

TOWER TOPICS

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January 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|---|--|
| 1 NAME OF JESUS 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 | 4 12:15 Inasmuch lunch | 5 | 6 EPIPHANY 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  | 7 |
| 8 BAPTISM OF LOUR LORD EPIPHANY (Observed) 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Catherine Chambers, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch | 9 | 10 | 11 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting | 12 | 13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  | 14 |
| 15 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Annual Budget Meeting | 16 OFFICE CLOSED  | 17 | 18 Confession of Peter — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins | 19 | 20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  | 21 |
| 22 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Carolyn Peeler, preaching | 23 | 24 | 25 Conversion of Paul — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends | 26 | 27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  | 28  Chinese New Year |
| 29 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Catherine Chambers, preaching | 30 | 31 | ✓ Plan to stay just a few minutes after church on January 15 so we can vote the new budget for 2017. ✓ We have some new and interesting preachers in January. Come to hear them all! ✓ Remember the Men's Coffee Time on Friday. Stop in for a gourmet brew! | | | |



January Birthdays

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 5 | Ken Bowser |
| 13 | Sara Gromniak |
| 14 | James Flood |
| 14 | Joseph Heasley |
| 14 | Christopher Taylor |
| 14 | Albert Sweitzer |
| 14 | Benedict Arnold |
| 22 | Betty Richardson |
| 22 | Gisela Scott |



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for John Swindlehurst, Sara Gromniak, Margaret Payne, Mark Williams, Jr., Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



Jan. 1 — Sunday — NAME OF JESUS

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

Jan. 4 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

Jan. 8 — Sunday — BAPTISM OF OUR LORD — EPIPHANY (Observed)

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Catherine Chambers, preaching
 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch

Jan. 11 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

Jan. 15 — Sunday — EPIPHANY 2

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
 12:15 PM Annual Budget Meeting

Jan. 22 — Sunday — EPIPHANY 3

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Carolyn Peeler, preaching

Jan. 29 — Sunday — EPIPHANY 4

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Catherine Chambers, preaching

Do we have Your Birthday?

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.



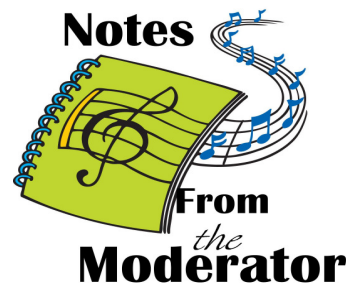
On December 12, 2016, at 10:00 AM, the Finance Committee met to discuss the 2017 year's budget. The congregation will vote on it on January 15. If funds are available these projects will be given consideration:

- Rebuild Steinway 7' grand - \$7500
- Replace carpet on porch - \$3000
- Programs in fixed up gym - \$2500
- Our share to resurface parking lot - \$1500
- Fix up supply and shower rooms - \$1500

Is it possible for you to fund one of these projects?

Last Month's Crossword Answers

Job



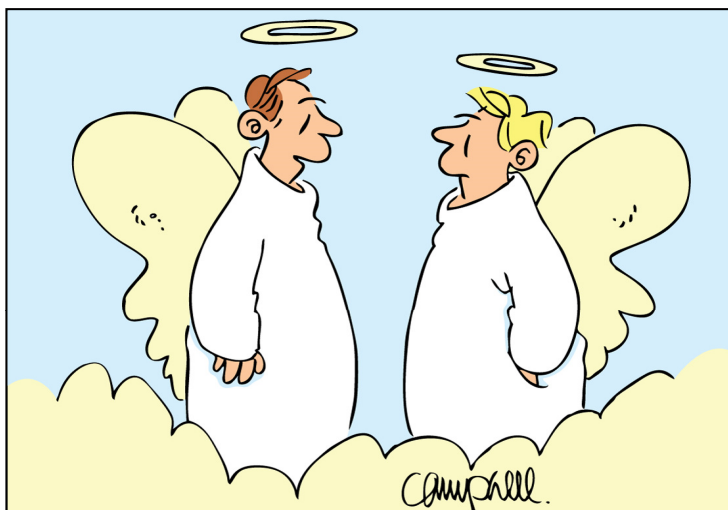
Happy New Year everyone! The Christmas season is ending with "Little Christmas" or Epiphany. We'll celebrate the ending of the season at our 2nd Sunday lunch by having a cake with a bean baked into it. The person who finds the bean is King or Queen for a day. While personal resolutions abound and energy is up, take time to sign up for a family portrait to be photographed in February. See the article about the special book to be assembled with all the portraits to celebrate our 175th Anniversary. Activities are being planned include a dinner in April and other special events through the year. A grand re-opening for our renovated gym is in the works.

The many warm mittens, hats, scarves, and personal care items have been boxed up and delivered to the Community Mission. Thank you to all who contributed items, funds, and crafts to make it possible. Our candy makers can take a break and celebrate a successful fund raising process for 2016. Our thanks go to Dave and Michelle Martin, Hazel Baxter, Connie Davis, Donna Flood, Sally Denney, Marge Bozigar, Kathleen Buckley, Ron Bowser, and Michael Baxter. Good job everyone.

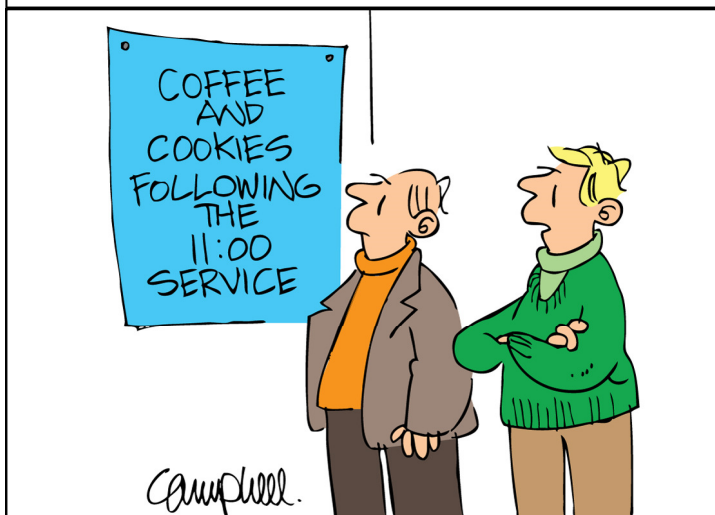
We extend our best wishes to missionary Rev. Carmella Jones as she leaves in February for her mission to teach in Hungary. At the Christmas Tea Carmella shared with us her journey through the thorough process to become a missionary. It's taken about three years starting with training, evaluation, fund raising, learning language and customs to be matched with a mission project. We will keep up our support personally and as a church for her and thank her for coming to share her quest.

Again, Happy New Year!

Donna Flood



"I haven't seen you here before.
When were you uploaded?"



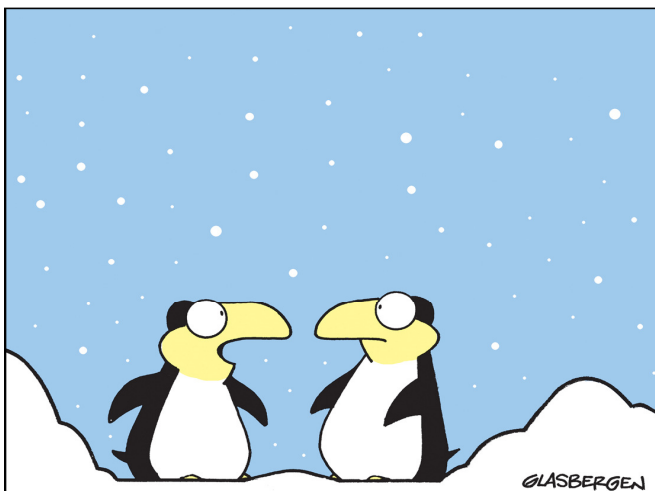
"I'd like to attract them with my
dynamic preaching, but I'm not
above bribing them with sugar."



"If I refer to God as 'He' I offend women.
If I refer to God as 'She' I offend men.
In my profession, I find it's best not to
talk about God at all."



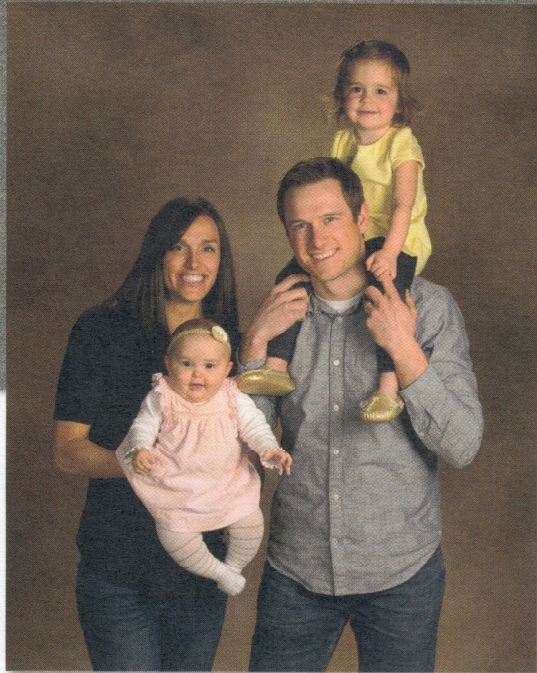
"Forgive us our debts as we forgive those
who call to harass us about our debts..."



"Faith means believing in things you've
never seen...like your feet!"



"I downloaded them from a cloud."



You are invited to
 Capture Memories
 for a Lifetime

Be a part of our new family directory program. Our goal is to include everyone!



We are partnering with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our families and tell our story.

Create treasured keepsakes

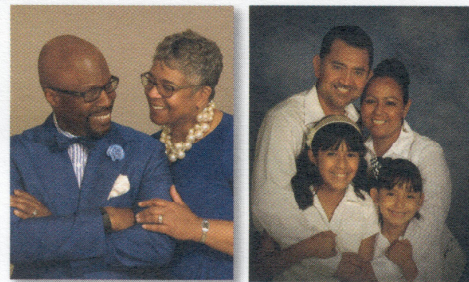
More information will be coming soon about scheduling your photography session.

Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Be able to purchase portrait gifts



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait & directory for participating



Exclusive products for your cherished memories

“I Love My Church” T-Shirt Order Form

You may put this form in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Sizes: Adult: ____ Medium ____ Large ____ X-Large \$10.00 each

Total of order: \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____



Sunday Memorial Flower Order

Flowers for Sunday morning are \$20.00. You may put this form, along with payment, in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Preferred Date: _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

☐

I shall pick them up.

OR

☐

Please deliver to Shut Ins

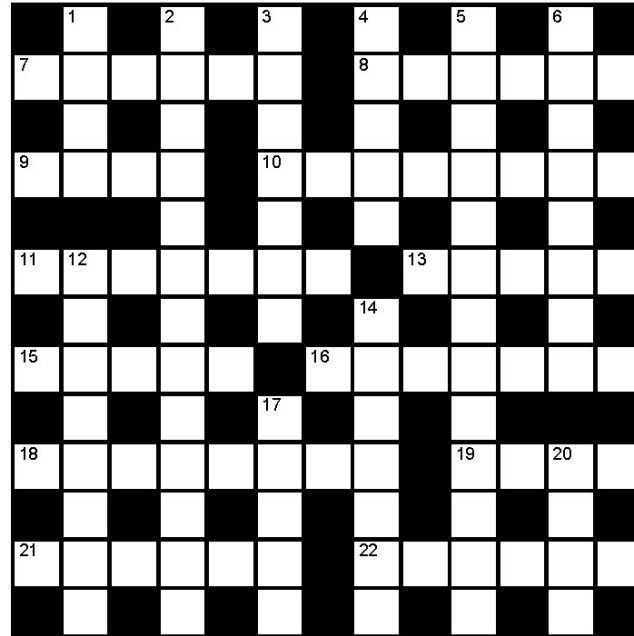
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Did you know? American Baptist Churches partner with the National Baptist Convention in some churches, that have a dual membership, such as New Hope Baptist Church here in Niagara Falls and Macedonia Baptist Church in Buffalo.

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Psalms



Across

- 7 "I am _____ a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children." Ps 69:8 (6)
- 8 Men think "that their _____ shall continue for ever," but they perish just like the beasts. Ps 49:11-12 (6)
- 9 "Then believed they his words; they _____ his praise." Ps 106:12 (4)
- 10 An instrument used to worship the LORD. Ps 98:6 (8)
- 11 "He _____ the Red sea also, and it was dried up." Ps 106:9 (7)
- 13 "My heart is _____, O God, my heart is _____: I will sing and give praise." Ps 57:7 (5)
- 15 The wicked should not lift up their horn or speak with a _____ neck. Ps 75:4-5 (5)
- 16 "But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's _____." Ps 22:9 (7)

18 The king's daughter is this. Ps 45:13 (8)

19 "The wicked shall be turned _____ hell, and all the nations that forget God." Ps 9:17 (4)

21 The psalmist says that he is quieted and calm like this type of child. Ps 131:2 (6)

22 "Keep thy _____ from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile." Ps 34:13 (6)

Down

1 "The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and _____ shall offer gifts." Ps 72:10 (4)

2 "But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, _____, and plenteous in mercy and truth." Ps 86:15 (4, 9)

3 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the _____, I will be exalted in the earth." Ps 46:10 (7)

4 All those who put their trust in God will rejoice and _____ for joy. Ps 5:11 (5)

5 Synonym for prayers. Ps. 28:6 (13)

6 "Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou _____ the furrows thereof." Ps 65:10 (8)

12 Means to praise enthusiastically. Ps 66:17 (8)

14 "The sun _____, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens." Ps 104:22 (7)

17 "Let the _____ of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." Ps 19:14 (5)

20 "Behold, that _____ shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD." Ps 128:4 (4)

Advent Devotions

Jenny and I have been enjoying and profiting from the First Baptist daily devotional guide for Advent.

It is by Dale Clem, whose church in Alabama happens to have a “labyrinth” as a space for meditation. This is a path, like a maze, indoors or outdoors, and people shuffle in toward the centre and back out while saying prayers or in meditation.

The first such labyrinths were used in Europe by people who wished they could go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land but could not, for reasons of cost, age or health. They used the labyrinth instead.

One of America’s best known labyrinths is in the floor of the huge chancel of Riverside Church in New York City. Another is on the gym floor at Judson Memorial, also in NYC. Both congregations are American Baptist affiliates, like us.

I once served a congregation in Northern Ontario where we painted a labyrinth on the parking lot. Life is full of twists and turns anyway, but we can offer our religious devotion to get ourselves on track. The experience we are sharing with Dale Clem’s booklet is an introduction to an old spiritual discipline.

Rev. Brian Arthur Brown



Thanks for Everything Christmas

Thank you to everyone who participated or prayed for our **Nativity Festival**; it was a beautiful event. The nativities filled the Friendship Room and were a joy to look at. The crafts were enjoyed by children and adults alike. The baked goods were delicious and the music was especially uplifting.

The **Christmas Tea** was a wonderful event and we completely enjoyed hearing Carmella Jones tell us about all that has happened to get her to Hungary as a missionary. She is very close and will be ordained as an American Baptist missionary on January 15th, and prayerfully leaving for Hungary soon! We continue to pray for her and her whole family!

Once again Christmas was celebrated with a **Christmas Eve Candlelight service**, but we also celebrated on Christmas Day... Doubly blessed this year.

Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway





Blessed are the peacemakers

New Jersey Woman Appointed to Work with Orphans and Vulnerable Children Worldwide



Rebecca (Becky) Hoffman has been appointed by American Baptist International Ministries (IM) as a colleague in mission. This appointment recognizes Hoffman's work with orphans and vulnerable children around the globe as a local mobilization director for [World Orphans](#). As a colleague in mission, she will be a key resource in the IM global community for ministry with vulnerable children.

Hoffman supports the international work of World Orphans by serving as an advocate for the nonprofit in the United States. She invites churches and individuals to become involved in its ministry in a variety of capacities and helps match volunteers with the opportunities that best fit their objectives, skills and talents. She also travels to represent World Orphans at camps, colleges, conferences and other events.



"The Lord has given me a heart for children, and in his Word he commands his people to 'defend the orphan,'" said Hoffman. "After traveling to India with World Orphans in 2013, I was forever changed. I saw the power of the local church and the restoration that only Christ can bring.

"I had to tell others about the plight of the orphan and about the work the Lord was doing around the world," Hoffman continued. "Over the course of several months, the Lord confirmed that I am called to full-time ministry. I have now been on staff [at World Orphans] for over a year. I see the Lord using my gifts, but also stretching me further. It is so humbling to be a part of what He is doing to care for orphaned children."

Hoffman was initially referred to IM by the Sawmill Baptist Church in Powell, Ohio, where she grew up. Currently she resides in New Jersey and is a member of The Crossing Church in Livingston. She plans to move to Michigan in December and to be married in March 2017.



Kristy Engel and Soozie Ford

Satribari College of Nursing Project

The Satribari School of Nursing could soon become the first Christian Bachelor's College of Nursing in the State of Assam. The Satribari School of Nursing, as it is now known, and the Satribari Hospital are both ministries of CBCNEI, one of International Ministries partners in India. CBCNEI stands for Council of Baptist Churches of North East India. I had the privilege of traveling to Guwahati, located in the state of Assam in NE India, in October, for the second time this year. The visit had the purpose of meeting with leadership of CBCNEI, the Satribari Hospital and especially the professors and staff at the Satribari School of Nursing. Our goal was to understand the vision of the nursing school and help them define steps for making the school (an Associates program) become a college (a Bachelor's program). During that visit, we met with doctors, nurses, students, the hospital chaplain, the school's professors and an architect with amazing plans for building a new structure. Each of them shared their dreams for a College of Nursing and why it was so important. The most important reason for each of them was that they saw this as a tool for evangelism. They saw this college as a way to put highly qualified Christian nurses in hospitals and clinics throughout India. Even one of the professors, who is not yet a believer, said that she learned how to pray at a Christian nursing school and wanted that same opportunity for other Indian nursing students.

Volunteer, Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford

We're all in this together. And, volunteering is a great way to understand what I do as the Global Consultant for Health and how International Ministries works with partners around the world. Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford is the Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky (one of 34 regions of American Baptist Churches) and traveled with me this October to visit Satribari. I think it would be accurate to say that both Soozie and our partner in India were blessed during this visit. Soozie said to me many times prior to the visit, Kristy, I'm not sure there is anything I can do...you know I'm not a nurse, right? Yes, I knew that. What I also knew was that Soozie is very gifted at helping churches and individuals discern how to use their gifts for ministry and how to put visions into action plans. She has proven this over and over throughout her ministry and this ability would be very much needed. The professors I had previously spoken with knew what they wanted...they just didn't know how to get there! So, we began two days of travel, laughing a lot along the way, and wondering how God would use us in India. Throughout the trip, we remained open to God leading our days, usually never what we planned, and we listened a lot. One of the best pieces of advice I can give all volunteers is to listen. Be observant. Go into every mission trip with the idea that you have more to learn than to teach.

Soozie did that very thing and wow...did those nurses make leaps and bounds towards the end goal of their project. What was a fuzzy (but exciting!) vision is now a succinct plan with a general timeline and a clear presentation of the vision. This is because someone who felt they did not have the right qualifications, still trusted God to use her unique gifts for his kingdom. There will soon be an official project listed on the International Ministries website for churches and individuals to access information and make gifts in support of this amazing project