

TOWER TOPICS

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First Baptist Church

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IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 4 — Moderator's Notes
- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- ➔ p. 6 — Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas & Rev. William Thomas
 - ➔ p. 7 — Pastor's Column
 - ➔ p. 8 — Bible Crossword: Jonah
- ➔ p. 9 — 175th Anniversary History Corner
- ➔ pp. 10, 11, 12 — Rev. Kathleen Ordiway's Ordination
 - ➔ p. 13 — ABW Christmas Tea
 - ➔ p. 14 — Women's Retreat

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✠ February will be a very busy month. Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th with the Ash Wednesday service, including the Imposition of Ashes. The following Wednesdays have the traditional Lenten Vesper services, this year lead by Rev. Kathleen Ordiway. Her meditation theme will be “Prayer,” covering: February 21st: Confession; February 28th: Seeing God in our Lives; March 7th: Joyful Noise; March 14th: I Believe ...; March 21st: Crying Out to God. Additionally, this year we are taking over the Thursday Lenten luncheon series.</p>				1	2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD  Groundhog Day	3
4 EPIPHANY 5 9:30 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	5	6	7 12:15 Inasmuch lunch	8	9	10
11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:30 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music:</i> Air ‘Peritif Trio	12 OFFICE CLOSED  Lincoln’s Birthday	13	14 OFFICE CLOSED <i>St. Valentine’s Day</i>  Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM	15 12:00 Lenten Noon time lunch	16  Chinese New Year	17
18 LENT I 9:30 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	19 OFFICE CLOSED 	20	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Lenten Vespers	22 12:00 Lenten Noon time lunch	23	24
25 LENT II 9:30 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching	26	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED  Purim 7:00 Lenten Vespers	<p>✠ On Sunday, January 21, 2018, at the Annual Church Budget meeting, our financial plan for 2018 was passed unanimously. If you did not get your copy of the 2018 Budget booklet and would like a copy, please contact the Church office and we will see you get one.</p>		

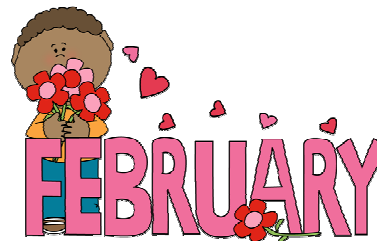
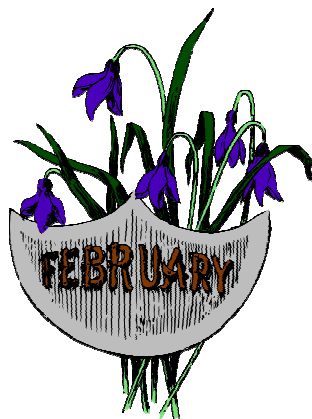


February Birthdays

20 Carole Buchalski
28 Patricia Dibble



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Joseph Hoopsick, Barbara Taylor, William Cody, Carole and Hank Buchalski, John Swindlehurst, Sara Gromniak, Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country



February 2 — Presentation of Our Lord
No service but read Luke 2:22-40

February 4 — Epiphany 5

9:30 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

February 7 — 12:15 PM — Inasmuch Lunch

February 11 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

9:30 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching
12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch
2:00 PM *Gift of Music:* Air 'Peritif Trio

February 14 — Ash Wednesday

6:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting
7:00 PM Service with the Imposition of Ashes
Rev. Brian A. Brown, preaching

February 15 — 12:00 Noon — Lenten Lunch

February 18 — Lent I

9:30 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Kathleen A Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

February 21 — 7:00 PM — Lenten Vespers

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

February 22 — 12:00 Noon — Lenten Lunch

February 25 — Lent II

9:30 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

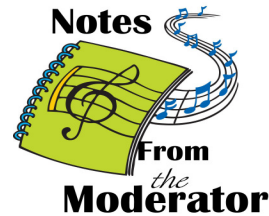
February 28 — 7:00 PM — Lenten Vespers

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

March 1 — 12:00 Noon — Lenten Lunch



On Saturday, January 20, 2018, at 11:00 AM, we said goodbye to Glenn Richardson, long time member and staunch supporter of First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York. Born April 15, 1935, Glenn passed away on November 29, 2017. Family from all over the country and Canada came to pay their last respects. Debra Richardson Heller made the arrangements for the Memorial Service and Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway presided at the service. We will miss Glenn's smiling face in the Friendship Room and seeing him drive up in his snappy little red car.



ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE BEGINNING OF LENT starts on February 14th, Valentine's Day. Our preacher for Ash Wednesday is Brian Brown, and will continue to preach on Sundays in Lent. Wednesday evening services in Lent will be led by Rev. Kathleen Ordiway. Not to be left in the dust, our kitchen crew, the Donna and Sally duo with lots of help from whoever volunteers either Wednesday afternoons before the service to prep and on Thursday to help with Lenten Luncheons with short messages from a variety of pastors on aspects of Lent. This writer thinks of Lent as a time of service and self-improvement as well as penitence before Easter.

If you'd like to help on the luncheons the Wednesday afternoon before the service or Thursday to set up, clean or work in the dining room, see Donna to pick a day. Servers, prep people and cleanup crew eat free. Bring friends and family and be sure to turn in a reservation form with numbers. There's a big difference between 12 and 50. Payment at the door with cash or check of \$8 for adults, kids under 5 eat free, children 5-12, \$4. The menu with a schedule of speakers will be found elsewhere in this Tower.

Bible study continues on Sunday mornings before the service. The Mission for January was the M & M Fund for retired Ministers and Missionaries. During the month of February, we will collect for Blankets and Cleanup Kits for CWS, Christian World Service, which is active throughout the United States and abroad. Given the weather, fire and flood problems across this country, blankets and clean up kits are needed in many places including Puerto Rico. Children and families with children from there are coming to the US at a large rate weekly. The teachers have left the island for the US and many schools need to be rebuilt. Contributions are needed for relief and a small dollar can be used for the purposes given.

The Gift of Music will present on February 11th, second Sunday at 2:00 PM, "Air 'Peritif", a wood wind trio with Marsh Jones, Anita Harless, and Susan Smith. There will be a reception following the concert.

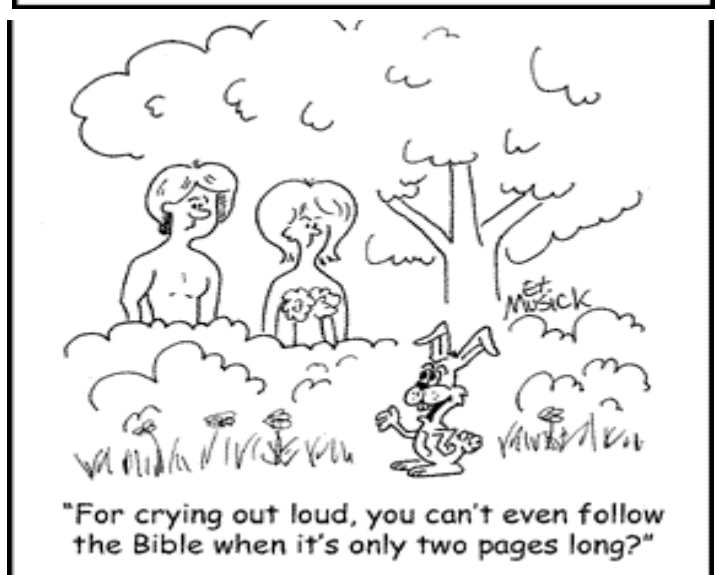
The hymn, "Take Time to Be Holy" comes to mind when I think about Lent. Personal prayers and meditations don't take long and can put your head in the right place to become a better Christian.

Donna Flood

Last Month's Crossword Answers

Obadiah

P	O	S	S	E	S	S	W	A	G	E	S
E	I	N	I	E	O	U					
T	I	N	K	L	I	N	G	E	D	O	M
E		A		C	H						
R	U	L	E	R	E	S	A	U		E	V
	E	G							S		V
F	L	A	M	E			S	H	A	V	E
O	F						A	L			
R		Z	I	O	N		M	O	U	N	T
		S	E				A			E	
A	B	I	B		S	C	O	R	P	I	O
S	R		W	H		I		R		T	
H	O	U	S	E		O	B	A	D	I	A





The Reverends Cheryl Wood-Thomas and William Thomas

Announcement of Royal Appointments

The Royal Society for the Arts announces the election of The Rev. William Thomas and The Rev. Cheryl-Wood Thomas as Fellows of the RSA (FRSA).

William Thomas is recognized for his housing initiatives, adult education, social services, environmental concerns, gender justice, care for migrant workers and religious services in the Canadian cities of Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, in St. John, New Brunswick, and in St. Catharines, Ontario. He has been recently engaged to develop and expand an Outreach Ministry in Fort Erie, Ontario, to serve the currently “unchurched” downtown and other parts of the municipality, including youth and seniors, those with special needs, First Nations, immigrants and others seeking to share in the quest for sustainable community and meaningful life.

Cheryl Wood-Thomas is recognized as a leader in current refugee initiatives, including the sponsorship, welcoming and smooth integration into Canadian life of 38 Syrian refugees. During her brief 2015-16 tenure at St. John’s Stevensville United Church in Fort Erie there were 32 arrivals, including two torture victims. The next year she welcomed 6 more privately – cases in which government and UN files had become disordered in the chaotic year of Canada’s special initiative with Syrian refugees. Rev. Cheryl’s support for arts and letters in both church and community is also acknowledged in her appointment as a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts.

Founded by Benjamin Franklin, Adam Smith and others in 1754, the “Royal Society for Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce,” was later joined by author Charles Dickens and theorist Karl Marx. The royal patron of the RSA is HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Uniquely among royal societies, presiding president HRH Princess Anne supports the society’s mandate to provide an intellectual foundation for stable and progressive community life. RSA fellows throughout the British Commonwealth and the USA endeavour to achieve this goal.

The best known Canadian fellow over the years was the then young human rights lawyer, John G. Diefenbaker, FRSA. Nelson Mandela, FRSA, was a particularly distinguished fellow of late. British fellows recently elected include activist and physicist Stephen Hawking and Dame Judi Dench, activist and actress.

The Wood-Thomas duo is the first married couple elected to this prestigious fellowship in its 264-year history. In both church and community, they complement each other in the promotion of societal enrichment.

While also a respected preacher, Rev. Bill is especially known for his outstanding leadership as a community organizer in the cities mentioned above, and beyond. Likewise, while Cheryl’s own outreach ministry is well recognized, she is primarily known as one of Canada’s most distinguished preachers, “both popular and profound,” serving currently in the pulpit of First Grantham United Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.



Ministry Notes

At First Baptist Church we are all still delighted and celebrating the Ordination of “The Rev. Kathleen Ordiway.” She and I are often referred to as Co- Pastors because we share a parking space, an office and preaching duties, but Kath is the one you see in the pulpit most often.

Along with some contributions as Scholar-in-Residence, like a book, a play, or the editing of someone else’s work in the congregation, I do preach about a dozen times per year. My next gig here is a series of sermons this spring, right through Lent. But to hold up my end of the preaching, I bring some of Canada’s better-known preachers to share the load throughout the year ... it makes us truly an “international congregation.”

You have had sermons from Canadians like Alan Minarcik and Ward Kaiser, as well as fairly regular appearances by my cousin, Cathy Chambers. The Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas and The Rev. Bill Thomas have also preached here once or twice and will again this year. Those two have just received recognition of note in their election as “Fellows” of the Royal Society for the Arts. The press release is included in this issue of the Tower Topics because I wanted you to share our delight, and to know what excellent support Kath and I have in the pulpit.

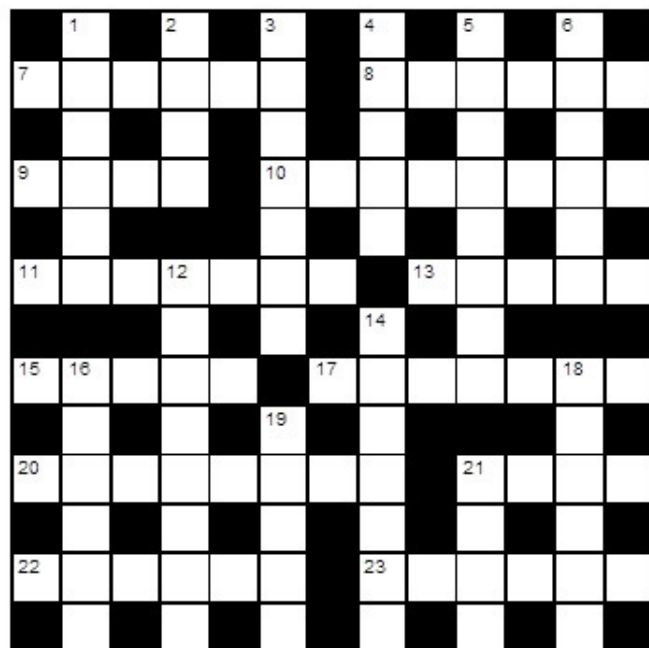
Fellowships are a bit like honorary degrees, so let me make Jim Flood blush in passing by noting that our Church Organist and Administrator is one of the few people I know who holds two fellowships. Jim is a Fellow of the Wessex Theological College and also a Fellow of the Cambridge Society of Musicians. Along with our congratulations to Kath, to Cheryl and Bill, it does not hurt to occasionally recall how special Jim is when it comes to international recognition.

Brian



Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Jonah



Across

- 7 How "Sodom" is spelled in Rom 9:29 (6)
- 8 "For I have spread you _____ as the four winds of the heaven, saith the LORD." Zec 2:6 (6)
- 9 Nineveh was a _____ where Jonah was commanded to go. (4)
- 10 One of the cities mentioned in Neh 7:26. (8)
- 11 Books of the Bible are divided into these (sing.). (7)
- 13 Jonah was here for three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17 (5)
- 15 What wrapped around Jonah's head in Jonah 2:5? (5)
- 17 Another name for Thomas. John 21:2 (7)
- 20 Josaphat was a _____ in 1 Chron 11:43. (8)
- 21 This vomited Jonah out in 2:10. (4)
- 22 The priest who anointed David. 1 Sam 16:13 (6)

- 23 A mighty man of valour from the tribe of Benjamin. 2 Chron 17:17 (6)

Down

- 1 "And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for _____ and Sanballat had hired him." Neh 6:12 (6)
- 2 "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine _____ temple." Jon 2:7 (4)
- 3 When the sun beat on Jonah he _____. Jon 4:8 (7)
- 4 "Now _____ is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb 11:1 (5)
- 5 The inspired message of a prophet, like Jonah. (8)
- 6 The king of Syria. 2 Kings 8:28 (6)
- 12 Gemaiel was the son of this man in Numbers 1:10. (8)
- 14 The city where Jonah was sent. Jon 1:2 (7)
- 16 The son of Chislon. Num 34:21 (6)
- 18 "These that have turned the world _____ down are come hither also;" Acts 17:6 (6)
- 21 "And he would _____ have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him." Luke 15:16 (4)



OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY CORNER

During our 175th Anniversary Year (and probably beyond) we are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. Last month we had the girls basketball team and Marguerite Blakely was able to name all the players. In this photograph:

- ❖ OK. Name the players in the boys team.
- ❖ What year is it? Where is it?
- ❖ Do we have a trophy? Where is it?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: The girls basketball team (their trophy is in the cabinet in the dining room). See Margie for all the names.

REV. KATHLEEN A. ORDIWAY'S ORDINATION





L to R: Rev. Mark Breese, James Flood, FWTC, FCSM, Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas, Rev. Dr. Brian Brown, Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lawrence, Rev. Dr. James Kelsey





Blanket the
world with
LOVE

In 2017, CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2018. We will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster and more.

The Christmas Tea

December 17, 2017
3:00 PM

At the annual ABW Christmas Tea author Marlene Burling speaks to the women of First Baptist Church about her life story and her devotional writings.



Women's Retreat & Workshop

Our most recent women's retreat found 21 women from throughout Western New York braving the cold and joining together in fellowship at First Baptist on Saturday, January 13th! Our theme was "New Beginnings" and we used Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "Plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope," as a scripture theme. Hetti-Marie Manu led us in song and gave a moving message. Our delicious meal was provided by James Cody and Eileen Wrobel led us all in creating personal works of art!

