

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 4 — Moderator's Notes
- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- ➔ p. 6 — A Note from Kristy Engel & Reformation Books
 - ➔ p. 7 — Farewell, Ed
 - ➔ p. 8 — Bible Crossword: Hosea
- ➔ p. 9 — 175th Anniversary History Corner
 - ➔ p. 10 — CWS
- ➔ p. 11 — One Great Hour of Sharing Emergency Hurricane Relief
 - ➔ p. 12, p. 13, p. 14 — Arise Conference
 - ➔ p. 15 — We Walk Because They Walk
 - ➔ p. 16 — One Great Hour of Sharing

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	2	3	4 12:00 Inasmuch	5	6 10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time 9:00 – 3:00 RUMMAGE And Chowder	7 9:00 – 12:00 SALE!!! Too!
8 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch 1:30 Crop Walk (New Hope)	9 OFFICE CLOSED 	10	11 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	12	13 10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time 	14
15 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Bible Study Roundtable Continental Breakfast 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	16	17	18 Luke, Evangelist	19	20 10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time 	21
22 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Ms Catherine Chambers, preaching	23	24	25	26	27 10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time 	28
29 REFORMATION SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching	30	31 REFORMATION 	 It was exactly 500 years ago in 1517 on October 31 that Martin Luther posted his 95 “theses” on the door of his church. While American Baptistery does not follow in the exact line of Luther’s Reformation, we recognize his ground breaking actions, ideas and scholarship.			



October Birthdays

- 1 Donna Clark
- 4 Marguerite Blakely
- 4 Cheryl Taylor

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.



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



October 1 — Sunday — Pentecost 17

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

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

October 4 — Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch

October 6 & 7 — Friday and Saturday

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Friday

9:00 AM – Noon Saturday bag sale

RUMMAGE SALE !!! With Chowder, too!

October 8 — Sunday — Pentecost 18

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching
- 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch
- 1:30 PM Crop Walk (New Hope Baptist Church)

October 11 — Wednesday

- 7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

October 15 — Sunday — Pentecost 19

- 10:00 AM Bible Study Roundtable
Continental Breakfast
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

October 22 — Sunday — Pentecost 20

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

October 29 — REFORMATION SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

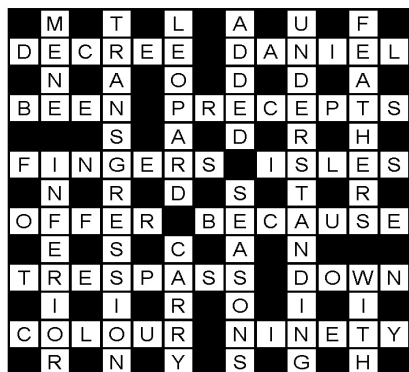


You heard Tony Campolo speak at the 175th Anniversary banquet. Now not only can you read some of his popular books (the Church library has acquired a half dozen of his best sellers) but you can view the DVD of his speech. There are copies of the DVD on the library shelves in the Friendship Room. Feel free to borrow one to relive his informative, exciting, and profound presentation. The DVD is also for sale complete in a slip case with memory booklet. \$5 will cover the cost.



Last Month's Crossword Answers

Daniel



There is a hymn that comes to mind about “new beginnings”. When I think about it, I focus on Bible Study. In October, we’ll have a continental breakfast before service to discuss what we’d like to do: its format and to schedule our fall study. In the past, we’ve used studies written by some very interesting people usually around Advent and the Christmas season. This year, something different and what it will be is up to you. Think about format and topics or area of the Bible you’d like to explore and come with your ideas.

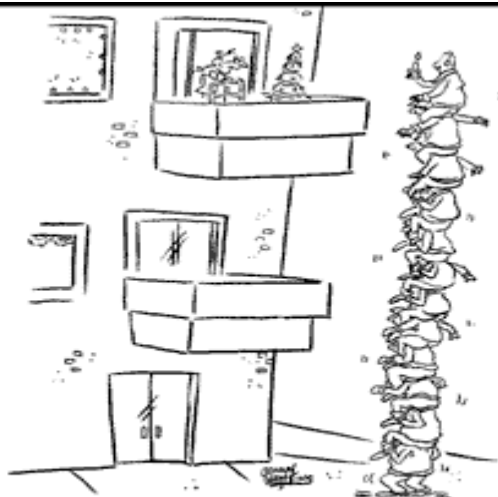
Kath Ordiway’s local ordination process is under way. There will be a formal questioning on Saturday, October 22nd at 10:00 AM. The date for the formal service is January 6th. All are invited to attend the ordination.

Our mission for October is “One Great Hour of Sharing” which is busy with two hurricane relief projects and at this writing; there may be a third to affect our nation with devastation and destruction. Additionally, we will participate in the Crop Walk on October 8th which starts from New Hope Baptist Church at 1:30 PM for a walk to Goat Island and back. Donna, Chris, and perhaps another will do the trek so please support the project to aid in hunger relief. Crop Walk under the auspices of Church World Service supports Community Mission, Heart, Love & Soul and the Salvation Army locally.

Our calendar is starting to fill up. Candy making days have been chosen and cooks are being lined up. If you’d like to give our delicious walnut butter crunch a stir, fill boxes, and more, let Hazel Baxter know you’d like to help. Keep December 2nd open for the Nativity Festival. All those beautiful forms of expression telling the Nativity story are a pleasure to see and enjoy. A bake sale will be held at that time.

Rummage! The fall sale is October 6 & 7. If you have gently used items (no outdated electronics please) to contribute, please get them to the church before October 2 our set up day. Ham and potato chowder will be on sale by the pint or quart. If you’d like a pick up for your contributions call the office to make arrangements at 282-4666.

Donna Flood,
Moderator



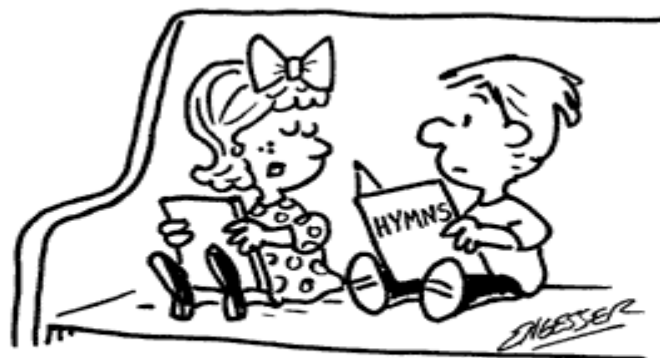
Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.



"You get some wings, a halo and, of course, your hair back."



"Looks like I'm going to have to get Mom to let me cross the street."



"Where's the hers?"



"Ages 45-64 fully support you, 65 and over are satisfied, the 18-30 group are mixed, and the 31 to 44 year olds say you've lost your mojo!"



"And with prayer, you can contact God 24 hours everyday, including weekends ... and there are NO roaming charges!"

A Note From Kristy Engel

It's Friday September 8, 2017 and I'm at the Atlanta International airport waiting to board my flight to the Dominican Republic. As you have all heard, Hurricane Irma passed just north of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. I am heading back to La Romana where I lived for 12 years to offer support in whatever way they might need...medical, emotional, spiritual...but I know this about my brothers and sisters on that island...they are strong! I am going to work alongside them and join with them in whatever plans they already have in place. Please keep me and all of them in your prayers as another storm, Hurricane Jose, is already a category 3 and headed in their general direction. If there are needs for teams, either to rebuild or with medical work, I will let you know as those needs are given to me. Right now, there are a couple of ways that you can help with relief efforts. First, One Great Hour of Sharing is a fund that provides support to partners of the American Baptists and other denominations when tragedies like this occur. You can donate through your church and specify, "Hurricanes 2017" or "Hurricane Irma" if you would like to make a gift to that fund. *[October will be our One Great Hour of Sharing Mission for the month.]* Another option is to make a gift to the Health Care Project fund that supports my work around the world so I can attend to immediate needs just like this one.

Finally, you can support one of the many missionaries working in the countries affected by the hurricanes. Each of us need your financial and prayer support to stay on the field and continue to work with our brothers and sisters in the affected areas. Consider becoming a monthly donor today!

Thank you, to everyone who has sent a note of support, an email or text asking how to help and for those who have simply listened as I've had to make big changes over the last two days to prepare for this trip. Continue in those prayers and please look for updates as I have them.

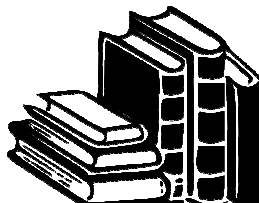
Blessings,

Kristy

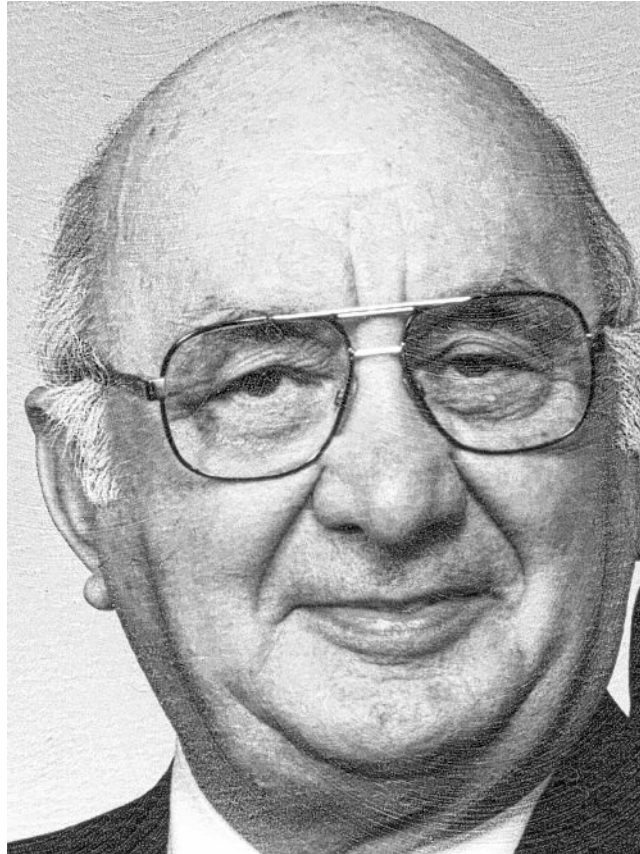
October 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the REFORMATION

While the American Baptist Church does not draw a direct line from Martin Luther's Reformation activities, we do celebrate his spirit and accomplishments. Baptists formed societies in England in the early seventeenth century drawing on beliefs of Zwingli and the Anabaptists. *[Can you find something a propos of that in the Friendship Room?]*

In the month of October you will find a table with many books on it courtesy of Augsburg Publishing House. The books all have to do with the Reformation and Martin Luther, and range from graphic novels to pop up books to deeper, more serious studies. All the books can be ordered at half price. The books on the table will be given to the church library by Augsburg Publishing as thanks for displaying the volumes and bringing the 500th Anniversary of Luther's posting his 95 theses on his church door to everyone's attention. Browse the books and see if there isn't something you'd like!



FAREWELL, ED



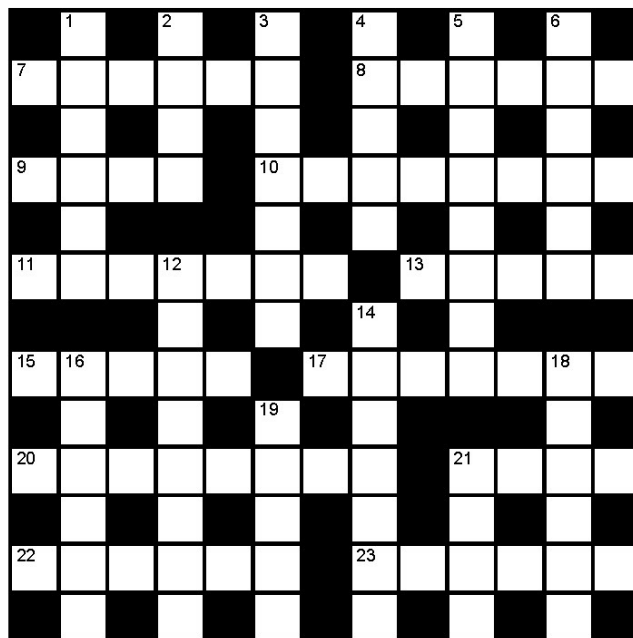
GUNTHER, Rev. Edward

GUNTHER - Rev. Edward Age 93, of Orchard Park, NY, August 19, 2017. Beloved husband of the late Mildred (nee Myers); dearest father of David E. (Marcia) MD, Barbara M. Gunther, Stephen M. (Helen) and the late Paul A.; grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of one; son of the late Ludwig Gunther and the late Christina (nee Jung); brother-in-law of Lynette (late Fred) Gunther. Services from St. Stephen's UCC, 8520 Tonawanda Creek Rd., East Amherst, NY, Saturday, September 2 at 2 p.m. Ed served First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, from 1961 – 1966. He later served as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Niagara Frontier, then as Executive Minister for the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York, and later as pastor of First Baptist Church of White Plains, New York. Upon “retirement” he served St. Stephen’s UCC for fifteen years. His picture has been added to our Wall of Pastors. The family is very appreciative of the love and care he had received at the Fox Run Community. Memorial gifts may be sent to First Baptist Church, 554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14301. Arrangements by THE URBAN BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME.



Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Hosea



Across

- 7 The Lord will do this to Jacob, according to his ways. Hos 12:2 (6)
- 8 The calf of Samaria shall be _____. Hos 8:6 (6)
- 9 God has spoken by the prophets, multiplied visions, and ____ similitudes. Hos 12:10 (4)
- 10 "Though I have _____ them, yet they have spoken lies against me." Hos 7:13 (8)
- 11 A city in Egypt. Hos 9:6 (7)
- 13 "In the third day he will _____ us up, and we shall live in his sight." Hos 6:2 (5)
- 15 "They shall not _____ wine offerings to the Lord, neither shall they be pleasing unto him." Hos 9:4 (5)
- 17 To witness or give evidence. Hos 5:5 (7)
- 20 "Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no _____." Hos 8:8 (8)
- 21 "For their bread for their _____ shall not come into the house of the Lord." Hos 9:4 (4)
- 22 Describes feasts. Hos 2:11 (6)

- 23 "Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are _____: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields." Hos 12:11 (6)

Down

- 1 The enemy shall _____ Israel. Hos 8:3 (6)
- 2 When this is sown, the whirlwind is reaped. Hos 8:7 (4)
- 3 "For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall _____." Hos 14:9 (7)
- 4 "And I said unto her, Thou shalt _____ for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee." Hos 3:3 (5)
- 5 Synonym for promise. Hos 2:18 (8)
- 6 Israel is compared to an unfaithful woman who "decked

herself with her earrings and her _____." Hos 2:13 (6)

12 "His going forth is _____ as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain." Hos 6:3 (8)

14 "Though they bring up their children, yet will I _____ them, that there shall not be a man left: yea, woe also to them when I depart from them!" Hos 9:12 (7)

16 "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your _____ ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." Hos 10:12 (6)

18 "Their heart is divided; now shall they be found _____." Hos 10:2 (6)

19 God desires mercy and the knowledge of Him rather than sacrifice and _____ offerings. Hos 6:6 (5)

21 "And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the _____ of the living God." Hos 1:10 (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. In this fourth photograph:

- ❖ What is this a picture of?
- ❖ What year is it? Where is it?
- ❖ Who is in the picture? (We actually know them all.)

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: Thespian clubs were very popular in Protestant churches in the 1920's and 1930's. This appears to be some kind of wedding scene (note that all the actors are male – probably a comedy). The room is the original chapel/meeting room, later divided into chapel and Minister's Office, now divided into chapel and Conference Room/Library.



With a lull in the rainfall, people begin to clean out their flooded homes in Houston.

"Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it."
Song of Solomon 8:7

Dear First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York,

Your congregation has always been attentive to the least of these - and we've been so grateful that you include us as a partner in your mission to care for others. Through your CWS Blankets gifts, you've faithfully provided warmth and stability to those in need over the past years.

Given your heart for ministry, we wanted to keep you posted about our most recent response to Hurricane Harvey. It is yet another humbling example where, because faith communities like yours mobilize, we are able to respond quickly. Even now, we are sending well over 100,000 CWS Kits and Blankets to people who have experienced sudden and sweeping loss.

As we move to action, we invite you to pray with us. There is strength when we petition for and lament with our neighbors in one voice.

Thank you for serving as the backbone of these initiatives - our response to crises like Hurricane Harvey has always been guided and empowered by congregations like yours.

Gratefully,



Matthew Stevens
Director of Congregational Giving
Church World Service

\$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing Funding Released for Hurricane Harvey Relief



VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 8/31/17)—In response to Hurricane Harvey’s devastation along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has released \$10,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Emergency Disaster Relief funds to Church World Service on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA. More funds will be released as damage assessments are gathered in the coming weeks.

Making landfall on Aug. 25, Hurricane Harvey brought with it 130 mph winds and an unprecedented amount of torrential rainfall in some areas, resulting in flooding, power outages, downed trees and signs, major property damage, displaced residents, injuries and at least 38 fatalities.

American Baptists are urged to pray for and donate to those affected.

Donations designated to “OGHS-Hurricane Harvey” can be made through your church; by visiting <http://www.abc-usa.org/> and clicking “Give Online” at the top right of the page. In the “Comments” section, type “OGHS-Hurricane Harvey.” Or, mail to the attention of Kim Wilkins at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA, 19482-0851. *[October is our One Great Hour of Sharing mission month.]* One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. For more information about mailing a donation, contact Wilkins at 1-800-222-3872, x2413, or kim.wilkins@abhms.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies partners with American Baptists to promote Christian faith, cultivate Christ-centered leaders and disciples, and bring healing and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God’s mission around the world.

Arise! Conference — A True Blessing



Nicole Mullen singing "When You Call on Jesus"



Friday evening — Standing in Praise

After 16 years of dreaming and 9 months of planning, Nicole C Mullen was welcomed to Niagara Falls by our very own church, in another of several celebrations of our 175th Anniversary. I wanted to do something different, something that would see women from all over Western New York gathering together. I wanted to see the Holy Spirit move mightily in Niagara Falls. So, our little committee - Katona Hoopsick, Eileen Wrobel and myself - decided to make a dream come true.

As her bio, Nicole says simply, "I love God." But we also know her as a Dove-award winning Christian singer, songwriter, speaker and ministry leader and mom to 3 children.

Our retreat was held at Sheraton Four Points on Friday, 9/8 - Saturday, 9/9 and then Nicole led worship on Sunday. What we hoped would bring women from WNY actually brought women from New Jersey, Texas, Ohio and Hawaii, too! Several of our local churches sent their ladies and a group from Allegany County, who had been waiting for Nicole to be in NYS again, came with NINE women!

The weekend was filled with songs of praise, messages of salvation, healing, overcoming struggles and victories gained through Jesus. We saw Mariah Gorman (Franklin, TN) and her dance troupe - Anchored Dance perform to several of Nicole's songs. We heard testimonies from Lisa Hensley (Griffin, GA), Hettie-Marie Manu (Toronto, Ontario), Nicole's mom Mary Jane Coleman (Grams) and myself. Nicole shared in word and song on both days. Friday night we even had a good, old-fashioned pajama party with Twister, Apples to Apples, and musical chairs!

Praise God for an amazing, joy-filled weekend!

Kathleen Ordiway



Friday Night — Nicole's backup singers



Mariah Gorman — Anchored Dance

Arise! Conference A few candid shots



Nicole with some Conference attendees



Kath with Lisa Hensley



Kath speaks about "joy"



Nicole shares her message

Saturday's Activities



Nicole with her sisters



Saturday lunch — Question & Answer session

**Nicole Mullen speaks at
First Baptist Church
on Sunday morning.**



Conference Committee: Kath, (Nicole), Katona, Eileen



Nicole greets fans from Welland, Ontario



Nicole accepting flowers



Nicole Mullen shares her message



Anchored sacred dance group

CROP WALK 2017

We Walk Because They Walk



REUTERS/Erik de Castir, courtesy www.alternet.org

Hunger: Facts and Faces

Walking for Food

- Over 852 million people around the world are hungry — one-seventh of the human family.
- Most of these people are not victims of famine, but suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition that stunts growth, sapping energy and potential.
- Every day, more than 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes — about one child every five seconds.
- 1.2 billion people in developing countries live on an income of \$1 a day or less.

What is poverty? To come home and see your children go hungry and not have anything to give them. Brazil



CWS-Pakistan

Walking for Water

- 1 of every 6 people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water.
- 1 of every 3 people lacks access to improved sanitation.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, just 57% of the people enjoy access to safe water.
- In the 1990s, the number of children killed by diarrhea — the result of unsafe water and sanitation — exceeded the number of people killed in armed conflicts since World War II.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough to those who have too little. President Franklin D. Roosevelt




Marie Varley/CWS

Walking With The World for Sixty Years!

- Founded in 1946, Church World Service stands with impoverished peoples in some 80 countries as they envision and fashion a better future.
- Last year CROP WALKS raised over \$16 million to support the hunger-fighting work of Church World Service around the block and around the world.
- With those resources wells, seeds, tools, and training were provided to African farmers — who are mostly women.
- Emergency medical supplies for hurricane victims in the Gulf States, tents and blankets for Pakistani families devastated by an earthquake, and vocational training for Latin American street children — these are only a few of the ways you are making a difference through your CROP WALK. Thank you!

I want to help when I see children in need. This is a way I can help. By walking. I have to walk. Dorothy "Topsy" Spears, Carlisle, PA — veteran of 18 CROP WALKS, she's raised over \$45,000.

Sources: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) — www.fao.org
Bread for the World — www.bread.org



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

"I was hungry
and you gave
me food..."
Matthew 25:35

You are here 

photo by Paul Jeffrey