a penance for a broken relationship. Along the way, Straight witnessed some beautiful fall scenery and encountered a number of people who both inspired and were-inspired by him. Hitting nightfall just a few miles from his brother’s house, he camped near a church. The minister came out to offer him food. Here is their conversation from the movie script:

Alvin Straight: *Well, Lyle and I grew up as close as brothers could be. We were raised on a farm in Moorhead, Minnesota. We worked hard. My mom and dad darn near killed themselves tryin' to make that farm work. And me and Lyle would make games out of our chores. We'd dream up something about racin' and wagerin', do anything to keep our mind off the cold. Lord, it was cold. He and I used to sleep out in the yard every summer night if it wasn't pourin'. Nine months of winter we couldn't get enough summer. We'd bunk down when the sun went down. We'd talk to each other until we went to sleep. We'd talk about the stars and whether there might be somebody else like us out in space, pretty places we wanted to go and it made our trials seem smaller. Yeah, we much talk each other into growin' up.*

Minister: *Oh, whatever happened between you two?*

Alvin Straight: *Story as old as the Bible, Cain and Abel. Anger, vanity. You mix that together with liquor, and you've got two brothers who haven't spoken in ten years. Well, whatever it was that made me and Lyle so mad...don't matter anymore. I wanna make peace. I wanna sit with him, look up at the stars... like we used to do so long ago.*

Minister: *I say "Amen" to that.*

I won't spoil the ending for you. You'll have to watch the movie to see if the brothers ever got back together to look up at the stars.

I simply want to ask you, "Who is your Lyle?" Who are you estranged from that used to be your friend? Can anything be patched up? Can anything be healed? Can it be said that whatever divided you "Doesn't matter anymore?"

Jesus is our example. Romans 5:8 declares, "But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Jesus did not wait for us to settle our differences before dying on the cross to reconcile us with God. While we were yet sinners, he made that reconciliation possible.

Could you simply go up to your "Lyle" and reconcile? Could you consider the things that separate you and declare, "It doesn't matter?" How you answer these questions may have a

huge impact on your soul and upon the journey that you take.

In Christ,
Pastor Steve



Moderator's Musing

Dear Church,

When you read this Carillon the new year will have come and gone! COVID vaccines will have picked up momentum in being produced, delivered, and administered. And I'm sure that most of America will be looking to 2021 as a year of renewal, "getting back to normal", and dare I say it- salvation from 2020.

With that in mind, it may be important to remind you that every year (I'll say it again), every year, there are issues of grand magnitude that affect lots and lots of people. Epidemics and pandemics are many and varied throughout human history. There have been wars, economic strife, rampant poverty, wide sweeping, overt racism, slavery of many different peoples in many different countries, and individuals, who for one reason or another, had far reaching, negative impacts on whole groups of people they (and like thinkers) considered inferior, different and, therefore, unworthy of even basic human rights and civilities.

While it may be comforting to think that changing the two digits from 20 to 21 will solve all of America's (our) issues, the simple fact is it won't. What 2021 holds for us is probably going to be the same mixed bag we experienced in 2020!

But wait! Before you decide to crawl under the covers in a deep depression that 2021 will not solve all life's ills, let me point out the following:

1. 2020 was the best year because someone had their first child.
2. 2020 was the best year because two people found love and were married.
3. 2020 was the best year because people won and are winning their fights against cancer and other diseases.
4. 2020 was the best year because people remembered what their family meant to them and made conscience efforts to reconnect and appreciate them.
5. 2020 was the best year because it brought forth brave people who participated in vaccine research studies for the health and well being of everyone else.
6. 2020 was the best year because scientists all over the world put aside professional competitions to work on healing and protecting the human population.

7. 2020 was the best year because it showed what our little church was made of and how, working together, we could survive and thrive.

I don't know what 2021 will bring; heck I too celebrated the coming of 2020 last year at this time! Had I known, maybe I would have slammed the door, hid under my bed, and told people to come get me when 2021 came around!

What I do know is that it really doesn't matter. Life is short, tenuous, and full of change. No one can do it alone- though many have tried! Our church can't do it alone. You, me, our Pastor, can't do it alone. It is only by having faith and working together that we can meet each year head on with purpose, bravery, and a willingness to bend against the harsh winds of change that, if we stick together, will never break us.

Peace and Understanding,
Michael Pray



Correction

Dick Andrews phone number is:
Cell: (585) 967-2069
(585) 342-2069

January Birthdays

- 11 – Betty Holderbaum
- 13 - Lilly Swail
- 14 – Lisa Fox
- 22 – Meho Kapidzic
- 23 – MaryLou Bullock
- 23 – Marsha Kiriazides
- 24 – Jeffrey Phillips, Jr.
- 29 – Ernest Bullock
- 29 – Scott Daniel
- 29 – Kaya Keenan



Note from the Trustees

The Trustees want to thank everyone who promptly returned their pledge cards. The 2021 budget process will start in December, using your pledges as the basis for its' creation. The budget will be completed during two workshops in January.

January 17, 2021, at 11:15 will be the proposed 2021 budget presentation. The Annual Meeting will be on January 24th at 11:15am, following the church service. Both meetings will be on Zoom.

Chris Ahl continues to spend many hours caring for the church landscaping. The gardens have been carefully trimmed and

shaped in preparation for winter. The grounds look great. Thank you Chris for all you do.

Respectfully,

Bruce Blackman, Don Fox, Fritz May, Jack O'Brien, Sarah Phillips, David Trump

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Financially Speaking

Pledge envelopes will be available between Christmas and the first Sunday in January. (As people change their minds each year about wanting and declining envelopes, I am forced to move account numbers. Since this is tied into tax statements for 2020, much work has to be done before changing account numbers.)

David Trump will be helping to spearhead a delivery system for the envelope delivery.

As already mentioned, the tax statements will go out in January before the 15th. I mail them each year, so you have a hard copy. If there are any issues, please contact me immediately.

It is not too late to make your 2021 Pledge if you have forgotten, changed your mind, or just decided to declare your intended contribution to OUR CHURCH.

Bill Werther
Financial Secretary

Pledges and Donations

Just a reminder that all pledges and donations can be mailed into the church office and will be deposited, or you can also use the Donate button on the church website (for a small fee).

Thank you!
Jeff Bertrand



The Missions Committee

To Our Church Family:

As we begin 2021 together, The Missions Team would like to thank all of you who so generously supported our efforts in 2020 to reach out, in love, to the community on your behalf. We have begun to plan for 2021 and we are open to your input when you become aware of additional ways our church might be able to help.

We wish you comfort, renewal and good health in the New Year.
Sue, Ellen, Janette



A Note from the Pastoral Relations Team

Happy New Year! We have all been looking forward to 2021! The Pastoral Staff Relations team continues to meet monthly, providing support for the pastor, as well as providing a channel of communication between the pastor and the congregation. You are invited to share your praises and concerns with any member of the Pastoral Relations team.

Blessings in the New Year,

Libby Bertrand, Alexandra Collison,
Penny Goodman, Judy McNeil, Pat Casey



Garden Space is Available!

SPACE IS AVAILABLE for you to have a garden plot at the church!

The ground has already been well prepared this fall. Join the fun and the bounty of gardening.

Please call Ginny Wilterdink at 585-385-3531 before April 1st for more information.

Message from the Deacons

The deacons have been very busy the past 4 months staying in contact with our church family through cards, letters and phone calls. Thank you for your positive feedback on this effort!

Many little holiday treats or flowers have been delivered to our members to remind you how important you are to all of us.

The deacons wish you a blessed, safe, healthy 2021. We are so anxious to be able to worship (and socialize!) all together once again.

If you have a need that can be met by any of the deacons, please contact one of us.

With love to all of you,
Judy, Marsha, Carol, and Susie



Thank You
from Pastor Steve and Annette

We are grateful for your loving cards and generous gifts to us during the Christmas Season.

May God richly bless the people of First Baptist Church.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. As always, it is an honor and joy to serve at First Baptist Church of Penfield. Thank you for all your support this year. Wishing you a Happy Christmas, and a safe and peaceful New Year.

Naomi



Thank You

Dear First Baptist Members,

Thank you so very much for your Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated.

Have a happy, and blessed New Year.

Sandra





The 2020 Annual Report

The Annual Report is due this month.

Please submit your material to me **well ahead** of the Annual Meeting on January 24th.

Thank you,

Sandra



***Have a Happy & Prosperous
New Year filled with Love***

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield
1862 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526



We have 2 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter.

Method 1—Open the link on our web page at www.fbpenfield.org

Method 2—Receive a printed copy via US Postal Mail

Please help us to obtain a cost savings! Open the link or pick up!

If you wish to change your method, please e-mail us at

fbpenfield.@toast.net or call the Church Office at (585) 586-2876.

Our Church Staff

Rev. Steven D. Brotzman ~ Pastor

Dr. Naomi Gregory ~ Organist, Music Director

Saundra Augustus ~ Office Assistant

Laura Swail ~ Nursery Care

Meho & Hava Kapidzic ~ Church Custodians

Contact Information

(585) 586-2876

E-mail ~ fbpenfield@toast.net

Website ~ www.fbpenfield.org

Find us on Facebook

Church Office Hours

Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesdays may vary

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

We welcome to our worship all who desire to know God through Jesus Christ.

We encourage each other to develop a relationship with God and to live as Christ taught us.

We covenant together to seek out and minister to those in spiritual, emotional or physical need.