

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



VOLUME 70

NUMBER 6

2018

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- ➔ p. 6 & 7 — Network of Religious Communities Banquet
 - ➔ p. 8 — Bible Crossword: Zephaniah
 - ➔ p. 9 — 175th Anniversary History Corner
- ➔ p. 10 — Crepusculum Choir & Rainbow Singers
 - ➔ p. 11 — ABHMS RISE Director
- ➔ p. 12 — ABHMS Receives 9 Communication Award

June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>★ On Sunday, June 3, bring your favorite trowel to church and help plant flowers and bedding plants outside on the lawn and around the tree, sign, and hedges. We want to look beautiful for summer!</p> <p>★ June is going to be International Ministries World Mission Offering month. Read the flier in this month's Tower Topics and the inserts in each Sunday bulletin to learn more about this major missionary offering.</p> <p>★ Remember July 6 & 7 which is Rummage Sale weekend. Bring in your rummage now, M-F 10:00 -2:00 .</p>					1 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	2
3 PENTECOST 2 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Church Flower Planting Party 6:00 First Fruits Family Service	4	5	6 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	7	8 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	9
10 PENTECOST 3 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching	11 Barnabas, Apostle	12	13 7:00 Trustees/ Diaconate Meeting	14  Flag Day	15 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	16
17 PENTECOST 4 10:00 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	18	19	20	21  Summer Begins	22 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	23
24 PENTECOST 5 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. William Thomas, preaching <div>John the Baptist</div>	25	26	27	28	29 Peter & Paul, Apostles 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	30



June Birthdays

- 5 Hank Buchalski
- 6 Eileen Palmer Wrobel
- 7 Jenny Brown
- 9 Connie Davis
- 10 Dorothy Jackson
- 22 Christeen Palmer Salimbene



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Toby Ordiway, Rev. Charles Lamb, Joseph Hoopsick, 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



June 3 — Sunday — Pentecost 2

- 10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
- 12:15 PM Church Flower Planting Party
- 6:00 PM First Fruits Family Service

June 6 — Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch

June 10 — Sunday — Pentecost 3

- 10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Patricia Ludwig, preaching

June 13 — Wednesday

- 7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

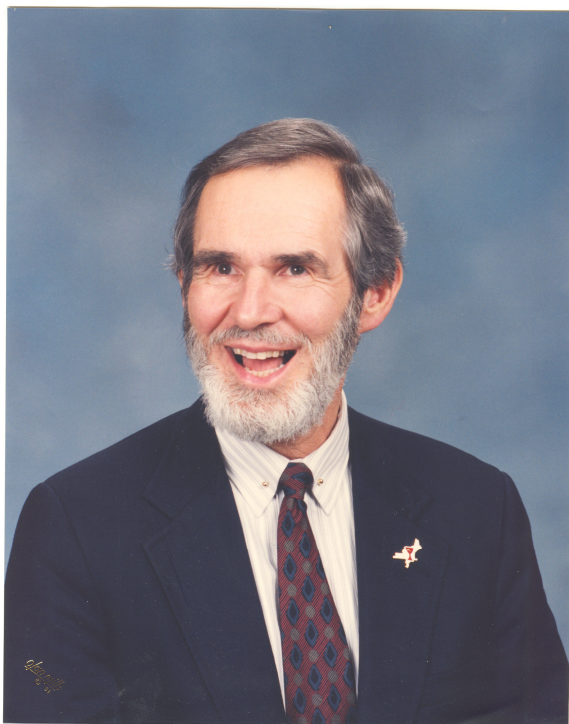
June 17 — Sunday — Pentecost 4

- 10:00 AM Father's Day Pancake Breakfast
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

June 24 — Sunday — Pentecost 5

- 10:00 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. William Thomas, preaching





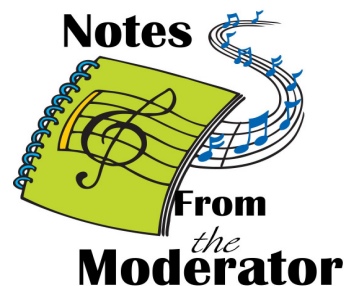
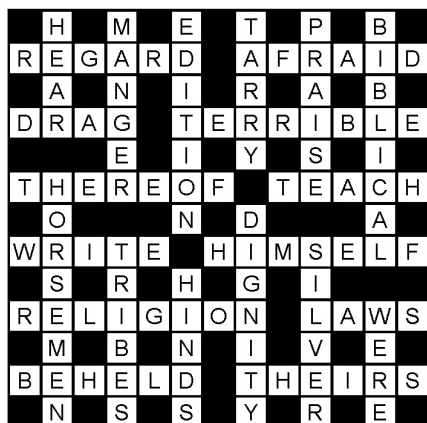
DO YOU RECOGNIZE the latest addition to our “wall of ministers” in the Friendship Room? Of course you know Rev. Charles Lamb!

Take several moments the next time you are in the Friendship Room to look over the many portraits in our ever expanding gallery of ministers who have served and/or preached at First Baptist over the years.

If you happen to have a picture that is not on the wall, please loan it to the Church office so we can print a copy.

Last Month's Crossword Answers

Habakkuk



The Network of Religious Communities that works for the common good throughout the Western New York area awarded the Rev. Brian Brown an award for his writings. Several other interdenominational religious community members received awards at the annual dinner at Samuel's Grand Manner in Clarence in May. Rev. Brown's award is posted on the wall on the porch next to the office. First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls members were present to support Brian at the award dinner.

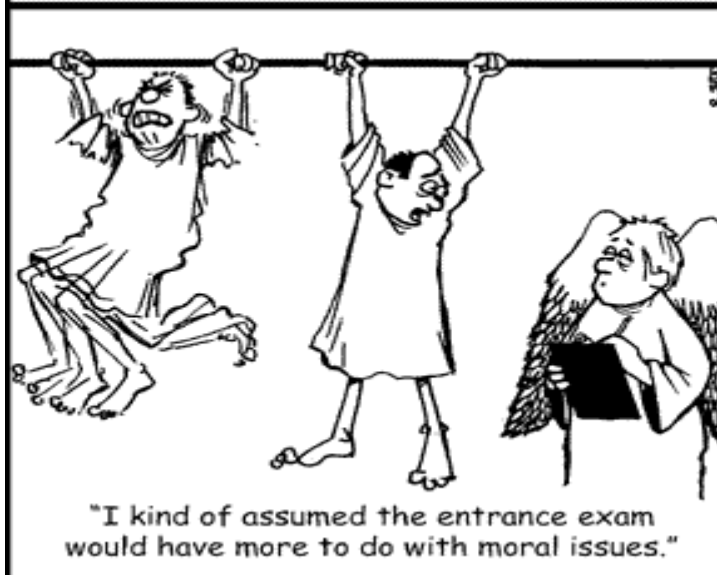
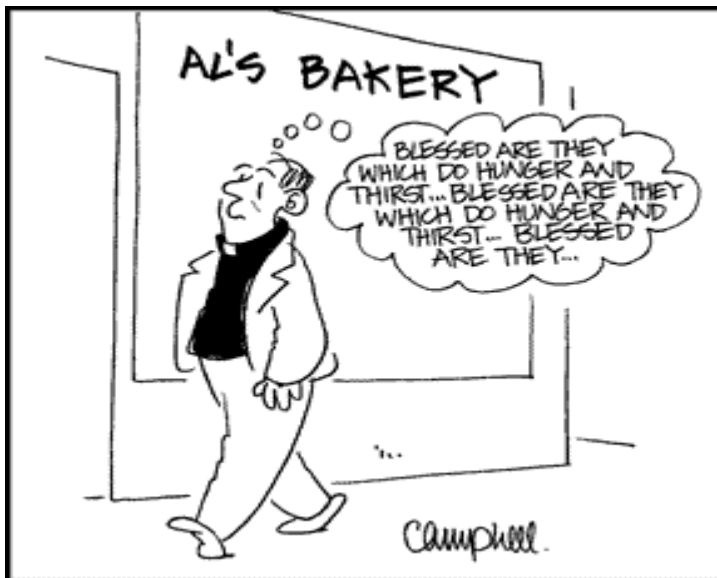
Our mission for June is the World Mission Offering, also an organization working on extending God's love in situations of discord, suffering and conflict. Building Christian relationships and extending our knowledge of other cultures is a way of extending Christian influence around the globe.

The Rummage Sale will be July 6 & 7, Friday 9-3:00 and Saturday 9-12, bag sale. Bring your gently used items to the old scout room in the basement or leave them on the church porch. If you'd like a pick up, call the office at 282-4666 to arrange a time.

Summer Camps are fun for kids. Camp Vick in Sandusky near Arcade is the Baptist Camp that we can give support for children and grandchildren of members to attend. The brochure describing the programs offered can be found on the coffee table in the Friendship Room. "A week at camp is worth more than a year at Sunday School". We support that effort with returns from cans and bottles which you donate to the church. Leave bottles and cans in bags on the porch if you'd like to help out.

Planting flowers around the church sign and shrubs is an after church projects for June 3rd. Bring your favorite trowel and/or camera and watch are garden grow. Don't forget your garden gloves!

Donna Flood,
Moderator



Network of Religious Communities Annual Awards Banquet - May 3, 2018



Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown receives his honoree plaque at the awards ceremony.

The Network of Religious Communities of Western New York is an ecumenical group that sponsors interfaith relationships and charitable activities. Rev. Dr. Brian Brown was one of the award recipients this year for his academic interfaith writings.



↑ Enjoying the banquet ↓





First Baptist Church was well represented at the banquet with a dozen or so attendees from the church. Thanks to St. John's Stevensville United Church for providing the funds for the banquet tickets and back cover advertising and picture of First Baptist Church, through our Book Escrow Fund.

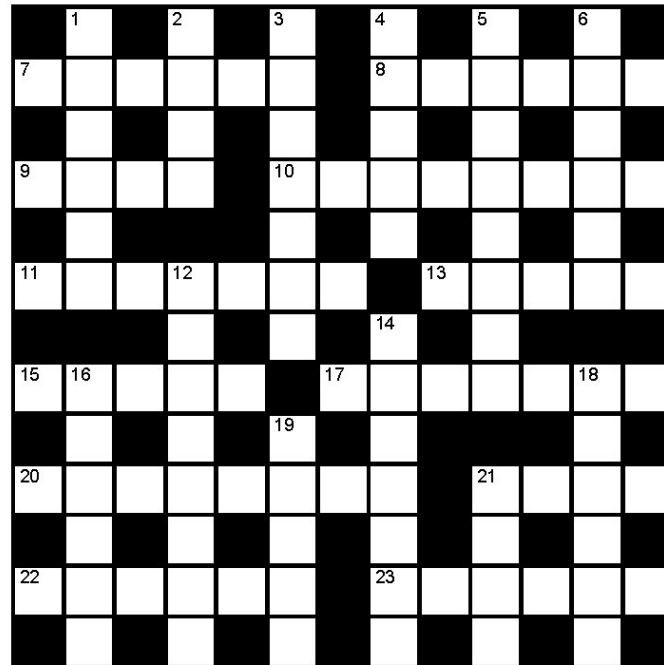
Mingling with the well over 300 people from all religions and backgrounds attending the banquet.



Grace being said before the meal.

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Zephaniah



Across

- 7 Describes assembly. Zeph 3:18 (6)
- 8 God's holy nation. (6)
- 9 The 40 day season celebrated before Easter. (4)
- 10 "For Gaza shall be forsaken, and _____ a desolation." Zeph 2:4 (8)
- 11 "In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, _____ thou hast transgressed against me." Zeph 3:11 (7)
- 13 "I will also leave in the _____ of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord." Zeph 3:12 (5)
- 15 God promises "thou _____ not see evil any more." Zeph 3:15 (5)
- 17 "Every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he _____ not." Zeph 3:5 (7)
- 20 "Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his _____." Zeph

- 21 "For then will I _____ to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent." Zeph 3:9 (4)
- 22 "For I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity _____ your eyes, saith the Lord." Zeph 3:20 (6)
- 23 The leader of Israel who anointed the first two kings: Saul and David. (6)

Down

- 1 The favored son of Jacob who was sold into slavery. (6)
- 2 "He will _____ in his love, he will joy over thee with singing." Zeph 3:17 (4)
- 3 "They shall also build houses, but not _____ them." Zeph 1:13 (7)
- 4 "Her prophets are _____ and treacherous persons." Zeph 3:4 (5)

- 5 Type of offering they willingly offered unto the LORD in Ezra 3:5. (8)
- 6 Jesus healed the ill and cast these out of people. (6)
- 12 Christianity is a _____. (8)
- 14 The physical symbol of being washed clean. (7)
- 16 "In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' _____ with violence and deceit." Zeph 1:9 (6)
- 18 The past tense form of the answer to clue #21 across. (6)
- 19 One of Jesus' disciples who denied him three times and later became a leader among the apostles and early church. (5)
- 21 "And it shall come to pass at that _____, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees." Zeph 1:12 (4)



OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY CORNER

During our 175th Anniversary Year (and beyond) we are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. Last month we had the children's choir. It would truly be unfair to ask you to identify this picture. So, this is Miss Moshier's Missionary Pageant, October 1, 1931. However:

- ❖ Can you name any of the ladies?
- ❖ Where was this picture taken? (This is tricky.)

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: The picture is that of the Junior Choir. We are hot on the trail of names and date. Can you help?



The Crepusculum Choir from Berklee School of Music, Boston, MA, post-concert picture on Sunday, April 15. The 2:00 PM concert was one of the most wonderful programs ever presented at First Baptist. Donna and Jim Flood were asked to be in the photograph, also.



The Rainbow Singers performed at First Baptist Church on Sunday, May 6, 2018, at 2:00 PM. Their performance was in conjunction with the New York State Landmarks Sacred Sites Open House and Architectural Tour held from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM that day.

ABHMS interim director of Chaplaincy serves as RISE mentor



A relationship with a chaplaincy mentee led the Rev. Dr. Patricia Murphy, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) interim director of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries, to official mentorship of 26 Pennsylvania women via the RISE (Renew, Inspire, Support and Empower) Together Mentorship Network, a joint initiative of Union Theological Seminary in New York City and the Women of Color in Ministry (WOCIM) Employment, Mentorship, Advocacy & Education Project. A now-endorsed chaplain whom Murphy was guiding through ABHMS' chaplaincy process recommended Murphy to WOCIM's founder.

"I was just innocently doing what I do all day, every day, and this opportunity was presented," Murphy says. "This [scenario] is the epitome of what RISE is all about. The relationships and the connections make RISE so worthwhile and powerful."

Three mentors in each of eight U.S. regions will collaborate to present a structured curriculum and workshops to their own cohort of women monthly for two years. Serving participants in the Lancaster, Pa., area will be Murphy and two other mentors—the Rev. Dr. Lavette Paige, an adjunct professor of developing leaders at Lancaster Theological Seminary, and Fran Rodriguez, a program officer at Lancaster County Community Foundation.

"Mentoring is a spiritual practice of self-care that calls forth an intrinsic commitment to both personal and vocational growth," says Union's website, quoting the Rev. Dr. Lisa D. Rhodes, RISE Together's executive director and former dean of the chapel at Spelman College, Atlanta. "RISE mentorship is a relational journey of trust and mutual respect with the vision of providing and receiving wisdom for excellence in ministerial leadership."

Murphy points out that RISE is not solely for black women; other women of color participate, too.

RISE helps "women in ministry feel that they have support among their fellow women in ministry—other professionals," she notes. "It helps them to affirm their gifts of ministry. It creates great networking and relationship-building and it helps to further affirm their voice—the voice of women excelling in ministry alongside of men."

ABHMS garners 9 awards from Religion Communicators Council

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 4/6/18)—At a dinner last night during its 2018 conference in Atlanta, the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) presented American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) with nine awards for projects completed in 2017.

“Best of Class” was awarded for the webcast series “[6,100 miles, Seven Days](#): On the Road with ABHMS Disaster Response,” for which Susan Gottshall, associate executive director of Communications, documented the sights and sounds encountered as ABHMS Disaster-response Ministries assessed the damage and connected with survivors and first responders on the ground in hurricanes Harvey-, Irma- and Maria-ravaged areas from Louisiana and Texas to Florida and Puerto Rico.

For “Best of Class” awards, one piece of work from each category is judged to be the best of all submissions in that category. In addition to Gottshall, the award recognized each member of the department for their contribution to the project: Joshua Kagi, social media specialist; Danny Ellison, creative designer; Nadine Hasenecz, senior writer/editor; and Sue Peterman, administrative assistant.

Periodicals

In the “E-magazine” category, Curtis Ramsey-Lucas, editor of The Christian Citizen, received an “Award of Merit” for The Christian Citizen online. In the “E-newsletter” category, Gottshall, Ellison, Hasenecz and Kagi garnered an “Award of Excellence” for the “News and Notes” monthly electronic newsletter.

Graphic Design, Art and Photography

In the “Photography, Digital, Series” category, Gottshall received an “Award of Merit” for the series of photographs published with the hurricane damage-assessment travelogue.

Digital Media

In addition to winning “Best of Class,” the webcast series “6100 Miles, Seven Days: On the Road with ABHMS Disaster Response” received an “Award of Excellence” that recognized Gottshall, Kagi, Ellison, Hasenecz and Peterman.

Gottshall and Kagi won an “Award of Excellence” for a single webcast interview with Jack Cobb, national relief coordinator for American Baptist Men, who was leading a group of volunteers in post-Hurricane Harvey cleanup in Lake Charles, La. The pair also received an “Award of Merit” for a single webcast interview in which the Rev. Laura Ayala, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, spoke of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria.

In the “Individual Blog Entry” category, Ramsey-Lucas received an “Award of Excellence” for “Sauntering in Jordan: Finding Peace and Purpose from Amman to Aqaba,” while Gottshall garnered an “Award of Merit” for “Pieces of Debris, Pieces of Lives,” also about hurricane devastation.

With more than 400 members in professional print and electronic communications, advertising and public relations across the United States, [RCC](#) has been promoting faith perspectives in public discourse since 1929.

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.

