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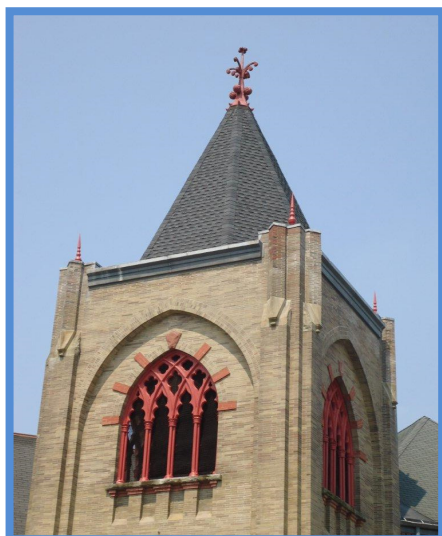
# TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

## First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2014



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VOLUME 66

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2014







## First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

# April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✝ Two more Vesper services this month. Have your picked up your complimentary copy of Rev. Brian Brown's book <i>Three Testaments Companion</i> ?</p>		<p>1</p> <p>April Fool's Day</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>12:15 Inasmuch lunch 7:00 Vesper Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his Office</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 Noon Scavenger Hunt</p>
<p>6 SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>6:00 Diaconate/ Trustees meeting 7:00 Vesper Service</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his Office</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Festival Service with Distribution of Palms 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music</i>: Organ Recital</p> 	<p>14</p>  <p>Passover</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>7:00 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion</p>	<p>18 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM Three Hour Good Friday Service divided into seven sections. Come and go as your schedule allows.</p> 	<p>19</p>
<p>20 RESURRECTION SUNDAY</p>  <p>EASTER!</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Festival Service Third Sunday Food Collection</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his Office</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his Office</p>	<p>✝ The Good Friday service is extra special this year. It will be divided into seven segments, corresponding to the Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross. Come and stay for as many parts as you can. Seven local preachers will provide deep inspiration for this most holy of days. See page 7 for details.</p>		



# TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

## First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Jane Garis
7	Mark Boeskin, Sr.
11	Kathleen Ordiway
12	Thomas Culbreth, Jr.
14	Rev. Wesley Bourdette
14	Vicki Williams
15	Glenn Richardson
25	Douglas Garis
29	Amy Baxter



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Dorothy Jackson, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our missionaries, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



### LOOKING AT THIS MONTH

#### April 2 – Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon  
7:00 PM Fourth Lenten Vesper Service  
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, speaking  
“Jesus and the Syro-Phoenician Woman”

#### April 5 – Saturday

- 12:00 Noon Scavenger Hunt

#### April 6 – Sunday

##### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion  
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

#### April 9 - Wednesday

- 6:00 PM Trustees/Diaconate Meeting  
7:00 PM Fifth Lenten Vesper service  
Rev. Dr. Brian Brown, speaking  
“Jesus and the Dying Thief”

#### April 13 – Sunday

##### PALM SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
11:00 AM Divine Worship  
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching  
12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch  
2:00 PM Peter Gonciarz: Organ Recital

#### April 17 – Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 PM Service with Communion

#### April 18 – Friday

##### GOOD FRIDAY

- 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM 3 hour Good Friday Service  
Seven clergy preaching in 7 sections.  
Come and go as your schedule allows.

#### April 20 – Sunday

##### EASTER! - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
11:00 AM Divine Worship  
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

#### April 27 - Sunday

##### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
11:00 AM Divine Worship  
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday — Friday

716-282-4666 — [nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org](mailto:nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org) — [www.niagarafallsbaptist.org](http://www.niagarafallsbaptist.org)

**L. I. F. E.**

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

**Sunday, April 6, 2014****5:00 PM****“Hippity Hop”**

Pot Luck.

Bring a dish to pass.

Sign up in the Friendship Room.

If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, please call the office (716-282-4666) to let us know your special date so we can include it.

**BOOKSHELF CORNER****The ALBAN Institute****By Pastor Wes**

**WHERE DO CLERGY PEOPLE** turn when in of resources that will help in one's ministry? More often than not I will turn to resources provided by **The Alban Institute**. The Institute was founded in 1974 by two ordained Anglican clergy, Loren Mead and Roy Oswald. In the Institute's words, "The Alban Institute is an independent center for learning and leadership development, with a focus on congregations." Loren Mead is well noted for his books *The Once and Future Church: Reinventing the Congregation for a New Mission Frontier* (this I have in the study) and *The Financial Meltdown of*

*the Main Line Churches*. Both books have been well received and have been often loaned out.

Publications of the Institute is a quarterly magazine (available through being a member of the organization) and a weekly e-mail publication which is free to all those who sign up for it. Normally, it is available on Mondays. Recent topics have been: "Methods which Generate Change," "Then the Rules Changed," "A Church for our Grandchildren," "Becoming an Affectively Competent Church," and many more. A recent Monday issue dealt with "Pastoral Transition in the Age of Social Media." I found this most interesting. All of these are available at no cost! When I was in judicatory work, I urged our ministers to avail themselves of these free publications.

The Institute does offer workshops, etc. I can remember attending one some time back. The theme was "The Small Church in a Changing World."

I have belonged to the Alban Institute since it was founded in 1974 and currently First Baptist Church has most graciously been willing to pay for my membership. All publications offered by the Alban Institute are available to me at a significant discount. One in particular is about evaluating clergy, asking the question "How can clergy be evaluated when the church is unwilling to provide the necessary resources to accomplish the goals?" The second book which I have is *When Better Isn't Enough – Evaluation Tools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church* by Jill M. Hudson with a forward by Roy M. Oswald of the Alban Institute.

Such resources are a real aid to clergy of many denominations.

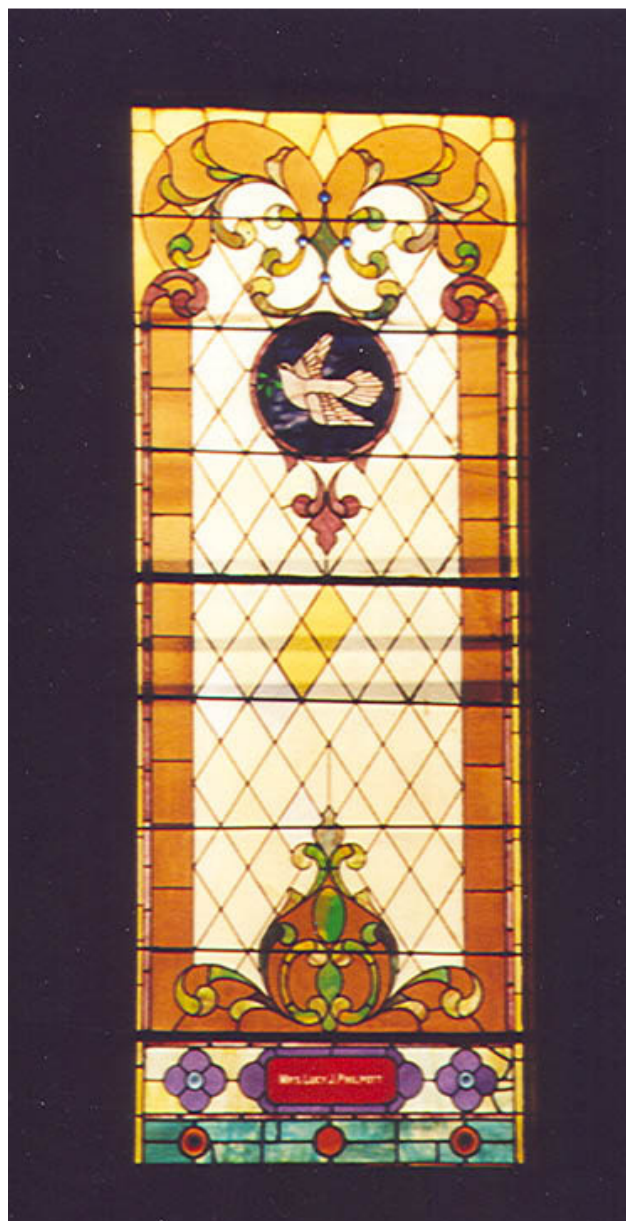
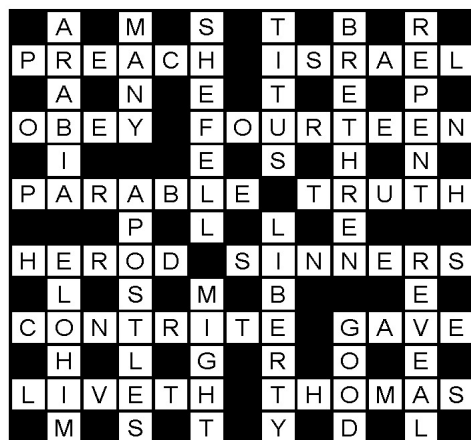
**Pastor Wes**





## *last month's answers*

### Galatians



WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE to have many beautiful stained glass windows in our church, especially the two very large triple lancet windows in the sanctuary. As reported in Tower Topics last month, we are now going to repair the large center window on the east side and the "glue chip" windows in the folding doors, which are all 113 years old. The Jerome Durr Studio LLC, in Syracuse, NY, has been chosen to do the restoration work starting in the next couple of months.

Of course, this will cost money, \$6810.00 to be exact. Envelopes for contributions are still available on the table in the Friendship room.

## Sharon Buttry Increases Her Global Ministry

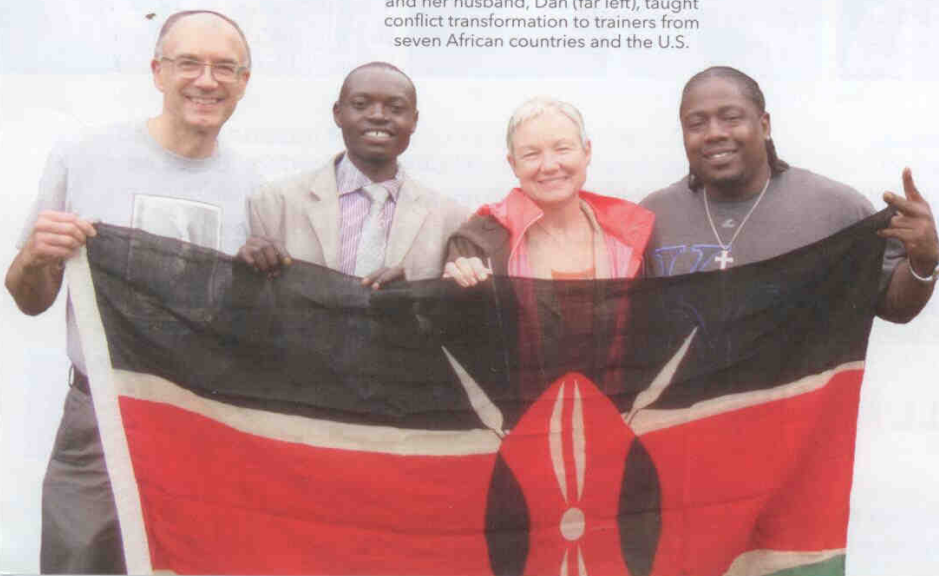
After nearly nine years of ministering as a trusted and skilled volunteer alongside her husband, IM Global Consultant **Dan Buttry**, the Rev. **Sharon A. Buttry** and International Ministries (IM) have taken an important, additional step. Sharon has been endorsed to serve internationally with Dan as a Global Consultant for Community Transformation.

Sharon's dedication for this expanded ministry through IM has been evident in the Detroit, Michigan area, where she has served for 17 years. She observes: "I have seen the power of the gospel transform people physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Detroit has many social indicators that look more like the developing world than a typical U.S. city, so I have learned to cultivate hope in impossible and hostile situations. The work with IM is very similar as I team up with Dan in facilitating, teaching and encouraging indigenous leaders in their conflict situations. We take life-threatening conflict and trauma, hold it up to the light of the gospel, and expect Christ to bring transformation."

Wanting to continue her work in Michigan, Sharon's part-time status with IM will permit the Buttrys to annually conduct a two- to three-month ministry at the request of IM global partner organizations. The couple will be based at a university or Bible school within the partners' countries, teaching both in an academic setting and also at regional workshops as they prepare the next generation of biblical peacemakers. Such training, provided through the Kenya Peace, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation Initiative, contributed significantly to the outcome of peaceful elections in 2012.

Sharon, who is a licensed master's level social worker, will also provide spiritual support to those needing to recover from trauma. She says: "My childhood made me sensitive to trauma as I watched my family destroyed by anger, abuse and shame. God brought faithful people in my life who helped transform entrenched, negative patterns into the power to heal others. I celebrate the opportunity to teach the brokenhearted to refuse to accept a self-limiting victim mindset, and instead, become victorious in the love and power of Christ."

This past September in Kenya, Sharon Buttry and her husband, Dan (far left), taught conflict transformation to trainers from seven African countries and the U.S.



### Kissed by a Leaf

by Sharon A. Buttry

When I was a child, I lived in an abusive home. The resulting sadness and fear made me want to escape. I often rode my bike to get out of the house and explore nature. I just wanted to be alone, to find peace. When I was nine years old on one autumn day, I was sitting on a log in a peaceful woodland, and a leaf fell down and "kissed" me on the nose. I knew it was God. And a warmth and delight filled me. What joy to be noticed and loved by a kind heavenly Father!

Experiencing such love has empowered me for a variety of ministries. From 1996 to 2005, I was the director of Friendship House in Hamtramck, Michigan, a neighborhood center of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Today, three-quarters of my time is devoted to Acts 29 Fellowship, another Hamtramck endeavor, which continues the ministries seen in the 28 chapters of the book of Acts. And now my new, quarter-time role with IM will allow me to join more fully in the global ministry of my husband, Dan, in the area of community transformation.

Each of these opportunities for service has reinforced the truth I learned decades ago when I was kissed by a leaf, "Love is made perfect in us...." (1 John 4:17, GNB)



**LENT – HOLY WEEK - EASTER**

**Lenten Vespers** — each Wednesday in Lent — 7:00 PM

**Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown**, speaking:

*A Lenten Look at Love: The Christian Gospel in an Interfaith Era*

Week #4 — April 2 — “Jesus and the Syro-Phoenician Woman”

Week #5 — April 9 — “Jesus and the Dying Thief”

A COMPLIMENTARY COPY of Dr. Brown’s new book, *Three Testaments Companion*, will be given to everyone attending.

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday** — April 13 — Service with Distribution of Palms  
**Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette**, preaching

**Maundy Thursday** — April 17 — 7:00 PM  
Divine Worship with Holy Communion  
**Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway**, preaching

**GOOD FRIDAY** — April 18 — 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM – Three hour Good Friday Service  
Service divided into seven segments, corresponding to the  
Seven Last Words of our Savior. Music and message in each section.

Participating Clergy:

Word 1 “**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**” — **Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown**  
Word 2 “**Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.**” — **Rev. Harvey Kelley**  
Word 3 “**Woman behold thy son. Behold thy mother.**” — **Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette**  
Word 4 “**My God, my God, Why hast Thou forsaken me?**” — **Rev. Marna Pritchard**  
Word 5 “**I thirst.**” — **Rev. David Crapnell**  
Word 6 “**It is finished.**” — **Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway**  
Word 7 “**Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.**” — **Rev. Daryl Bennett**

*Attendees may come and leave between segments as their schedule allows.*

**EASTER — RESURRECTION SUNDAY** — April 20 — Festival Service  
**COME CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST WITH US!**

**EVERYONE OF ALL FAITHS INVITED TO ATTEND.**





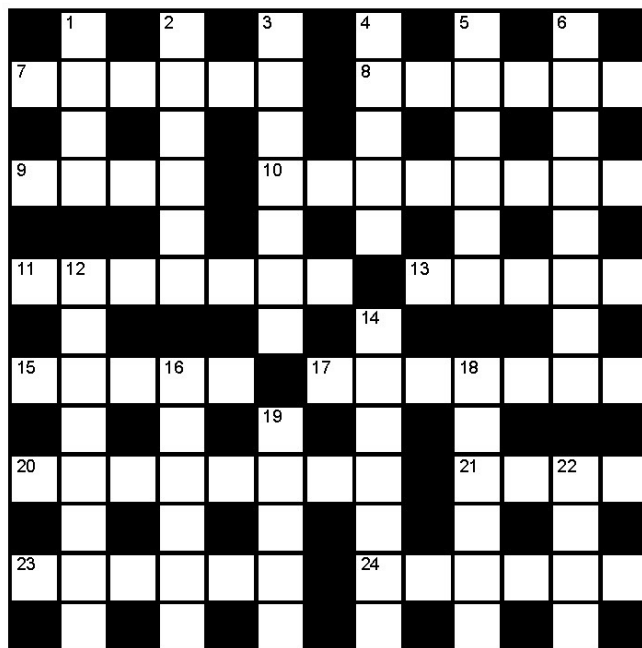
Acts 16:9-10 NIV





## Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

## Ephesians



## Across

- 7 A man shall leave his father and \_\_\_\_\_ and shall be joined to his wife. Eph 5:31 (6)
- 8 When we were without Christ, we were “\_\_\_\_\_ from the commonwealth of Israel.” Eph 2:12 (6)
- 9 “The \_\_\_\_\_ of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.” Eph 1:18 (4)
- 10 We are adopted as these to God the Father. Eph 1:5 (8)
- 11 Jesus “worketh all things after the \_\_\_\_\_ of his own will.” Eph 1:11 (7)
- 13 “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the \_\_\_\_\_.” Eph 6:11 (5)
- 15 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” Ephesians, Chapter 2, \_\_\_\_\_ 8 (5)
- 17 “We have redemption \_\_\_\_\_ his blood.” Eph 1:7 (7)

- 20 Tychicus is a beloved brother and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord. Eph 6:21 (8)
- 21 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who \_\_\_\_\_ blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” Eph 1:3 (4)
- 23 “Wherefore be ye not \_\_\_\_\_, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” Eph 5:17 (6)
- 24 Another name for Jacob. (6)

## Down

- 1 God has chosen us before the foundation of the world that we are this and without blame. Eph 1:4 (4)
- 2 God has done this before the foundation of the world. Eph 1:4 (6)
- 3 “Let no corrupt communication \_\_\_\_\_ out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” Eph 4:29 (7)

4 A famous king of Israel who was a man after God’s own heart. (5)

5 Christ has broken down the \_\_\_\_\_ wall between Jews and Gentiles. Eph 2:14 (6)

- 6 Another word for “blind” in Matthew 15:14. (8)
- 12 Servants are to be this to their masters. Eph 6:5 (8)
- 14 “For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that \_\_\_\_\_ I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Eph 6:20 (7)
- 16 We were sealed with the holy \_\_\_\_\_ of promise. Eph 1:13 (6)
- 18 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh ... and were by nature the children of wrath, even as \_\_\_\_\_.” Eph 2:3 (6)
- 19 The singular form of the answer to clue 18 (5)
- 22 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in \_\_\_\_\_.” Eph 2:10 (4)

## From the Moderator...

Our Diaconate has had input about various uses of our long dormant gym and have a few things under consideration. As we pursue information about Christian based programs we will continue to Rummage. Our spring Rummage Sale is on the calendar for June 6 & 7, so clean out those closets and for the time being, bring your gently used items bagged or boxed to the porch. This is an important fund raiser for our church and last year, with three sales, we had over \$1,000 in donations that went toward our renovations.

The stained glass repair is scheduled and when the weather moderates, we'll see some action. Those beautiful windows have had some attention in the past and are in need of repairs this spring. We see daylight near the top and the bottom of the window sags inward. Old buildings have continuous maintenance issues and Jim and the trustees are on it. The stained glass fund has reached the half way mark and a big thank you to those who have contributed thus far. The envelopes are in Sunday bulletins.

Lent is here and Easter is on the way. It's time to order flowers for the big day and the form is in the bulletins or call the office at 282-4666 for either lilies or hyacinths. They are yours to take home Easter Sunday or to be donated to the homebound. Perhaps we should start a spring garden around our sign? It's something to think about.

Our Lenten series, led by the Rev. Brian Brown is leading us into new biblical territory. Literally. Many of the scriptures about Jesus whereabouts state places or people he encounters that we gloss over and have done so for years. We are finding out where some of those places were and who were the people Jesus met, helped, inspired, and saved. This is a big learning experience for those of us in attendance. Vespers or evening services have a magic of their own. The service is shortened and focuses on the message. If you need a spiritual tune up, a refreshing outlook or inspiration to make it to the end of the week, you'll find it on Wednesday evening.

The Gift of Music concert on April 13 features Peter Gonciarz at the organ. Second Sundays at 2:00 p.m. after our luncheon is the recital time and if you liked the harpsichord concert, you'll love this one. Bring friends and family to this free event and enjoy our organ being played by a truly up and coming gifted young artist.

Our first Scavenger Hunt happens on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Check the attached calendar for the time and bring a camera. We'll have a web page just for your best shots of friends and family on the hunt for items in and around the area. If you're not up for the activity, come for the party and fellowship. Meeting new folks and family of our members is always a good time. It's nice to put faces to names we've heard.

See you in church!

*Donna Flood*



Information, registration forms, and Camp dates are on page 12, in the Church office and on the bulletin board. Register early, discounts available! Camp is not just for kids and teens. There are Adult weeks, too.

Volunteers and staff are needed.

***Would you like to sponsor a child or teen?***  
First Baptist can provide "camperships" also.

## Scavenger Hunt Fund Raiser

### Who Will You Invite to the Scavenger Hunt?

This year we will be having a Scavenger Hunt rather than a Basket Auction for one of our fundraisers. It will be held on *Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12 p.m.* It is sure to be a very fun social event, bringing in a substantial amount for our budget expenses, as well as a chance to invite our friends and family, and I encourage everyone to participate. For most of you, it will mean less of a financial investment than the Basket Auction required.

This is how it will operate:

- Cost to participate: \$100 per team or \$25 per person
- Teams of 4 or 5 people will go out on a scavenger hunt, bringing back their treasures to the church at the end of the prescribed time.
- Items hunted may be informational and/or actual objects.
- When you register, you will receive your first item to find.
- It will be easy for any age level to participate.
- Those who do not wish to participate in the actual hunt, can pay the participation fee and come to the party for great refreshments and a chance at the prizes.
- There will be a wonderful prize for the first place team.
- Everyone who participates (auction or just attendance), will get tickets to put in baskets for the additional prizes. (No additional tickets will be sold – it is not a basket auction.)
- There will be refreshments for everyone participating at the end of the hunt.

Team suggestions: **invite** your children and grandchildren to participate, encourage your neighbors and friends, your cousins, your nieces and nephews – especially those who normally participate in the annual auction. Think about how much you normally spend on the basket auctions (creating multiple baskets, buying tickets, making baked goods, buying dinner). This will definitely be a savings, more chance of leaving with a prize, AND a lot more fun and less work!

*For those of you who have already started collecting items for the basket auction – consider donating those items as prizes for the scavenger hunt.*

Get in on the fun: have your team wear matching clothing or hats, tie matching ribbons around your wrists, or wear matching pins to signify your team alliance and give yourselves a name!

Our goal is to raise at least \$1500, which means we need 15 teams. I'm committing to 3 of them... Can you help with the additional 12? No one is too old or too young!

It is important that each team (including its team members' names) register no later than Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see Kathleen Ordiway.

*Kathleen Ordiway*



## 2014 Camp Vick

### CHILDREN/TEEN WEEKS

July 6-11	Holiday Extravaganza	Grades 2-6	\$295
	Geocaching Adventure	Grades 5-8	\$295
	Leadership Development Program	Grades 10-12	\$155
July 13-18	Girls' Craftastic Week	Grades 3-8	\$295
	Wacky, Wet & Wild Week	Grades 4-8	\$295
July 20-25	SPLASH! Camp	Grades 4-9	\$295
July 22-25	Beginners	Grades 1-4	\$205
July 27-Aug. 1	Camp Vick Investigates	Grades 3-6	\$295
	Frontier Survivor	Grades 7-12	\$295
August 3-8	Boys' Frontier Week	Grades 3-8	\$295
	Amazing Race	Grades 7-12	\$295

## Family Camp

Open May 15 through September 1.

Weekends only after Labor Day; closing day October 13th

Special programming during the following dates:

May 23-26	Memorial Day Weekend Camping
July 3-6	Family Fourth Camping
August 3-6	Kingdom Bound Camping
Aug. 29-Sept. 1	Labor Day Weekend Family Camping
October 10-13	Harvest Fest Weekend (Columbus Day)

## Special Events

Work Weekends	May 3-4 & 10-11
Open House	June 14
Day of Prayer	June 18
Pastor/Youth Leader Day	July 23
Harvest Fest	October 11

The use of drugs, tobacco, alcohol, weapons and abusive language is prohibited.

For more information about VP Ministries call 315 314-7460, email [Kathie@vpccministries.org](mailto:Kathie@vpccministries.org) or check our website [www.vpccministries.org](http://www.vpccministries.org).