

# First Baptist Church

554 Main Street Corner of Main and Fourth Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

## IN THE MAY ISSUE:

⇒ p. 4 — Moderator's Notes
⇒ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
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⇒ p. 12 — International Ministries Calls New Executive Director

May 2016

May 2010									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
1 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	2	Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports	4 12:15 Inasmuch lunch ASCENSION		6 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	7			
8 ASCENSION SUNDAY  10:00 Mother's Day Continental Breakfast 11:00 Divine Worship Alison Miculan, preaching  Happy  Mother's	9	10	7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	12	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	Deadline for Camp Vick discounted fees. Camperships available from First Baptist.			
15 DAY OF PENTECOST  10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Festival Service Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Annual Meeting Third Sunday Food Collection	16	17	18	19	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	21 10-3 PM Sacred Sites Open House Armed Forces Day			
22 TRINITY SUNDAY  10:00 Pre-service Fellowship  11:00 Divine Worship  Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching  1200 – 3:00 PM Sacred Sites Open House	23 Victoria Day	24	25	26	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	28 10:00 AM meet at City Market for the Memorial Day Parade			
29 2 <sup>ND</sup> SUN AFTER PENTECOST  10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Charles F. Lamb, preaching	30 Memorial Day	31 THE VISITATION	It's hard to believe everything that's going on in May! Things were supposed to quiet down after Easter. Three things to note: 1) Camp Vick discounted fees due date April 14. 2) Volunteers needed for New York State Landmark Sacred Sites Open Houses May 21 and 22. Call the church office.  3) Volunteers needed to march in Memorial Day parade May 28. First Baptist will this year have a presence as we have in the past.						



# tower topics

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

# First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



# **May Birthdays**

- 12 Toby Ordiway
- 13 Mary Metke
- 15 Janet Kundl
- 18 Cindy Ward Duke
- 19 Jon Baxter
- 23 Hazel Baxter
- 30 Tyler Ordiway



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





#### May 1 — SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

May 4 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

#### May 5 — Thursday — ASCENSION

Celebrated on Sunday, but read Luke 24:44-53

May 8 — ASCENSION (Observed)

10:00 AM Mother's Day Continental Breakfast

11:00 AM Festival Service

Ms Alison Miculan, preaching

May 11 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

May 15 — DAY OF PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Festival Service

Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

12:15 PM Annual Meeting

Third Sunday Food Collection

#### **May 22 — TRINITY SUNDAY**

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship

Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

#### May 29 — 2ND SUN AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship

Rev. Dr. Charles F. Lamb, preaching

#### May 31 — THE VISITATION

No service, but read Luke 1:39-57

## Do we have Your Birthday?

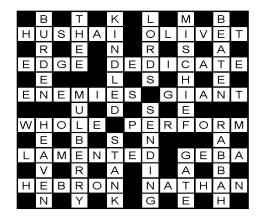
If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, **please** call the office (716-282-4666) to let us know your special date so we can include it.

Church Office Hours: 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday — Friday 716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — <u>www.niagarafallsbaptist.org</u>
James D. Flood, FWTC, FCSM - Church Administrator and Editor

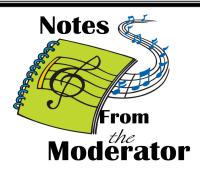


# Last Month's Crossword Answers

#### 2 Samuel







The merry month of May is a busy time at First Baptist. Check the calendar for special events. On Mothers' Day we'll have a Continental Breakfast at 10:00 before the service. The following Sunday is our annual meeting so it's time for all committee chairs to write reports, summarizing what went on during the year.

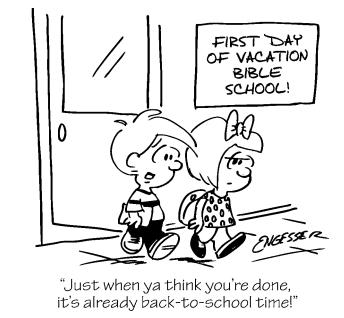
On May 21 and 22 we'll have an architectural Open House for folks to tour our facility. Check the calendar for times. If you'd like to be a tour guide, let Jim Flood know that you can assist on either Saturday or Sunday.

A very special addition to our May activities is the Memorial Day parade. We'll have a unit in the parade, decorated in red, white and blue. Join the fun and let Katona Hoopsick know if you can participate or help prepare our unit. Notice I didn't say what it way? You'll have to church come to find out! march/walk/ride/pedal from the City Market on 19<sup>th</sup> to Hyde Park at the memorial. Meet at 10:00 at the Market, step off time is 11:00 AM and the ceremony will be around noon at the memorial.

August 7 we will have a basket auction and bake sale at the Frontier Fire Hall on Liberty Street in the town of Niagara. The funds will benefit the rehab of our gym. We hope to raise \$900 and need baskets of all shapes and sizes for the event and baked goods. See Kath Ordiway if you can help. Save the date on your calendar.

Donna Flood

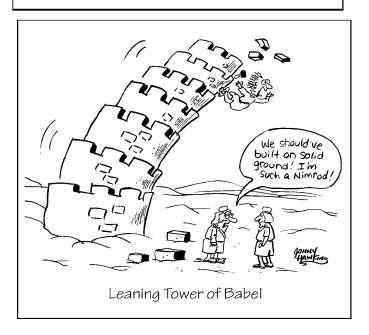














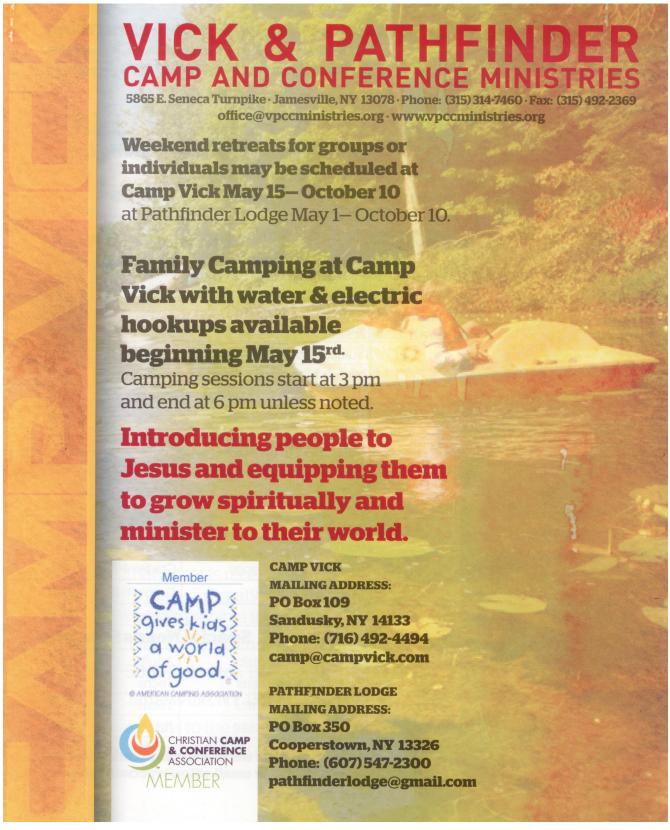
# Respond to Jesus' prayer July 4-9

Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin
"On Earth as in Heaven"

- ► Celebrate the fourth of July at Green Lake!
- ► Interact with missionaries and international leaders from 14 nations.
- ▶ Participate in global worship and conversation.
- Explore ways to be more involved in global mission.

# **Preaching Schedule**

	April 24	Rev. Dr. Charles F. Lamb	
	May 1	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	May 8	Ms Alison Miculan	Ascension Sunday
	May 15	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	Pentecost
	May 22	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	
	May 29	Rev. Dr. Charles F. Lamb	Memorial Day
	June 5	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	June 12	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	
	June 19	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	June 26	Rev. Alan C. Minarcik	
	July 3	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	Patriot Sunday
	July 10	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	July 17	Rev. Alan Minarcik	
	July 24	Rev. Alan Minarcik	
	July 31	Rev. Alan Minarcik	
	August 7	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	August 14	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	
	August 21	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	August 28	Rev. Dr. Charles F. Lamb	
	September 4	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	
	September 11	Rev. Alan C. Minarcik	Rally Day — 9/11 Memorial
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Contact the Church office for details. Camp Schedule is on the bulletin board.

### **Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)**

# 1 Kings

	1	2	3		4		5	6	
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			18						
19			20					21	
22									

#### Across

- 7 One of the towns listed in 1 Kings 4:9 (13)
- 8 "And beneath the lions and oxen were certain \_\_\_\_s made of thin work." 1 Kings 7:29 (8)
- 9 "But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every \_\_\_\_\_, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent." 1 Kings 5:4 (4)
- 10 "So that there was \_\_\_\_\_ hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building." 1 Kings 6:7 (7)
- 12 The son of Nathan. 1 Kings 4:5 (5)
- 14 Solomon did this and blessed the congregation of Israel. 1 Kings 8:55 (5)
- 16 "And he laid his \_\_\_\_\_ in his own grave; and they mourned over him, saying, Alas, my brother!" 1 Kings 13:30 (7)
- 19 The cherubim in the oracle were made out of an olive \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Kings 6:23 (4)

- 20 "Thus speaketh Benhadad, saying, \_\_\_\_ I have sent unto thee ... "1 Kings 20:5 (8)
- 22 Solomon asked for this type of heart. 1 Kings 3:9 (13)

#### Down

- 1 Synonym for clothed. 1 Kings 11:29 (4)
- 2 God told Elijah to do this to Hazael. 1 Kings 19:15 (6)
- 3 "And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he ." 1 Kings 17:22 (7)
- 4 "And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any hid from the king, which he told her not." 1 Kings 10:3

  (5)
- 5 A king over Israel who was at war with Asa, the king of Judah. 1 Kings 15:16 (6)
- 6 "And Benhadad sent unto him, and said, The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for

for all the people that follow me." 1 Kings 20:10 (8)

- 11 "And for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the oracle he made doors of olive tree." 1 Kings 6:31 (8)
- 13 One of the towns near where the vessels for the temple were made. 1 Kings 7:46 (7)
- 15 "Because thou hast not \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee." 1 Kings 20:36 (6)
- 17 When Elijah went to Ahab, the sky turned black with these. 1 Kings 18:45 (6)
- 18 "Then hear thou in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their \_\_\_\_." 1 Kings 8:45 (5)
- 21 "Thou hast \_\_\_\_ and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back." 1 Kings 14:9 (4)



Clive Staples Lewis (29 November 1898 – 22 November 1963) was a British novelist, poet, academic, medievalist, literary critic, essayist, lay theologian, broadcaster, lecturer, and Christian apologist. He held academic positions at both Oxford University (Magdalen College), 1925–54, and Cambridge University (Magdalene College), 1954–63. He is best known for his fictional work, especially *The Screwtape Letters, The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Space Trilogy*, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

Lewis and fellow novelist J. R. R. Tolkien were close friends. They both served on the English faculty at Oxford University, and were active in the informal Oxford literary group known as the Inklings. According to Lewis' memoir *Surprised by Joy*, he was baptized in the Church of Ireland, but fell away from his faith during adolescence. Lewis returned to the Anglican Communion at the age of 32, owing to the influence of Tolkien and other friends, and he became an "ordinary layman of the Church of England". His faith profoundly affected his work, and his wartime radio broadcasts on the subject of Christianity brought him wide acclaim.

In 1956, he married American writer Joy Davidman; she died of cancer four years later at the age of 45. Lewis died on 22 November 1963 from renal failure, one week before his 65th birthday. Media coverage of his death was minimal, as he and fellow British author Aldous Huxley died on the same day that US President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. In 2013, on the 50th anniversary of his death, Lewis was honored with a memorial in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Lewis's works have been translated into more than 30 languages and have sold millions of copies. The books that make up *The Chronicles of Narnia* have sold the most and have been popularized on stage, TV, radio, and cinema. His works entered the public domain in 2014 in countries where copyright expires 50 years after the death of the creator, such as Canada.

Lewis wrote several works on Heaven and Hell. One of these, *The Great Divorce*, is a short novella in which a few residents of Hell take a bus ride to Heaven, where they are met by people who dwell there. The proposition is that they can stay if they choose, in which case they can call the place where they had come from "Purgatory", instead of "Hell". But many find it not to their taste. The title is a reference to William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, a concept that Lewis found a "disastrous error".

This work deliberately echoes two other more famous works with a similar theme: the *Divine Comedy* of Dante Alighieri, and Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Another short work, *The Screwtape Letters*, consists of suave letters of advice from senior demon Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood on the best ways to tempt a particular human and secure his damnation. Lewis's last novel was *Till We Have Faces*, which he thought of as his most mature and masterly work of fiction but which was never a popular success. It is a retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche from the unusual perspective of Psyche's sister. It is deeply concerned with religious ideas, but the setting is entirely pagan, and the connections with specific Christian beliefs are left implicit.

Before Lewis's conversion to Christianity, he published two books: *Spirits in Bondage*, a collection of poems, and *Dymer*, a single narrative poem. Both were published under the pen name Clive Hamilton. Other narrative poems have since been published posthumously, including *Launcelot*, *The Nameless Isle*, and *The Queen of Drum*.

He also wrote *The Four Loves*, which rhetorically explains four categories of love: friendship, eros, affection, and charity.

In 2009, a partial draft was discovered of *Language and Human Nature*, which Lewis had begun cowriting with J.R.R. Tolkien, but which was never completed.

#### Christian apologist

Lewis is also regarded by many as one of the most influential Christian apologists of his time, in addition to his career as an English professor and an author of fiction. *Mere Christianity* was voted best book of the twentieth century by *Christianity Today* in 2000. He has been called "The Apostle to the Skeptics" due to his approach to religious belief as a sceptic, and his following conversion.

Lewis was very interested in presenting a reasonable case for Christianity. *Mere Christianity*, *The Problem of Pain*, and *Miracles* were all concerned, to one degree or another, with refuting popular objections to Christianity, such as the question, "How could a good God allow pain to exist in the world?" He also became a popular lecturer and broadcaster, and some of his writing originated as scripts for radio talks or lectures (including much of *Mere Christianity*).

According to George Sayer, losing a 1948 debate with Elizabeth Anscombe, also a Christian, led Lewis to re-evaluate his role as an apologist, and his future works concentrated on devotional literature and children's books. Anscombe had a completely different recollection of the debate's outcome and its emotional effect on Lewis. Victor Reppert also disputes Sayer, listing some of Lewis's post-1948 apologetic publications, including the second and revised edition of his *Miracles* in 1960, in which Lewis addressed Anscombe's criticism. Noteworthy too is Roger Teichman's suggestion in *The Philosophy of Elizabeth Anscombe* that the intellectual impact of Anscombe's paper on Lewis's philosophical self-confidence should not be over-rated: "... it seems unlikely that he felt as irretrievably crushed as some of his acquaintances have made out; the episode is probably an inflated legend, in the same category as the affair of Wittgenstein's Poker. Certainly Anscombe herself believed that Lewis's argument, though flawed, was getting at something very important; she thought that this came out more in the improved version of it that Lewis presented in a subsequent edition of *Miracles* – though that version also had 'much to criticize in it'."

Lewis also wrote an autobiography titled *Surprised by Joy*, which places special emphasis on his own conversion. (It was written before he met his wife, Joy Gresham; the title of the book came from the first line of a poem by William Wordsworth.) His essays and public speeches on Christian belief, many

of which were collected in *God in the Dock* and *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, remain popular today.

His most famous works, the *Chronicles of Narnia*, contain many strong Christian messages and are often considered allegory. Lewis, an expert on the subject of allegory, maintained that the books were not allegory, and preferred to call the Christian aspects of them "suppositional". As Lewis wrote in a letter to a Mrs. Hook in December 1958:

If Aslan represented the immaterial Deity in the same way in which Giant Despair [a character in *The Pilgrim's Progress*] represents despair, he would be an allegorical figure. In reality, he is an invention giving an imaginary answer to the question, 'What might Christ become like, if there really were a world like Narnia and He chose to be incarnate and die and rise again in that world as He actually has done in ours?' This is not allegory at all.

#### And this article is in Tower Topics because....

First Baptist Church is the recipient of a complete leather-bound set of C. S. Lewis writings. As one of the greatest Christian writers of the twentieth century it is extremely appropriate that we have his works in our library, for us and for future generations to read, enjoy, and from which to learn insights into the thinking of a modern Christian master writer.

If you are not familiar with the writings of C. S. Lewis, please take the opportunity to become acquainted with them. It will be time more than well spent.

## And while we're talking of books...

Be sure to look on the coffee table in the Friendship Room for another donation to the Church library, *Rembrandt's 'Life of Christ.'* This over-sized "coffee table" book is a complete survey and reproductions of the paintings and sketches Rembrandt created of the subject of Christ. The clothes and settings, of course, reflect the seventeenth century Dutch milieu in which Rembrandt lived, but the works of one of art's greatest masters are to be studied and admired forever.

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was a Dutch painter and etcher. He is generally considered one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art and the most important in Dutch history.

Born: July 15, 1606, Leiden, Netherlands

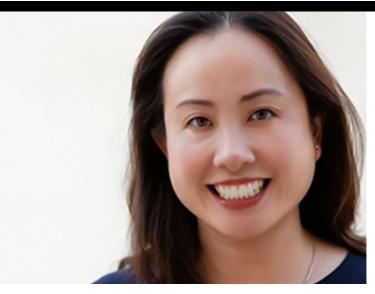
Died: October 4, 1669, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Influenced by: Caravaggio, Hercules Seghers, Hendrick ter Brugghen

Fields: Painting, Printmaking

Periods: Baroque, Dutch Golden Age painting, Dutch Golden Age

## American Baptist International Ministries Calls New Executive Director



The Board of Directors of American Baptist International Ministries (IM) announced today that it has voted unanimously to call the Rev. Sharon T. Koh, Senior Associate Pastor of Mission and Community Life for Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California, to the position of Executive Director. She will lead the historic mission agency following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Reid S. Trulson at the end of August.

Board President the Rev. Dr. Reginald Mills, who chaired the search committee, says, "Sharon has a passionate heart for God's mission and is an effective team builder, who understands how to mobilize people for God's work. God has used the Responding to the Call discernment process to give IM a clear vision. Through her work on the Discernment Team that received and articulated this vision, Sharon is uniquely poised and gifted to provide collaborative and executive leadership for this new century of mission. The Board is delighted, staff is enthusiastic and Sharon is passionately committed. Together, we are responding to the call embedded in the prayer Jesus taught us, to see God's will done 'on earth, as in heaven."

An ordained American Baptist minister, Koh has deep roots in mission, the cause that brought Baptists in America together in 1814 to launch the agency now known as IM. Of her new calling with IM, Koh says, "I am so delighted to be partnering with people who care as passionately about God's mission as I do. I look forward to working with all of IM, our American Baptist family, and all of God's children to embrace and usher in God's Kingdom on earth. This has long been God's call on my life, and I am eager to share that passion and conviction in this new context." Sharon was born to missionary parents in Singapore, where they began a long and continuing career with Cru (known outside the U.S. as Campus Crusade for Christ, International). She grew up in Singapore, the Philippines, Korea and the U.S. (California and Ohio). After completing undergraduate majors in Biology and Religious Studies at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, Koh went on to complete two master's degrees at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California: a Master of Divinity that emphasized Youth, Family and Culture; and a Master of Arts in Theology degree that emphasized Global Mission and Hermeneutics. Koh is currently working on a third degree at Fuller, a Doctor of Ministry degree in Leading Change.

Since 2004, Koh has served on the staff of Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles, a vibrant and diverse congregation located in the city of Rosemead, in the heart of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. She has provided dynamic leadership especially in the area of cross-cultural mission outreach, both locally and globally, and in nurturing the congregation's growth in discipleship through small groups and teaching ministries. A careful and thoughtful student of the Bible, Koh has a passion to communicate the message of Scripture effectively and to see it take on flesh in the lives of people who are growing as disciples of Jesus. Koh's assignments at Evergreen have also included shepherding a record-breaking capital campaign that found creative ways to engage the entire congregation and leading international teams to walk alongside and encourage the missionaries Evergreen supports.