

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



VOLUME 73

NUMBER 9

2021

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 4 — Our Moderator Writes
- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
 - ➔ p. 6 — Dr. Brown Writes
 - ➔ p. 7 — Rev. Kath Writes
- ➔ p. 8 — Sunday School Kickoff
- ➔ p. 9 — World Mission Offering
 - ➔ p. 10 — CWS Impact Report
- ➔ p. 11 — International Ministries
 - ➔ p. 12 — Just for Kids
- ➔ p. 13 — Our History Corner
- ➔ p. 14 — Impact of Your Giving

September 2021

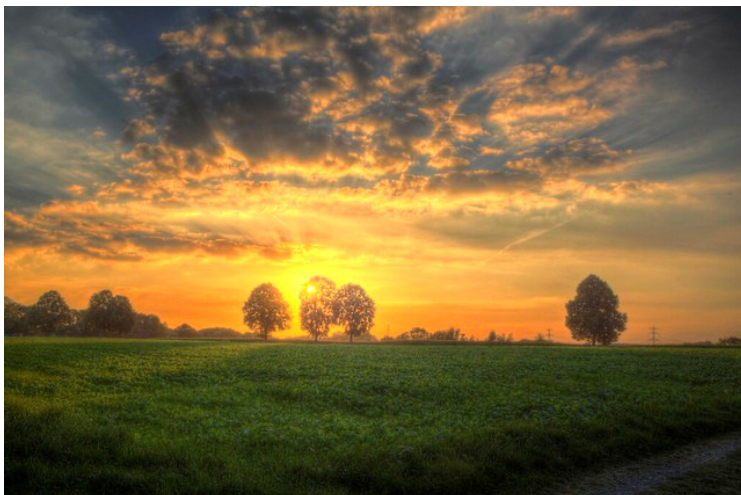
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✝ September is the start of Sunday School and other church activities. As the pandemic with the delta variant continues to complicate our lives, we will follow the guidance from the CDC.</p> <p>✝ The World Mission Offering is in September. Our mission giving has increased in 2021. For a church of our size, we do very well.</p>			1	2	3	4
5 PENTECOST 15 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	6 	7	8	9	10	11
12 PENTECOST 16 – RALLY SUNDAY 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting 	13	14 Holy Cross Day	15 	16	17	18 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Sunday School Meeting and Fun Time
19 PENTECOST 17 RALLY SUNDAY 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	20	21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	22  Autumn Begins	23	24	25
26 PENTECOST 18 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	27	28	29 Michael and All Angels	30		

September Birthdays

21 Paulette Gromniak
29 Alisa Boeskin Salas



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Hazel Baxter, William Cody, 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.



Sept. 5 — Sunday — PENTECOST 15

Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

Sept. 12 — Sunday – PENTECOST 16

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
12:15 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

Sept 18 — Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM
Sunday School Kickoff and fun

Sept. 19 — Sunday — PENTECOST 17

RALLY SUNDAY

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday personal items collection for Heart, Love & Soul.

Sept. 26 — Sunday —PENTECOST 18

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching



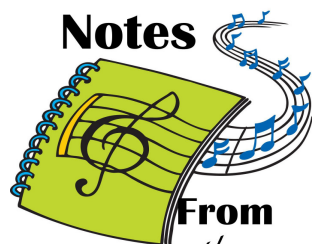


BUCHALSKI - Carol M.
(nee Whitmire)



Age 87, of Kenmore, NY, passed from this life on August 6, 2021. Born on February 20, 1934 in Niagara Falls, NY, she was the daughter of the late Howard and Marjorie (nee Jugle) Whitmire. On September 19, 1953, Carole married Henry J. Buchalski in the former Our Lady of the Rosary Church. In addition to her beloved husband of over 67 years, Mrs. Buchalski is survived by three daughters, Susan (John) Petrozzi, Peggy (Jeffrey) Trethewey and Judith (Brian) Morrissey; grandchildren, Adriane (James) Salerno, John (Allison) Petrozzi, Shauna (Gerald) Pucillo, Alexandra Trethewey, Julie Trethewey, Alaina (Michael) Pavelko and Carolyn (Anthony) Picitti; great-grandchildren, Leah, Julia, Anthony, Julian, Jorie, Lillian, Kathryn, August and Brendan; a brother, Roger (Sue) Whitmire and several nieces, nephews and cousins. The family will be present on Tuesday, from 6-8 PM, at the OTTO REDANZ FUNERAL HOME, 2215 Military Road, Niagara Falls, NY (716-297-9007), where Carole's Funeral Service and Life Celebration will be held on Wednesday, August 11th, at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Kathleen Ordiway officiating. Prayers of committal and interment will follow in Niagara Falls Memorial Park Cemetery, Lewiston, NY. In lieu of flowers, memorial offerings may be made to First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls. Professional arrangements are under the care of the Goodlander family. Share condolences and view her tribute video at GOODLANDERCARES.com.

Notes



From the Moderator

PLANNING FOR FALL HAS STARTED. We welcome back the Brownies and Daisies and introduce a Juniors group. Both will meet at church and happily include new members. Scouting was a big part of our past and now we can all look forward to their involvement in our future. Call the office to contact leaders.

As the Pandemic is still with us, we are observing all the CDC protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy. We've been back to regular services for over a year and know the protocols work to maintain our general health and most of our programs.

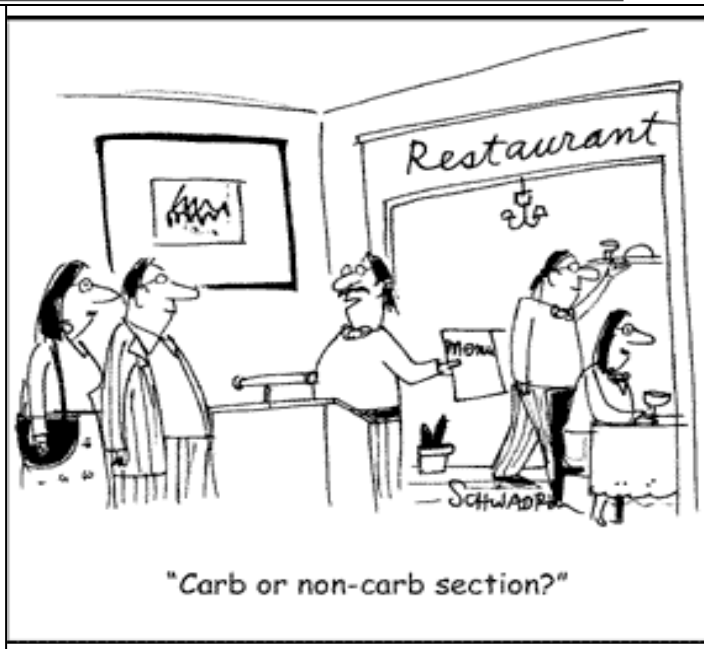
I thank all who donated to our successful Rummage Sale which netted over \$500 for our general budget and repairs. The remainder of the sale items will be donated to a variety of Niagara Falls charities and the goal is to clear out the gym for some uses. It's a very difficult room to keep clean from clutter and debris. We should all thank Chris and Cheryl Taylor, Connie Davis, Lydia Hoopsick and yours truly for set up, sale and clean out.

Our mission for September is World Mission and the fliers will be in our bulletins soon. Our local missions, Heart, Love and Soul received 6 or 7 bags of cleaning products and kid friendly foods in August, and Community Missions received select items from our Rummage Sale.

Projects for memorial gift funds are being named and investigated for cost, effectiveness and operation. If you have suggestions see Rev. Kath or Jim Flood. The funds being used are given in memory of our members who have passed. In past issues some items have been described and named. Baptists aren't big on labeling items, but they are dedicated on All Saints Day in November to remember our loved ones and dedicate them for the good of the congregation.

Saturday, September 18 at 10 AM is the Sunday School Kickoff. Come and join in the fun!

Donna Flood
Moderator



Creation Ex Nihilo

Some of us have been enjoying discussions of theological concepts, but the real purpose of the study of theology is to show how what we believe can be applied to how we live. I promised our editor I would try to do something this month with the doctrine of *Creation Ex Nihilo*. This is the teaching that by God's action (energy), the universe came about miraculously through "Creation from Nothing."

Every now and again we meet someone who has trouble believing because they think the religion conflicts with science. The opposite is the case when we understand each correctly. St. Augustine established that from the religious side when in the year 450 he wrote about *Creation Ex Nihilo* in his book *De civitate Dei (The City of God)*. He was confirmed in 1905 from the scientific side in the journal *Annalen der Physik* where Albert Einstein wrote an article called *Does the Inertia of a Body Depend Upon Its Energy Content?* In it he published what became the most famous equation in the world, $E=mc^2$ or "Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared." On the most basic level, the equation says that energy and mass (matter) are interchangeable; they are different forms of the same thing.

Scientists are all practically united in the belief that the universe began with a "Big Bang" about 14 billion years ago, and spread out over various epochs, which the Bible poetically calls "days" (or "yoms," meaning "times" in Hebrew). The question is, "What existed before the Big Bang?" Scientists say, "Nothing, that we know of." Which brings us back to Augustine, "creation out of nothing" and to Einstein who posits that it was no "thing" but an explosion of energy which turned into matter (and can turn back in to energy when we split the atom). That is the best science can come up with, ... that energy from somewhere turned into matter. That Source, whatever it was, is what we call God.

And why did God create? Science does not touch that one, but, again, from our experience, God creates simply because He loves what He wills to create. It is in God's nature, and we are made in God's image (*imago dei*) according to Genesis 1: 27. So now we get to the application of the doctrine in life. If we are made in God's image, that means among other things that we are made to be creative. We don't have to create "from nothing;" God has blessed us with raw materials of our own. But from making a bed to cooking a meal or building a house, everything we do is to be done well, attractively, healthily and usefully. Even in palliative care at the end of life, one can offer a kindly word or a smile of blessing for the caregiver. When that cannot happen, life is over, even when we are walking around seemingly well.

If God creates to have something to love, someone to please, then those who are like God should please God in their actions. There is danger in imagining that if you work yourself to death you will both please God and prosper. This "protestant work ethic" is for another month, but keep purposefully active.



Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, Scholar-in-Residence at First Baptist Church in Niagara Falls, NY

Back to School

School starts this month. Parents, grandparents and students, too, have a lot on their minds. The kids are thinking about their classes. How hard will they be? Will they get good grades? Will their friends be with them this year? Will they like their teachers? Parents and grandparents are hoping the kids do well, that they will make good decisions, that their minds will soak up everything they can. On all of our minds is how safe our children will be this year. Will classes be held normally? Will anyone else get sick? Will they have to go back to at-home learning?

So, we all pray for our students, their teachers, the bus drivers, the cafeteria staff, the maintenance crew, the administrators. School as we know it will probably never be the same – safety protocol has changed, both because of the Covid virus as well as so many other horrible things that have happened to and around our children.

But school has always been this amazing opportunity to learn great things, to go on adventures, to become more than we ever dreamed possible, to make lifelong friends, to create our futures by absorbing everything that we can possibly absorb! Our school memories are filled with happiness, and laughter, and fear over tests.

Proverbs 1:1-5 says, *For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young – let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill ...*

And so we keep learning. When we're done with pre-school, we don't look to our parents and say, "Well, that's that." Same goes with kindergarten, middle school and high school. Some of us continued to college or went on to learn a trade. But did we stop learning? No, we keep learning our whole lives through.

As you probably know, I love to study the Bible. Not just read it, but take it apart to see what the scripture says to me, says to the Church, says to our world. I want to know what God intends us to learn from His Word. I want to become the best me that I can be and I want to make a difference in this world, with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Philippians 4:9 – *Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in men, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Proverbs 9:9 - *Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.* We are all to continue in our studies! No matter our age, no matter what's going on in our lives, we are to continue to learn.

Proverbs 22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.* We are to take what we learn and share it with our children. A friend who has since passed, used to worry about her children, but she would always quote this passage, knowing that what they had been taught about Jesus Christ by both her and the church would stay with them. It was something that she continued to embrace, praying for her children daily.

Psalms 32:8 – *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.* If every decision we make, every word that is uttered from our mouth, comes from what Scripture directs us to do and say, we will grow closer to God and become more like Jesus Christ every day.

Romans 15:4 - *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we have hope.*

Open your Bible and go on an adventure. Become more than you ever dreamed possible. Make the most amazing life-long friend in Jesus Christ. Create your tomorrows by absorbing every word from Scripture. Be filled with happiness, laughter and joy as you realize that when Jesus Christ is your Savior, there is nothing to fear.

And pray for students and school staff as they begin another school year.

Rev. Kath

COME ONE COME ALL!
LET'S CELEBRATE FALL AT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF NIAGARA FALLS

SUNDAY SCHOOL
STARTING POINT
KICKOFF

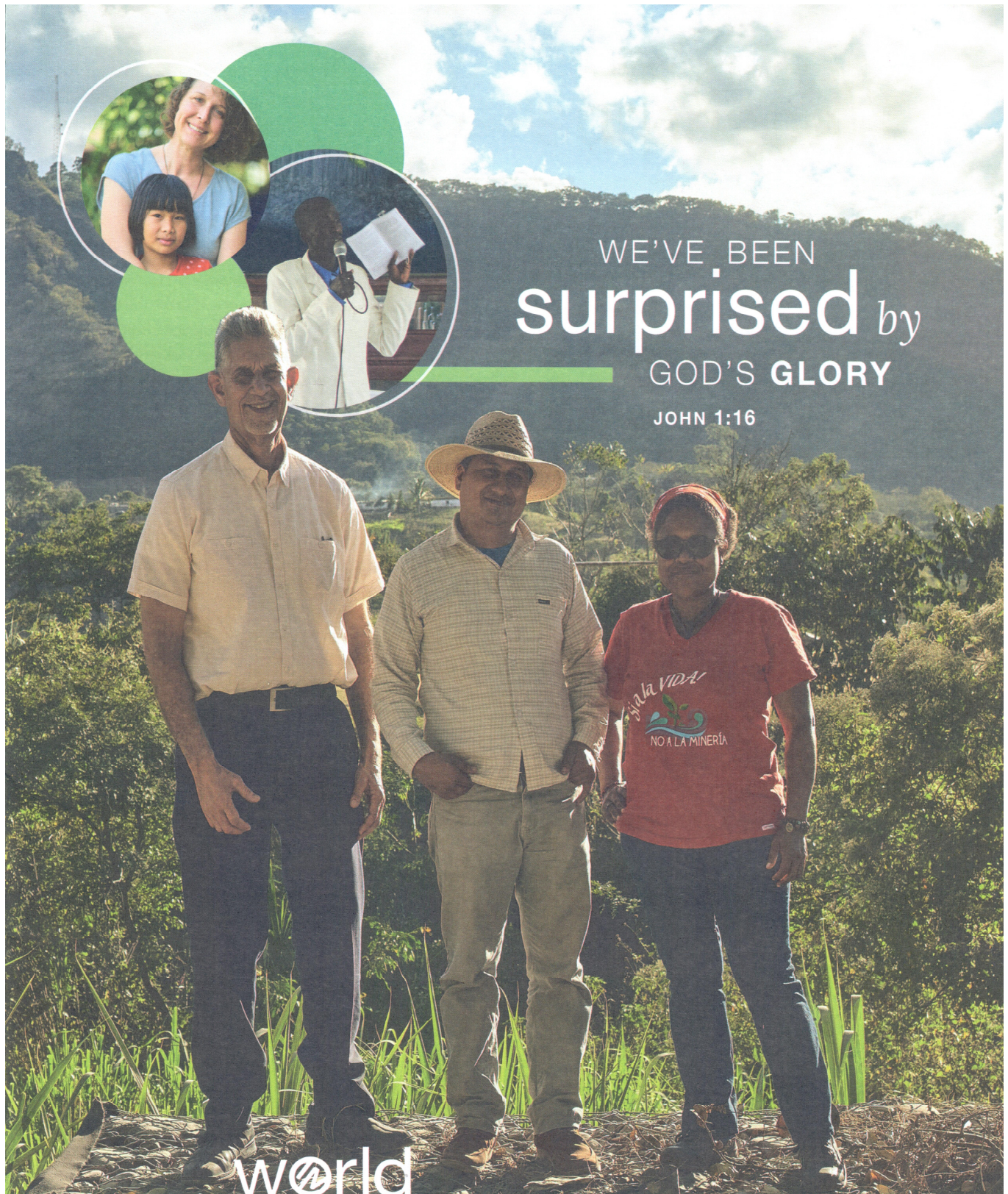
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

10:00AM-2:00PM

554 MAIN STREET, NIAGARA FALLS

GOD, GAMES, FOOD & FUN!





WE'VE BEEN
surprised by
GOD'S GLORY

JOHN 1:16

world
mission
offering 2021

PRAYER GUIDE

international
ministries



"We love to reach out and help those locally but we also love to reach out to organizations like CWS who in turn reach out to those around the world... We as a church want to make tangible differences for those in need. It's hard to know what impact you can make around the world so through this, we know we are helping those who have been displaced, are refugees, or disaster victims and when you have that helpless feeling during these times, I can look at what CWS is doing and can say, 'hey, I can support that!'"
— REV. LUKE HYDER, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EVERETT, WA



KITS AND BLANKETS

IMPACT REPORT JANUARY - JUNE —2021—

23,610
blankets



1,380
school kits



800
emergency
cleanup
buckets



7,500
hygiene kits



"Volunteering for Church World Service as a Kit Depot Coordinator brings me joy! I enjoy meeting and talking with the other kit donors who are involved with CWS. I am always impressed seeing all of the faithful donors and many kits they assemble each year. It really is amazing and astonishing—so thank you!"
— PHYLLIS METZ, CWS KIT DEPOT COORDINATOR
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ZELIENOPLE, PA

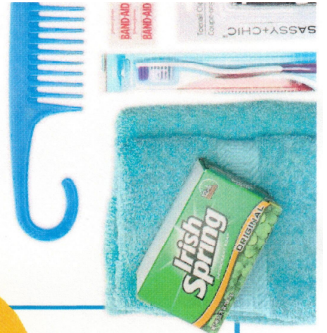


PHOTO CREDITS: BLANKETS: CWS, SEAN HAWKEY | BUCKETS: PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, CRAIG THOMPSON/DISCIPLE DESIGN | HYGIENE KITS: MID-OHIO FOOD COLLECTIVE, BOAT PEOPLE SOS-HOUSTON | SCHOOL KITS: CWS, COURTESY AMY EDELMANN



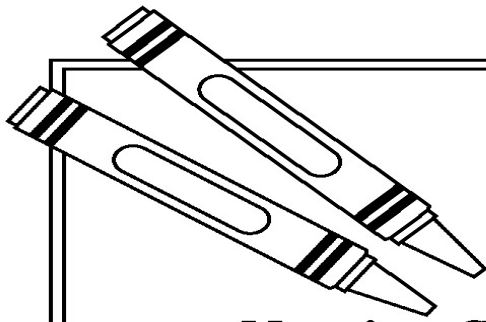
PHOTO: Rev. Toya Richards

International Ministries endorses Rev. Toya Richards to serve as a global servant in South Africa

Rev. Toya Lynn Richards of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been endorsed to serve as an International Ministries (IM) global servant in Cape Town, South Africa. She will serve as a teacher and professor at the Cape Town Baptist Seminary (CTBS), a ministry of IM partner the Baptist Union of Southern Africa.

Drawing upon her extensive career and experience in print journalism and communications, Rev. Richards will teach intermediate to advanced English language skills and research methodology, preparing students to meet the demands and requirements for seminary studies. Rev. Richards will also teach biblical peacemaking and be involved in community initiatives through the CTBS Center for Biblical Justice.

Rev. Richards earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Western Kentucky University and an M.Div. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry program at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She worked as a communications specialist with the Alliance of Baptists (Raleigh, North Carolina) and was director of communications for the Office of the General Assembly with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville, Kentucky.



Just for KIDS

Here's a Story of a "Thankful Bunch."

We can rejoice and give thanks to God, just as many thankful people did in Bible times. Use the list of names to fill in the blank lines, and then use the leaf code to complete the verse.

Names: Elijah, Naaman, Hannah, paralyzed man, Jairus, Moses, Rahab, Mary & Martha



Led his people through
the Red Sea.



Jericho fell, but she and
her family were saved.



Her prayer was heard
and she gave
her son to God.



Ravens brought him food.



Cured of his leprosy,
he worshiped God.



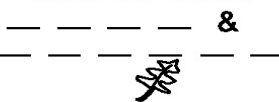
Their brother was raised
from the dead.



Lowered through a roof,
Jesus healed him.



Jesus brought his
daughter back to life.



"SO WE ... W _ LL G _ VE Y _ _ _ NKS F _ _ EVE _ ;
WE W _ LL S _ _ W F _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ _ ISE
_ _ _ LL GENE _ _ _ NS." Psalm 79:13, NKJV

"SO WE ... WILL GIVE YOU THANKS FOREVER; WE WILL SHOW
FORTH YOUR PRAISE TO ALL GENERATIONS." Psalm 79:13, NKJV

Answers: Moses, Rahab, Hannah, Mary & Martha, paralyzed man, Jairus.

OUR HISTORY CORNER



We are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. If you look closely at this picture you can date it and place it and perhaps even make out the name of the group.

- ❖ Who is in the picture? Name them.
- ❖ What was the occasion?
- ❖ When and where was the picture taken?
- ❖ What group is this?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S HISTORY CORNER: Mary Lou Trask and Fred Trask.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

On the Road to Emmaus

Global Servant Sarah Matos



Just like in the story in Luke 24, God meets us where we are, walks with us, and accompanies us on the journey. These times have been challenging, but God is at work and has given me many opportunities to accompany my Bolivian ministry partners in this time of illness with COVID-19 and walk with those who are grieving family members who have died due to the virus.

My faith has grown immensely over the last couple weeks because we witnessed a miracle! My Bolivian ministry partners, directors of House of Hope, Carmen and Richard (pictured above) contracted COVID-19 and pneumonia. They were severely ill and needed to be in the ICU. They were in need of oxygen, but with no oxygen and lack of ICU beds in Cochabamba due to hospitals being at capacity during this third wave of cases. All we could do was pray for a miracle and for oxygen. We mobilized our Bolivian medical doctors to search for oxygen concentrators. Thanks be to God we were able to find two concentrators for Carmen and Richard. The oxygen and prayers have helped them greatly! Also, we have been able to find the medicines they need to recover at home. They are still needing oxygen but they are getting better day by day. Their road to recovery is still long, but we know that God is with them every step of the way.