

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



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First Baptist Church

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August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>★ It's not too late to sign up for Arise Women's Conference. Send your registration in or call the Church office to get your name on the guest list. Come be a part of this special event!</p>		1	2 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon at 'Ole Man River'	3	4 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	5
<p>6 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Alan Minarcik, preaching</p>	7	8 Mary, Mother of Our Lord	9 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	10	11 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	12
<p>13 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching 12:15 Indoor Church picnic</p>	14	15	16	17	18 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	19
<p>20 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching</p>	21	22	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle	25 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  Deadline for Arise Conference reservations.	26
<p>27 12TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Ms Catherine Chambers, preaching</p>	28	29	30	31	<p>★ It's almost fall and time to make plans. Make sure you plan to be in Church every Sunday this fall.</p> <p>★ Start thinking about the Rummage Sale over the Columbus Day weekend.</p>	



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

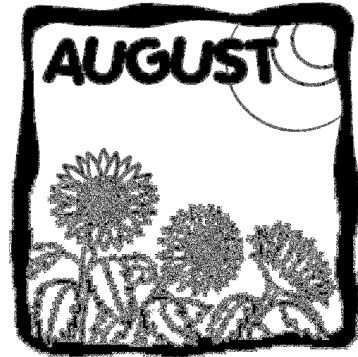
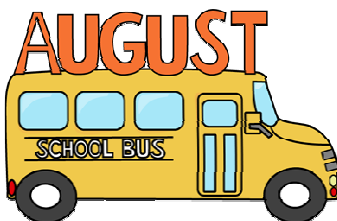


August Birthdays

7	David Ward
11	Michael Baxter
12	Katie Kundl Canterbury
13	Andrew N. Baxter
14	Debbie Boeskin
15	Judy Ward
17	Herb Lewis
19	Thomas Culbreth
26	Neal Jacobs
30	Chris Kundl



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for William Cody, Glenn Richardson, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Michael Baxter, Helen Louise Bowser, John Swindlehurst, Sara Gromniak, 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.



August 2 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch at 'Ole Man River'

August 6 — Sunday — Pentecost 9

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion
Rev. Dr. Alan Minarcik, preaching

August 9 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

August 13 — Sunday — Pentecost 10

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

12:15 PM Indoor Church picnic

August 20 — Sunday — Pentecost 11

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

August 25 — Friday

Deadline for **Arise Women's Conference**

Reservations

August 27 — Sunday — Pentecost 12

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship
Ms 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.

Church Office Hours: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Monday — Friday

716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org

James D. Flood, FWTC, FCSM - Church Administrator and Editor



You heard Tony Campolo speak at the 175th Anniversary banquet. Now you can read some of his popular books. The Church library has acquired a half dozen of his best sellers. They are on display on the library shelves in the Friendship Room.

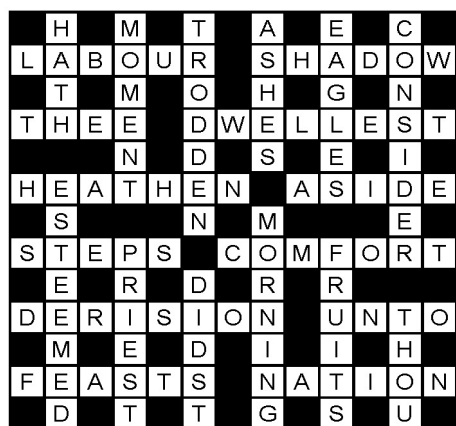
Tony covers many subjects in his writings. One of the favorite books is *How to Follow Jesus Without Embarrassing God*. Take a moment to look through these titles as well as the many others we have.

Summer is a good time to read a good book!



Last Month's Crossword Answers

Lamentations



We welcome Christopher and Cheryl Taylor to our congregation as I had the pleasure of extending the “right hand of fellowship” to them last month. Since then, Chris is on the Trustees and Cheryl has become a star “rummager”. With her help and that of Hazel Baxter, Connie Davis, Marge Bozigar and yours truly, we raised \$442 from our July rummage sale and are looking forward to Columbus Day for a repeat event. Bring in those gently used items anytime and we’ll merge them into the present stock for a giant event in the fall.

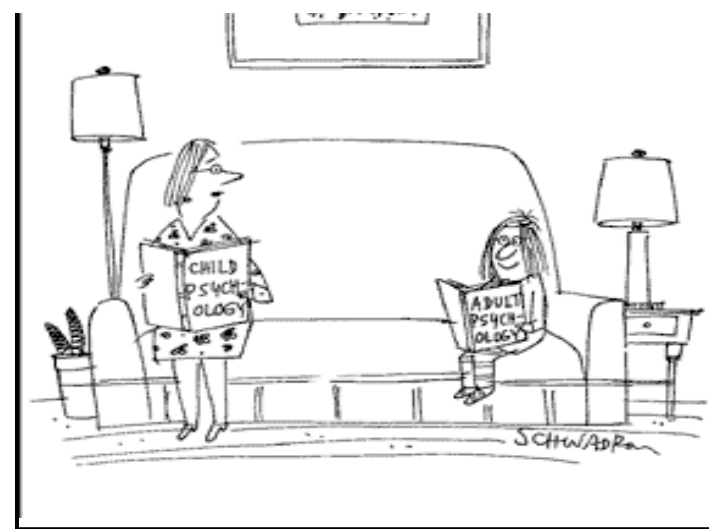
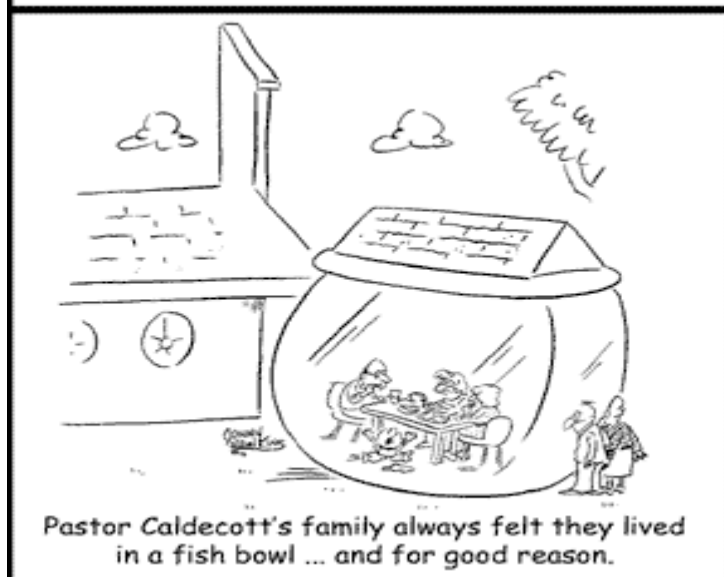
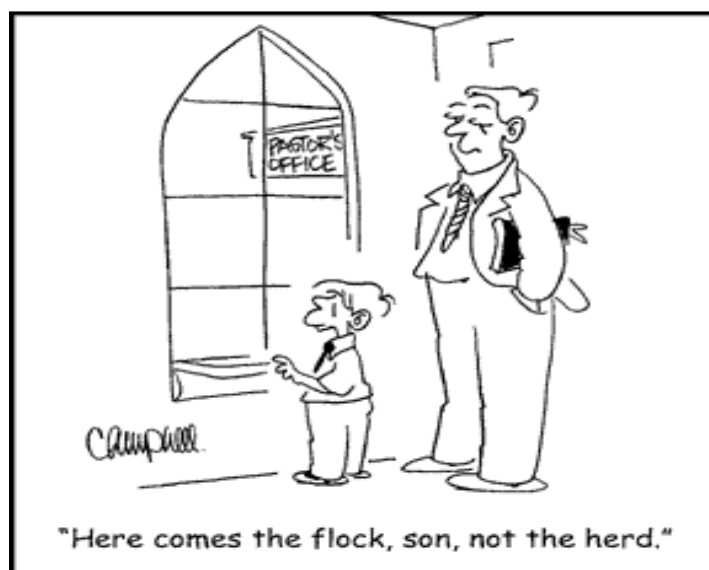
We congratulate Brian Brown on his second IPPY award for “Four Testaments” success. Both Jeannette and Joe Heasley went to NYC to celebrate the event with Brian and Jenny last month. We celebrated with Brian for a big birthday in July.

We also celebrate friendships when families come to church during the summer as we greet travelers from many states. It’s wonderful to meet those relatives we hear about and see on rare occasions from many of our church families. As our prayer list grows longer we realize how connected to each other we are.

The “Arise” conference on women’s ministry with Nicki Mullen takes place in September and as active Christians in Niagara Falls we have an obligation to network with our like-minded city members. Check the flier included in this issue for details and sign up for one day or both days.

Our ice cream social was a pleasant treat as a second Sunday event in July and we look forward to an indoor picnic (NO BUGS!) in August. Inasmuch will celebrate summer at its next meeting in August at “Old Man River” on the Niagara River towards Tonawanda to watch the boats! Join us the first Wednesday of August at 12:15.

Donna Flood,
Moderator



Growing up Overseas Helped Prepare IM's New Short-Term Mission Director



The Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil believes that being raised in African countries and Italy helped form her faith in Jesus Christ.

During that time, her father, Polynice Dorsainvil, was a global servant for United Nations Food & Agricultural Development, which took Sandra Dorsainvil; her late mother, Paulette Dorsainvil; and Sandra Dorsainvil's three siblings to the mission field in Africa. She identifies her upbringing as one of the major influences in preparing her for her latest venture-directing the Short-Term Mission initiative for International Ministries (IM).

Under Dorsainvil's direction, IM's Short-Term Mission staff will invite volunteers to participate in cross-cultural engagements and faith formation through international service opportunities. Short-term mission opportunities will be diverse and support young adult experiences, exploration trips and service work lasting from 10 days to three years.

More than 4,000 volunteers have been involved in short-term mission service through IM in the past four years. They have supported IM global servants in many regions, including Costa Rica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Volunteers have provided medical support in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, taught English in Japan and helped to restore lives after slavery in Thailand, to name just a few examples.

Dorsainvil brings a unique blend of vision, skills and experience to her new post. She's been a parish pastor and a regional associate executive minister with portfolios in mission and stewardship, and she holds Masters Degrees in Rehabilitation Counseling from Boston University (1985) and in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College (2009). She earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Boston University (1984), and it was during her undergraduate years that she became an American Baptist. (Dorsainvil's parents were Roman Catholic.) Upon graduating from Boston College, Dorsainvil says, "I renewed my commitment to the Lord that year. I have had spiritual directors and mentors along the way. They have shown me the humility of Jesus, perseverance, joy and love for humanity."

Dorsainvil notes that all of the work that global servants are doing in their respective environments "speaks to our current concerns in the world." She sees her ministry as an expression of Jesus' own love for the world: "In John 11:35, we read the shortest phrase in the Bible, 'Jesus wept.' I believe Jesus weeps every time we face injustices and don't uphold our responsibility to care for our creation."

Dorsainvil explains, "What appeals to me about short-term mission is that it gives opportunities to everyone to be God's instruments of peace, love and mercy, utilizing their own skills and talents. It provides an opportunity for anyone with a heart for service and compassion to live Matthew 25. The very nature of the phrase 'short-term' allows participants willing to open their hearts, hands and minds to be transformed under God's guidance while they serve for a set time, in a specific setting, alongside a trusted leader who can provide the initial guidance needed for those who are stepping out of their comfort zone for the first time.

"People sitting in the pews and shepherding those in the pews have been called to be God's servants," Dorsainvil continues. "As Christ's followers, we have been called to serve, teach, mend broken bodies and hearts, pray with others, lead, and so on in Jesus' name. As we learn to love one another, grow in our faith and be instruments of peace, we learn to be the light of truth, mercy and hope that Jesus was while on earth. This ministry of service blesses all of us, givers and receivers alike, and is at the core of our Christian faith."

In 2018, short-term mission opportunities will include an exploration trip to Vienna and Prague to gain greater understanding of the refugee crisis and its impact on children; a heritage trip to Liberia and Ghana in support of the first IM missionary at the Vocational School for Girls in Frankadua; and an environmental and eco-justice opportunity in Iberoamerica.

"Working with and leading the Short-Term Mission team is a continuation of my ministry call, my upbringing in African countries and Italy, my desire for interfaith dialogues and my support for better stewardship of God's creation and for treating our brothers and sisters from all walks of life with dignity and respect," Dorsainvil says. "We are all on an Emmaus Walk, and we are called to accompany one another along the way."

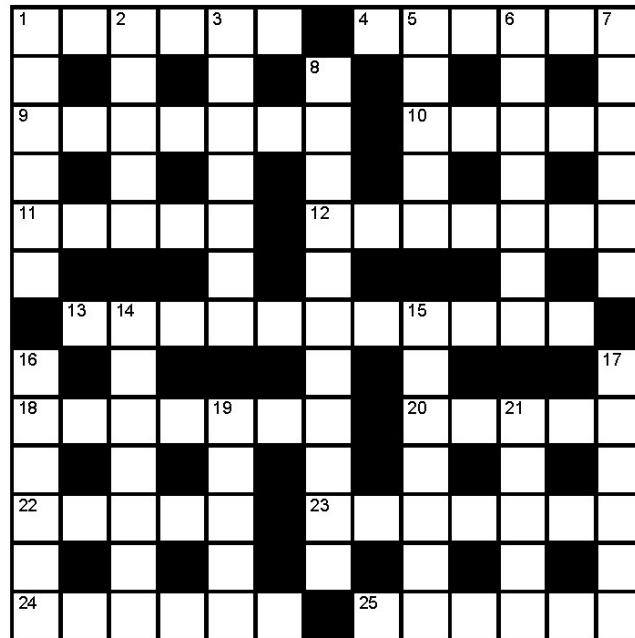
Dorsainvil says that colonial-era attitudes she witnessed in Africa in the 1960s and 1970s taught her much about injustice, grounded her concern for advocacy and guided her in "Jesus' ways of being a change agent for truth, peace and love," ultimately shaping her call to ministry.

Dorsainvil will visit regions, churches, association meetings and small groups via video chat and in person to share and help facilitate continued interest in global mission. She will facilitate trainings and conversations about short-term volunteer opportunities available around the globe.

"Mission is an integral part of faith formation," Dorsainvil says. "With God's guidance and lead, I see short-term mission service opening the doors wider to the mission field as we work collaboratively with IM Vocational Development and all our area directors. We are an inter-generational team, eager to serve and to accompany our many volunteers who are seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ while being better stewards of God's creation. As we integrate the priorities of Responding to the Call, IM's strategic plan, we are in step with what God is asking for us all."

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Ezekiel



Across

- 1 The LORD will make this place a stable for camels. Eze 25:5 (6)
- 4 A container in which incense is burned. Eze 8:11 (6)
- 9 "Then came _____ of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me." Eze 14:1 (7)
- 10 "Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a _____ unto them." Eze 38:7 (5)
- 11 "The fathers have _____ sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?" Eze 18:2 (5)
- 12 "And there was written _____ lamentations, and mourning, and woe." Eze 2:10 (7)
- 13 These were laid on the four tables. Eze 40:42 (11)
- 18 Synonym for clothing. Eze 16:13 (7)
- 20 "Then said he unto me, These waters _____ out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea." Eze 47:8 (5)
- 22 "They brought thee for a present horns of ivory and _____." Eze 27:15 (5)

- 23 "I will give thee the _____ of the mouth in the midst of them." Eze 29:21 (7)
- 24 Five and _____ men had their backs toward the temple and worshipped the sun. Eze 8:16 (6)
- 25 "That thou hast also built unto thee an eminent place, and hast made thee an high place in every _____." Eze 16:24 (6)

Down

- 1 A spoil shall be made of these. Eze 26:12 (6)
- 2 A type of offering. Eze 40:39 (5)
- 3 "Behold, I have made thy face strong _____ their faces, and thy forehead strong _____ their foreheads." Eze 3:8 (7)
- 5 One of the four living creatures had this face. Eze 1:10 (5)
- 6 "Thus saith the LORD GOD; Thou _____ up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." Eze 28:12 (7)

- 7 The captains, rulers and great lords were _____ on horses. Eze 23:23 (6)

- 8 "So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an _____ and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about thee, when I shall execute judgments in thee in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes." Eze 5:15 (11)

- 14 Describes beasts and is one of the four sore judgments on Jerusalem. Eze 14:21 (7)
- 15 "That thou hast also built unto thee an _____ place, and hast made thee an high place in every street." Eze 16:24 (7)
- 16 Ezekiel was this. Eze 1:3 (6)
- 17 "And they shall eat bread by _____, and with care; and they shall drink water by measure, and with astonishment." Eze 4:16 (6)
- 19 The LORD brought forth the people of Israel from this country. Eze 20:6 (5)
- 21 "Heap on wood, kindle the fire, consume the flesh, and _____ it well, and let the bones be burned." Eze 24:10 (5)



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 second photograph:

- ❖ What is happening here? What are they doing?
- ❖ What month and year is it? Where is it?
- ❖ Who is in the picture?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: First Baptist Young Men's Class — Probably late 1920's or early 1930's — Starting front row left: ?; Lionel Banks; Harry Boett; ?; ?; ?; ?; Howard Whitmire. Second row from right: ?; ?; Harold Banks; ?; Don Riter; Neviell Shiffer; Steuart Whitmire; Paul Bash; ?. Back row from right: ?; ?; Bob Wetzel; William Billing; Walter Widdowson; Homer Terryberry. Can you fill in any of the question marks?

A Pastoral Letter from ABCUSA General Secretary Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer

June 16, 2017

Dear ABCUSA Family,

The recent terrorist attacks in England, the apparently politically motivated shooting that took place in Virginia, ongoing debates over how to treat immigrants and visitors to our country, and the struggles of another Baptist denomination to take a clear stand on issues related to white supremacy remind us all that we are living in a violent and divided world that desperately needs to overcome every form of social and political discrimination and search for more just ways to live in harmony. In 2017, American Baptists gladly and forthrightly reassert our fundamental Baptist convictions regarding individual liberty, dignity and respect for all people, regardless of their racial or ethnic heritage, political or religious beliefs, or any other factor. In 1976, the General Board affirmed a policy statement on human rights, which said:

“Baptist history is rooted in concern for conscience and for freedom of individual beliefs, for choice, and for unregimented living whether by religious dogma and institution or by social and political structures. John Bunyan in prison and Roger Williams driven from Massachusetts, reflect commitment to these ideas, as did Martin Luther King, in his witness to human dignity and the rights of minority groups. Resolutions by the American Baptist Churches over the years have particularly sought to reflect the denomination’s basic principles of freedom of thought and belief, the right of dissent, the responsibility to speak prophetically to church and society and support for human dignity and social justice.”

In the past, American Baptists have expressed these convictions in resolutions and statements, which make clear we have consistently opposed every form of racism and discrimination. For example, in 1983, the ABC General Board declared,

“We, as American Baptists, believe that all people are made in the image of God and that the right to human dignity, to be respected and treated as a person without regard to race, is foundational to our faith... Racism, whether individual or corporate, is a sin against God... We affirm the diversity of races and cultures as distinctive aspects of our denomination. We accept each person as a full participant and each race and each culture as valid expressions within the life and witness of the ABC family.”

The statement rejected manifest destiny as “a form of white racism which has affected the way the United States views its role in the world and views immigrants to this country. As American Baptists, we will seek to create a new image for this nation in which the cultures, the contributions, the insights and the abilities of all racial groups are valued.”

We also have clearly stated in the past that American Baptists reject violence as a means of achieving one’s social, religious or political goals. In a Convention resolution opposing racial segregation adopted in 1964 and reaffirmed by the General Board in 1985, we urged our members to engage in “programs of nonviolent direct action” and made clear that only “Christian means must be used to obtain these desired ends.”

With such a rich and diverse set of resolutions and statements, how should we as American Baptists respond to the challenges we face in today's troubled and fractured society? I suggest we not only re-affirm the statements of the past, but resolve to live them out in practical and consistent ways in our individual and congregational spiritual journeys. Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "One of the great tragedies of life is that men seldom bridge the gulf between practice and profession, between doing and saying" (*Strength to Love*, 37). To bring our thoughts and actions in line with our expressed convictions, we must re-engage Scripture and let its message take control of our beliefs, attitudes, emotions and actions. Please consider these as a starting point in such a transformational journey:

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for a person's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:19-20, 26-27)

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:3-7)

As I reflect on these Scriptures, I glean the following challenges to help us all hold fast to our Baptist convictions while also contributing to a more harmonious American civic life:

1. Commit to listen more graciously and with an open mind, especially when we are in conversation with people who hold different views than we do.
2. Reject anger, rudeness, hatred, arrogance, and egotism in our dealings with others. Being prophetic is not compatible with being obsessive, abusive or insensitive.
3. Do not forget that people we disagree with are still human beings, and desire respect, grace and acceptance. The Golden Rule still applies to human relationships.
4. Be patient before responding to situations and people; oftentimes, first reports of an event do not convey the whole truth. Knee-jerk reactions are seldom helpful.
5. Do not assume that one's own position on an issue is the only Christian response to which all others must subscribe. We know only "in part," as Paul says.

As American Baptists, may we, through our words and actions, "let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good deeds" (Matthew 5:16) and be drawn to Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA
lee.spitzer@abc-usa.org



IPPY Awards Ceremony at the *Copacabana* in NYC

A few years ago, about the time I became Scholar-in-Residence at First Baptist Church, I received the IPPY Awards gold medal in the Religion category for my book, *Three Testaments: Tarah, Gospel and Quran*. The IPPYs are not quite the Academy Awards of book publishing, but maybe the Golden Globes.

At First Baptist we then produced the drama *Three Testaments: Shalom, Peace, Salam*, based on that 3T book, a play which is used in university and seminary classrooms, with students usually just reading the parts rather than performing on stage.

Then, to keep the pot boiling, we hosted a book launch for my next book, *Four Testaments: Tao Te Ching, Analects, Dhammapada, Bhagavad Gita* (the scriptures of Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and Hinduism) for students and professors from Toronto and Rochester, folks from the Buffalo Interfaith community and others, including ourselves.

The idea is to find the way to uphold the Christian gospel of the Good News about God's love while, at the same time, promoting mutual respect among the world's religions so we can learn from each other, an important new opportunity for Christians. I don't actually preach on that theme often here, except for a sermon on July 23.

Perhaps I'm in the zone in that regard because lightning struck again, though this time it was just a silver medal for *Four Testaments*, presented in the *Copacabana* in Times Square at the IPPY Gala on May 30, 2017. Jenny and I went down to New York City by train and took in a few Broadway Plays while we were there (*Present Laughter*, *Oslo* and *Come from Away*). But the IPPY Gala was the highlight, especially because we were particularly honored in that two members of First Baptist Church came down to NYC to sit with us and support me in that special evening.

Joe and Jeanette Heasley are pictured above with us at the *Copacabana*. I just want to say what an honor it is to be associated with them and everybody else in this outstanding congregation. Together we contribute to the issues of the world in our time, even while our primary focus is upon the gospel of Christ and the Good News of our salvation.



On Sunday, July 2, 2017, Glenn Richardson's family — from all across the country — joined him in Church for Patriot Sunday and Communion.

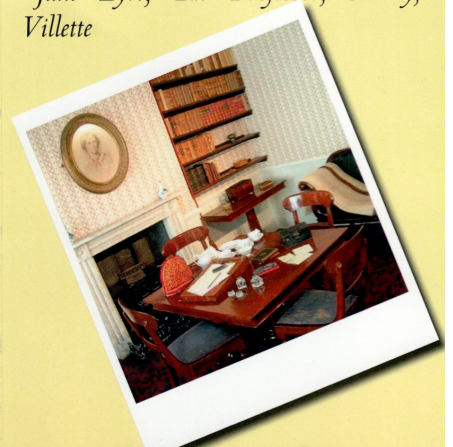


Who knew? Not only does David possess fine organ playing skills, but he is a talented literary writer also. Published last year, his insightful volume covers Charlotte Brontë's family and life, and an analysis of her four novel's: *Jane Eyre* (1847); *Shirley* (1849); *Villette* (1853); and *The Professor* (1857 – published posthumously).

Amplly illustrated in color, this volume of only seventy-four pages makes for fascinating reading. The death of Charlotte's mother and siblings as well as her own death at age thirty-nine, and the ramifications thereof, are explored in some detail.

Our church library has a copy, a gift of the author, and is on the library shelves in the Friendship Room.

Jane Eyre, The Professor, Shirley, Villette



CHARLOTTE
BRONTË'S NOVELS

DAVID ROGERS

ARISE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE LED BY NICOLE C. MULLEN & FRIENDS
CALLING WOMEN BACK TO LIFE



Friday, September 8, 2017 – Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 9, 2017 – Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Sponsored by **First Baptist Church** Niagara Falls

Part of a year of special events planned to celebrate the church's 175th Anniversary

Held at: Four Points by Sheraton Niagara Falls
7001 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY

Open to all women - but seating is limited

Cost: \$165 per person

Registration and full payment due by August 25th

During this multi-denominational, multi-cultural women's conference Nicole C. Mullen and friends will share their personal, down-to-earth journeys, struggles and victories gained through scripture and encounters with Christ.

Nicole is a nationally-known, Dove award-winning singer, songwriter, speaker and ministry leader, known for her songs: "My Redeemer," "Call on Jesus," "Brainwash," "One Touch," "Talk About It," "On My Knees" and the list goes on.

The conference will also include:

- Dinner and Music on Friday evening - Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday

Tickets (cash, check, credit card) can be purchased through:

First Baptist Church, 554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301 (716) 282-4666

Cost does not include overnight stay, but hotel reservations are available at a discounted rate. Overnight stay is not necessary to fully experience the conference!

Contact Kathleen Ordiway with any questions: 716-213-7374 or
kathordway@yahoo.com