

TOWER TOPICS

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First Baptist Church

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First Baptist Church

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August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>★ August may be summer but there are still activities going on at First Baptist. The month starts off with a weekend of kid's activities. Our second Sunday lunch is the annual church (indoor) picnic.</p> <p>★ On page 12 of this month's Tower Topics is a piece about the book "Beautiful Joe," a wonderful story published by the American Baptist Publication Society – the predecessor to Judson Press. Joe is buried in Beautiful Joe Park in Meadford, Ontario, Canada. The church has a copy of Margaret Saunders book if you've never read it and want to do so.</p>				1	2 10:00 Men's Coffee time  Kid's Lock-in "All About U"	3 10 AM – 3 PM Kid's Conference
4 PENTECOST 8 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching	5	6	7 12:15 Inasmuch lunch	8	9 10:00 Men's Coffee time 	10
11 PENTECOST 9 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Church picnic 6:00 Bible Study	12	13	14 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord	16 10:00 Men's Coffee time 	17
18 PENTECOST 10 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 6:00 Bible Study	19	20	21	22	23 10:00 Men's Coffee time 	24 Bartholomew, Apostle
25 PENTECOST 11 10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching 6:00 NO Bible Study	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 Men's Coffee time 	31



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



LEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Ron and Margie Blakely, William Cody, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Sara Gromniak, Janet Keebler, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country, and all Christians persecuted for their faith.



- August 2 Friday
"All About U"—Kid's Lockin
- August 3 Saturday
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM — Kid's Conference
- August 4 — Sunday — Pentecost 8**
10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
- August 7 — Wednesday**
12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch
- August 11 — Sunday — Pentecost 9**
10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
12:15 PM Church (Indoor) Picnic
6:00 PM Bible Study
- August 14 — Wednesday**
7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting
- August 18 — Sunday — Pentecost 10**
10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection
6:00 PM Bible Study
- August 25 — Sunday — Pentecost 11**
10:00 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Ms Catherine Chambers, preaching
6:00 PM NO Bible Study





How about a new T-shirt for summer ? We have a new shipment of T-shirts with First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, imprinted on them below the "I Love My Church" slogan.

Sizes available are Large and Extra Large (they will shrink a little).

Only \$10.00 each

No shipping or tax.

Call the Church office (282-4666) or see Jim Flood or any trustee after church on Sunday.



THE JULY RUMMAGE AND HOT DOG SALE was held early in the month and the sale of rummage earned the church \$419 and the sale of hot dogs added to the Sunday school coffers. I thank the rummagers who organized and sold the items, Cheryl Taylor, Hazel Baxter, Marge Bozigar and Connie Davis. Katona and Lydia Hoopsick supervised the grilling and selling of the hot dogs which added to the Sunday school budget. The remaining items will go to Community Mission, Capitol Cleaners and the Men's Rescue Mission.

We had storm damage in the spring which has damaged the inside and outside of the church. Jim Flood is dealing with estimates, insurance company adjusters and various repair companies. We wait for another estimate and will continue working with the insurance company to start repairs, hopefully before the next onslaught of bad weather.

Our August Mission collection is for **America for Christ**. The theme is *Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples for Healing Communities*. The process of becoming a leader is a skill one develops with training and experience in motivation and organization. Classes are given to those interested in applying their everyday skills who want to work in a Christian environment in the world that needs help recovering from natural disasters and upheavals.

The flowers and yard at the front of the church are being well kept by Christopher Taylor. The mowing, weeding, trimming and fertilizing of flowers takes a steady, constant hand and we all thank Chris for his efforts. Inside the church, the ramp is finished that goes from the vestibule to the narthex. The staining and finishing is completed thanks to John Borrows.

Sunday School fun continues with the movie night, the hot dog sale, and into August, the lockin and kid's conference. We thank Katona and Lydia, Jen and Eileen for their great ideas and faithful guidance. Stay tuned for more activities, we may be adding a *Daisy Troop* to our offerings. Years ago our church sponsored a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout Troop.

Donna Flood
Moderator

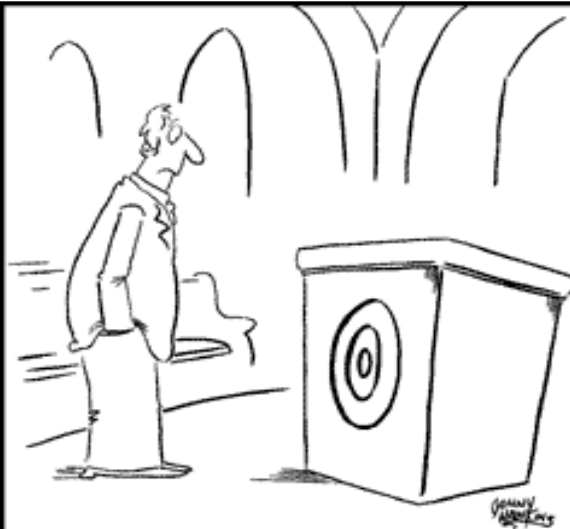
Last Month's Crossword Answers

Ephesians





"Even if you are a Gen X pastor are you sure tattoos and piercings are tax deductible?"



Reverend Strathmore had an uneasy feeling about the design on the new pulpit.



"If this building were in Rome, it would be called a ruin."



"Somehow, I thought you'd trust us here."



"Grandpa sure makes growing old look delicious."



Ironically, Pastor Rudy's congregation was riveted by his recent sermon, until ...

ABHMS releases OGHS funds in response to tornadoes, flooding in Midwest, Central Plains



VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 5/31/19)—American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) has released two rounds of One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) disaster-relief funds, on behalf of American Baptist Churches USA, in response to recent deadly flooding and tornadoes in the Midwest and Central Plains.

To aid in recovery efforts, ABHMS distributed \$10,000 to American Baptist Churches of the Central Region.

“We need to help our people in a tangible way,” says American Baptist Churches of the Central Region Executive Minister the Rev. Dr. Gregg Hemmen, noting that funds will provide for needs that insurance does not cover.

An additional \$20,000 to American Baptist Churches of Nebraska followed \$10,000 that ABHMS released to the region in March as part of a \$25,000 distribution to the Midwest in March.

When ABHMS staff members visited Nebraska in March, American Baptist Churches of Nebraska Executive Minister the Rev. Dr. Robin Stoops reported that two-thirds of the state was flooded.

In addition to home and church repairs, funds are being used to provide temporary housing for those who have been displaced. The region, Stoops says, is relying on “local congregations to identify those most in need.”

ABHMS is also in the process of releasing funds to American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region Area 5 in response to the tornadoes that touched down in Eldon, Mo., and Jefferson City, Missouri’s capital.

“Jefferson City was hit pretty hard,” says the Rev. Muriel L. Johnson, regional associate minister of American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region. “We have numerous ministry partners who have been reaching out for help, and we are bracing for flooding of the Mississippi River that is likely to occur in the St. Louis metro area.”

How you can help

Please pray for relief efforts in the affected regions.

You can donate to OGHS for tornado relief and continue to give to OGHS for flood relief. Donations can be made via your church, by credit card online at abhms.org > Give Now, or by mailing a check to the attention of Leda Carter at American Baptist Home Mission Societies, 1075 First Ave., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Make checks payable to “ABHMS” and write “OGHS-General Tornadoes” or “OGHS-2019 Midwest Floods” on the comment line. To ensure that your church receives credit for your gift, write the church name on your check or, if giving online, in the “comment” box.

One hundred percent of your donation will be allocated to relief efforts; no funds are retained for administrative costs.

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.

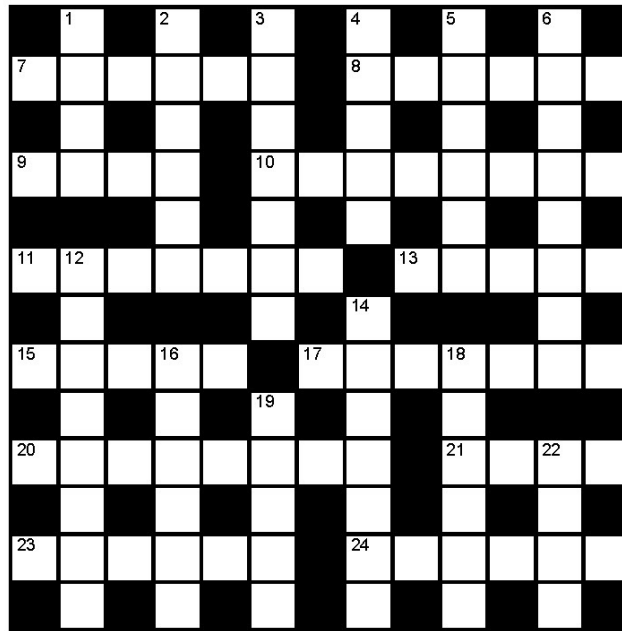
American Baptist Home Mission Societies partners with American Baptists to promote Christian faith, cultivate Christ-centered leaders and disciples, and bring healing and transformation to communities across the United States and Puerto Rico.

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.



Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Philippians



Across

- 7 Synonym for greet. Phil 4:21 (6)
- 8 "If by any means I might _____ unto the resurrection of the dead." Phil 3:11 (6)
- 9 Paul asked that the Philippians be of one _____. Phil 2:2 (4)
- 10 Paul lists out his qualifications and describes himself as a member of this Jewish group. Phil 3:5 (8)
- 11 "... But now much more in my _____, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil 2:12 (7)
- 13 Paul wrote Philippians. This is another New Testament writer. (5)
- 15 "For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your _____." Phil 2:20 (5)
- 17 The word that Paul uses to describe his expectation and hope. Phil 1:20 (7)

- 20 "So that my bonds in Christ are _____ in all the palace." Phil 1:13 (8)
- 21 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark _____ which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." Phil 3:17 (4)
- 23 The baby Jesus was laid in this. (6)
- 24 The Hebrew name for God. (6)

Down

- 1 Who was the son of Shamer in 1 Chron 6:46? (4)
- 2 Jesus is able to "_____ all things unto himself." Phil 3:21 (6)
- 3 "Not that I speak in _____ of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil 4:11 (7)
- 4 "And _____ stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel." 1 Chron 21:1 (5)

- 5 "Let nothing be done through _____ or vainglory." Phil 2:3 (6)
- 6 Christ was made "in the _____ of men." Phil 2:7 (8)
- 12 Judas' act of _____ led to the capturing of Christ. (8)
- 14 One of the gospel writers. (7)
- 16 "Do all _____ without murmurings and disputings." Phil 2:14 (6)
- 18 Paul instructed on being blameless "in the midst of a crooked and perverse _____." Phil 2:15 (6)
- 19 Paul asks the Philippians to imitate what they have "learned, and received, and _____, and seen" in him. Phil 4:9 (5)
- 22 Beware of this. Phil 3:2 (4)

OUR HISTORY CORNER



We are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. Read the answer below to last month's picture. This month is tougher than some. Do you know who and when and what?

- ❖ Who is in the picture?
- ❖ What was the occasion?
- ❖ When was the picture taken?
- ❖ Where was the picture taken?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: 1966 portrayals: Left to right: Mrs. Melvin (Florence) Martin; Mrs. Warren (Cecile) Reysen; Mrs. Robert (Christine) Steele.

America for Christ 2019

They Gave Themselves to God and to Us

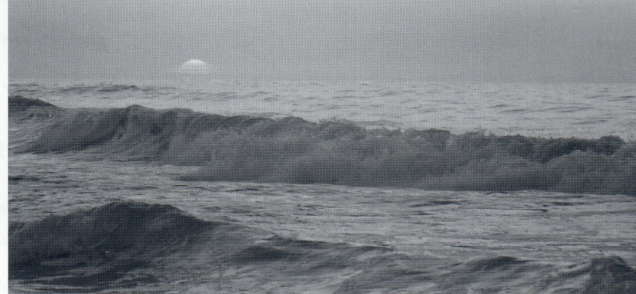
By the Rev. Dr. Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr.

Discipleship, stewardship, giving and offerings aren't exactly listed as the "Top 10 Topics of Church Life." It's not that we don't understand the necessity and value of our giving; we would just rather not talk about it, let alone be challenged to actually give.

The Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians expresses Paul's deep appreciation to the Corinthians for their gift to his ministry. They gave out of their need and understood the value and the magnitude of their generosity.

And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 8:5 (NIV)



The text makes it clear that "They gave themselves first of all to the Lord." When we give, it helps to first give ourselves to God unreservedly.

When Christ is in the forefront of our giving, it places our act of stewardship in proper perspective. 1 Chronicles 29:14 reminds us that "All things come from you, and of your own have we given you" (NRSV).

When we give to relevant institutions like American Baptist Home Mission Societies, we are not only giving in a way that has eternal value but also to that which has multiplied and multifaceted importance. Consider that when we give ourselves to the will of God, our talents and treasure

follow. To be sure, the Philippian Church was neither the largest nor the grandest; however, their understanding of the significance of missions and generosity carries them to the top of the list.

"My friends, we can't afford to let the church go under," I spontaneously said a few months ago, while preparing to pray over the Sunday morning offerings at Cathedral International.

I meant this statement with every fiber of my being. In these days in which more time is spent with iPads, iPhones and iPods than with the "I AM;" in which we would rather text than talk; and in which the "Nones" are growing at a faster pace than the Christian affiliated, we are reminded that we have a charge to keep. And maintaining the financial stability of a church or missional organization is part of the charge.

Growing churches are tithing churches, and tithing is a bedrock principle of the economy of God's kingdom. Churches that emphasize the principle of tithing recognize the sovereign rule of God over every dimension of life, including the material and financial.

When we tithe or give offerings to a church or missions program, we acknowledge God as the creator and owner of all things and as the One who, alone, is worthy of all our praise, love and devotion. Giving helps us to keep our priorities straight and our focus sharp by constantly reminding us from where our strength and provision, power and prosperity come and to whom we are accountable for our stewardship.

The act of giving deliberately has great value. Giving, stewardship and serving become much easier when we first commit ourselves to the will of God by the power of the Holy Ghost!



The Rev. Dr. Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr. is senior pastor at Cathedral International, Perth Amboy, N.J.

A Note from Carmella Jones

In my distress, I cried out to the Lord; I called to my God for help. God heard my voice from his temple; I called him for help, and my call reached his ears. Psalms 18:6

I never imagined I would be standing in front of a classroom of Hungarian children teaching English classes by myself. However, to my dismay for eight weeks I was a solo English teacher in a special needs school. The only other adult who speaks English at the school is the first-grade teacher. I was responsible for 15 classes a week grades 1st – through 8th. I am not a “teacher” by a professional education but by God’s grace and favor. I can confidently share with you, I have truly been stretched and encouraged in my call to serve children with disabilities in Hungary. God’s generosity towards me is amazing and I can truly say He heard my cry.

I felt so unprepared! Yet, somehow, I had a feeling of being fully surrounded by a shield of divine grace and the prayers of so many who knew my challenge. My entire life was overwhelmed with the responsibility of lesson planning in the evening. Teachers are required to gather so much information to effectively manage and monitor a class. I didn’t have a lesson planning sheet. The ones on the internet didn’t make much sense to me. But God brought back to my remembrance the nursing education form plans that I used to submit to our nursing education department for nursing education credits. So I created my own lesson plan sheet with God’s guidance. Daily I had a conversation with my former teaching partner about the learning needs of each class. Then, I needed to learn how to teach the lessons and most of the time I had to turn to YouTube- she’s my new best friend. After the lesson plans were written I knew what and how I was going to teach. Many parts of the lesson need to be translated into Hungarian! I don’t speak Hungarian well enough to translate into English! So, you are guessing correctly, I then had to spend time with “Google Translate”!

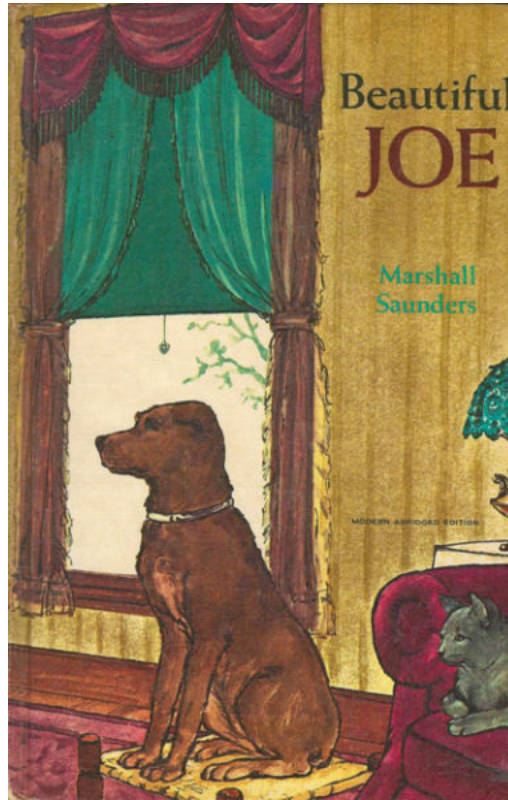
It was hard, but I also knew I was not operating in my own strength or natural disposition. Anyone who knows me knows I go to bed early. Most nights, I was up till after midnight in preparation to teach my classes. During those two months, I wish I could tell you I didn’t whine and cry, but I did, usually around midnight. Don’t judge me! Yet, each morning I felt rested and wore a heartfelt smile on my face. This is my second year at Pannonhalmi school. The good news is I know all my children, all 100 by name and together we hold a strong commitment to succeed. They were working as hard as I was to understand be understood. They were taking tests written by my former partner teacher and they were passing!!!!

It’s in difficult time that we often see what God has been up to in our lives. I was praying for a replacement teacher and praying for my former teaching partner who was out on medical leave. I knew the seriousness of her health concern, I wasn’t surprised when she told me she would not be released to return to work this school year. All I could think about was it’s April -- where can a teacher possibly be found?

I believe that God wants us to come honestly with our concerns. I sat down, prayed and had a very long cry. I couldn’t believe when I was able to say, God even if you don’t send another teacher, I believe that with your grace, I can make it till the end of this school year. God heard my prayers.

I joyfully share with you, God sent another teacher! On the morning of our first meeting, I smiled when I opened my "Hungarian" word of the day and the word was "csapat", which means “team”. I considered it a God-smile and a reminder that God walks with us into the details. He knows what we need. My new partner teacher says she felt God’s smile in my greeting, “I’ve been praying for you”. We have been together five weeks and school is going to be over in a few days. Am I grateful? You better believe I am!

‘Beautiful Joe’: teaching compassion for more than a century



Editor's Note: Animal lovers have embraced the book "Beautiful Joe" for more than a century. The book was published by the American Baptist Publication Society, a predecessor of Judson Press, the publishing ministry of American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). A park that honors the book's namesake and author recently received an award that may further the cause of animal advocacy and the Biblical imperative to care for all living creatures.

By the Rev. Dr. Cassandra Carkuff Williams

In 1903, the American Baptist Publication Society published a fictionalized “autobiography” of a bull terrier/fox terrier mix named “Joe.” The children’s book “Beautiful Joe”—written by Margaret Saunders under the pen name “Marshall Saunders”—told the true story of Walter Moore rescuing a dog who had been abused and nearly killed by his owner, a miller named William Moore.

The story—originally a winning entry to a competition sponsored by the American Humane Education Society—sold more than 7 million copies in 10 languages worldwide in the three decades following its initial publication. Its success led Saunders to say, “I have had the honor of leading the old Ontario dog around the world on a chain of translations and rejoice in the report that he has become quite a propagandist for humanitarianism.”

With the publication of “Beautiful Joe” as well as “Animal Land” in 1925, American Baptists were continuing a biblically grounded commitment to animal welfare that has a long—and oft-overlooked—history within Christianity. Many Christian thinkers from Clement, Chrysostom and Francis of Assisi to Birgitta of Vadstena, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon and C.S. Lewis held that other-than-human-animals have intrinsic value and are loved by a Creator who requires human beings to treat them with kindness. While these theologians approached the topic from various perspectives, all grounded their convictions in the witness of scripture, which makes it clear that God cares for all living creatures.