

The Carillon

First Baptist Church of Penfield



January 2020

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Pastor's Meditation

“WHAT'S IN A NAME?”

Welcome to First **BAPTIST** Church of Penfield.

Say the name “Baptist” and you will generate all kinds of images in peoples’ minds. Unfortunately, in recent decades, the word “Baptist” has taken a negative connotation. Why? A clue can be found on our denomination’s website, abc-usa.org. The following disclaimer appears, copied word-for-for word:

Statement about Westboro Baptist Church

We have received questions about Westboro Baptist Church in light of increased media attention. American Baptists want to be clear that we denounce their message and tactics of hate. It grieves us that in bearing the Baptist name they destroy the reputation of thousands of Baptists who daily give themselves in selfless acts of love as followers of Jesus.

Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, is in no way affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA. The leaders of the church, along with Fred Phelps, former pastor of Westboro Baptist Church, are not and never has been recognized by American Baptist Churches. Phelps’ ordination was not in an American Baptist church, and his credentials along with those of other Westboro leaders, have never been recognized by any region of ABCUSA. Westboro is an independent, non-affiliated church.

*“You will know them by their fruits,”
Jesus said in Matthew 7:16.*

The hostile, angry confrontations created by Westboro and its followers are an embarrassment to the Gospel and the church. Hopefully, American Baptists will distance themselves from ministers like Phelps, and other leaders of Westboro, not only by words, but by deeds.

“By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” *John 13:35*

<https://www.abc-usa.org/2015/01/statement-about-westboro-baptist-church/>

It is normally not my place to criticize other churches, but in light of the actions of Westboro church, I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. I encourage you to prayerfully consider it, too. Baptists are characterized by their freedom. Walter “Buddy” Shurden, currently Minister-at-Large at Mercer University, wrote *The Baptist Identity* (Smith & Helwys, 1993), identifying four distinctly Baptist freedoms. These are: *Bible Freedom, Soul Freedom, Church Freedom and Religious Freedom*. Each local congregation decides what shape the church will take. Unfortunately, some Baptist churches have used their freedom to assume the form of hatred.

The Bible makes it clear that churches that promote hate cannot authentically be spirit-filled churches. Galatians 5 makes this clear when it says, “¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” While we are all sinners, and God alone has the authority to judge the churches, what we say and what we do shows who we are. As an old friend put it, “We can’t judge, but we can be

fruit inspectors.” The fruits of hatred, rage and discord exhibited by certain Baptist churches reveal to us a lack of God’s Holy Spirit in those places. These are the Baptist Churches that give Baptists a bad name.

In contrast, Galatians 5 also describes the fruits of the Holy Spirit as follows: “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” We’re not perfect, but these are the characteristics of the kind of Baptist Church we aspire to be. The denomination does not tell us what shape to take. I encourage First Baptist Church to continue being the kind of church that loves God and heeds God’s calling to serve the world. Let’s make the most of our Baptist freedom.



Moderator’s Message

Welcoming in the new year is a great time to set goals. The Coordinating Council will continue to ramp up the marketing and messaging in 2020 to bring awareness to the church services and events.

Our latest card messaging came from hearing several people use the phrase “Church shopping”. On the back of this card you will find upcoming church events through mid-February.



All are welcome so be sure to save the date and share...

Event	Date	Time
Flapjack Saturday with Santa & Mrs. Claus. (\$6pp all you can eat)	12/14/19	8-10am
Bell Choir Jesus Birthday Party & Christmas Tea	12/22/19	9:30 am 10:30 am
Christmas Eve candlelight service	12/24/19	7 pm
Bible Book Club (2 meeting options, daytimers meet at church & nightimers to meet at Pastor Steve Brotzman's home)	1/8/20 and most Wednesdays	1-2pm 6-7pm
Flapjack Saturday (\$6pp all you can eat)	1/18/20	8-10am
Flapjack Saturday (\$6pp all you can eat)	2/15/20	8-10am

fbpenfield@toast.net

T. 585-586-2876

www.fbpenfield.org

Please pick up the new cards in the New Fellowship Hall and sanctuary. Take as many as you want to share with neighbors, family and friends. We will have a new card each quarter and have them accessible for everyone to take them and share them.

We are considering having a float in the Penfield Independence Day parade. We would love your input and help with this so please let me know if you can help in anyway with the float and festivities.

Kind Regards,
Yvonne O'Brien

January Birthdays

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



Thank You to the Congregation

Thank you very much for your generous Christmas staff gift, and for all your kindness and support. It is a privilege to serve you at First Baptist of Penfield. I wish you a very happy and restful Christmas season.

Naomi Gregory

PS. And a special thank you to the anonymous Christmas Elf who cleaned and polished my organ shoes last week, and left them by the organ bench with a gold ribbon attached. They haven't looked that good since I bought them many years ago!



**Men's Lunch Schedule
Thursdays at Noon**

- January 2nd – Cherry Ridge
- January 9th – Riki's
- January 16th – Riki's
- January 23rd – Riki's
- January 30th – Riki's



Church Ladies' Lunch

Date & Place - TBD

All women of the church are welcome!

If you need a ride or wish to carpool please contact Marie at 425-7528



Christian: Not what you think



Join us in January for our adult discussion: *Christian: Not what you think*, by Andy Stanley.

What does it mean to be a Christian? Ask 100 people that question and you are likely to get 100 different answers.

In *Christian*, an eight-session DVD Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Andy

Stanley explores the one word that Jesus gave his followers that should define them.



Upcoming events:

- **1/5** Christian: Not what you think, Andy Stanley, #1 & #2
- **Wed 1/8** One Year Chronological Bible club begins, 1:00 at church with a snack, and 6pm at Pastor's house with dinner
- **1/12** Trustees financial presentation
- **Sat 1/18** Flapjack to benefit Cameron Community Ministries
- **1/19** Christian: Not what you think #3 & #4
- **1/26** Annual Meeting



History of Our Stained Glass Windows

Some history about our beautiful stained glass windows and the reason for the honor of a window dedicated to them. Every month will highlight another window.

The first window was given in memory of Harvey Fuller (west side of Sanctuary [near pulpit]),

He was a Deacon of our church for 43 years (1836-1879) and he was a brother of Rev. Timothy Fuller.

Every month I will give some history on the windows that we have.

The history was given to me by Jim Symonds.

Window Repair

As soon as weather permits, we will again begin the process of fixing the stained glass windows. Pike Stained Glass will rework the bulges in the windows and replace the cracked sections. We are very fortunate to have these beautiful stained glass windows to enjoy. They are 100 years old and in fairly good condition but we need reworking at times to keep them from disintegrating.

Therefore, when works starts there will be sections that are removed until they are

redone and there will be wood sections in its place.

This is a work in progress being done in all this delicate work. We are very fortunate that a member has graciously covered the cost of all the work to these beautiful windows.

Marie Sandman



Chancel Choir and Bell Choir Music Rehearsals

Following the Christmas Break, rehearsals restart for:

Chancel Choir on Wednesday, January 15
7:45-9PM

Bell Choir on Thursday, January 16
6:30-7:30PM.

Thanks!

Naomi



**Coffee Hour Schedule
January 2020-June 2020**

January

5th Judy McNeil/Marsha Kiriazides
12th Goodmans
19th TBD
26th Collisons

February

2nd Stokes/Prays
9th Ginna Blackman
16th Judy McNeil/Marsha Kiriazides
23rd Phillips

March

1st Goodmans
8th Phillips
15th Collisons
22nd TBD
29th TBD

April

5th Judy McNeil/Marsha Kiriazides
12th Ginna Blackman
19th Stokes/Prays
26th Phillips

May

3rd Martha Britt/Sarah Phillips
10th Mother's Day TBD
17th Judy McNeil/Marsha Kiriazides
24th Goodmans
31st Phillips

June

7th Stokes/Prays
14th Ginna Blackman
21st Goodmans

Coffee Hour volunteers needed!

We have three dates available for anyone who would be willing to bring in treats, make the coffee and clean up after coffee hour.

The dates are Jan. 19th, March 22nd & 29th.
Please call or send an email to Sarah Phillips.
585-329-7072 dunes1158@yahoo.com



Note from the Trustees

The Trustees are currently developing The Church Budget for 2020 which will be based pledges received and the input provided by each team. The *budget draft* will be presented for general discussion during Second Hour, Sunday, January 12, 2020. Please try to attend the discussion so that you can be informed and have the chance to ask questions.

The *final budget* will be presented and voted on by those attending the Annual Meeting, in the Fellowship Hall, following worship on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Please try to attend.

The trustees will welcome any suggestions that members of the congregation may have for projects that can be recommended to our

Boy Scout Troop. These projects should benefit First Baptist Church of Penfield. Please pass your thoughts along to any trustee.



1 Year Bible Club

During the past 14 months, a small group of folks from our church have completed or will soon complete reading the Holy Bible, cover-to-cover. For me, it has been a meaningful experience. Along the way, we have had lively discussions with plenty of opinions offered. Our last meeting using the old New Living Translation One-Year Bible was this past Wednesday. We took some time to consider what this scripture journey meant to us.

On January 8, the One Year Bible club will reconvene using a different Bible, the One Year Chronological Bible, in the New International Version. Besides using a different translation, the Chronological Bible is arranged differently. It no longer follows the "Genesis-Exodus-Leviticus" and "Matthew-Mark-Luke" format. As the name suggests, the Chronological Bible arranges the passages historically, in the order that events took place. As before, all it takes is about 15 minutes of reading per day, and by the end of the year, you will have read the entire Bible! Even if you've read the Bible before, this format might give you a better appreciation for the sweep of the Bible story.

During December, it is recommended that you acquire your One Year Chronological Bible so you can begin reading on New Year's Day. Cost of the Bible is \$13 each and Pastor Steve has them.

Another change: Starting January 8, we are going to offer two Wednesday Bible Club sessions, an early afternoon meeting and an evening meeting.

Wednesday afternoon group meets 1:00pm to 2:00pm, New Fellowship Hall. Only light refreshments will be served.

As before, evening meeting will take place in Annette's and my apartment, Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:00pm. A light supper will be provided at that group.

Feel free to attend either meeting as your schedule permits. Tell your friends: anyone can attend, whether they are part of First Baptist Church or not. Looking forward to another year of discussion and fellowship.

In Christ, Pastor Steve



Flapjack Benefit Breakfast

Saturday January 18th, 8 am - 10 am
All January proceeds
will go directly to help support:
Cameron Community Ministries

The Carillon

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



We have 3 methods of receiving the monthly newsletter.

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

Method 2—Pick up your personal copy at Sunday Worship

Method 3—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
Francesca Lionetta, Luisa Hidalgo, Jeremy Lopez,

Kevin Spooner ~ Choral Scholars

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, 9:00am to 1:00 pm

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.*