

TOWER TOPICS

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IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 4 — Moderator's Notes
- ➔ p. 5 — A Little Godly Humor
- ➔ p. 6 — Sacred Sites Turns 30!
- ➔ p. 7 — Bible Crossword: Ruth
- ➔ p. 8 — Article from CRCDS
- ➔ p. 9 & 10 — Missionaries Ketly and Vital Pierre

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 LENT	1	2  Groundhog Day	3 12:15 Inasmuch Luncheon	4	5 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	6
7 TRANFIGURATION 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching 5:00 L.I.F.E.	8  Chinese New Year	9	10 OFFICE CLOSED  6:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Mtg 7:00 PM Service Rev. Thomas, preaching	11	12 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Brian A Brown, FRSA, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch  St. Valentine's Day	15 OFFICE CLOSED 	16	17 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Lenten Service Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching	18	19 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	20
21 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Brian A Brown, FRSA, preaching Third Sunday Food Collection	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Lenten Service Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching	25	26 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	27
28 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Brian A Brown, FRSA, preaching	29	☩ Lent and Easter are very early this year. Ash Wednesday falls on the 10 th of this month. Plan to be at the special service with the Imposition of Ashes to start the Lenten Season with this time honored tradition. Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas will be preaching. ☩ During Lent Rev. Brian Brown will be presenting a series of sermons on Sunday mornings and Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway will be preaching a series on Wednesdays.				



February Birthdays

20 Carole Buchalski
 28 Patricia Dibble



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Sara Gromniak, Margaret Payne, Mark Clark, Mark Williams, Jr., Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gladys Lewis, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our missionaries, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



February 3 – Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

February 7 — Sunday

TRANSFIGURATION

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

5:00 PM L. I. F. E.

February 10 — Wednesday

6:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:00 PM Service with the Imposition of Ashes
 Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas, preaching

February 14 — Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

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

12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch

February 17 — Wednesday

LENTEN VESPER SERVICE

7:00 PM Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

February 21 — SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

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

February 24 — Wednesday

LENTEN VESPER SERVICE

7:00 PM Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

February 28 — SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship

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

L. I. F. E.

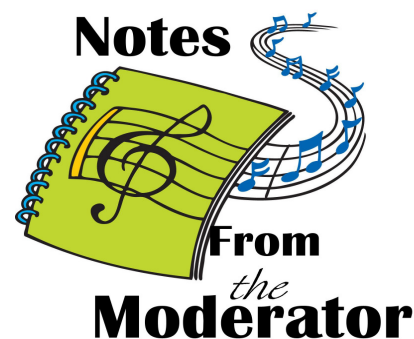
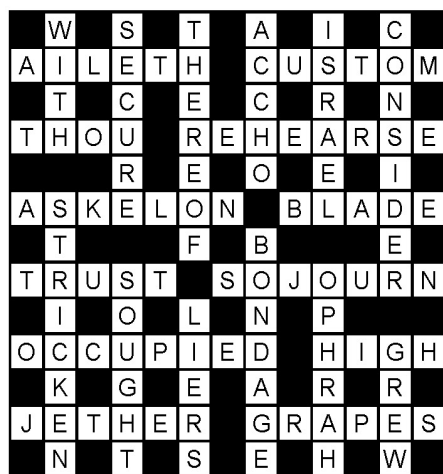
Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, February 7, 2016
5:00 PM

Pot Luck.
 Bring a dish to pass.
 Sign up in the Friendship Room

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.

Last Month's Crossword Answers**Judges**

Christmas, New Year's, and Martin Luther King Day are memories as we start February. Our Ash Wednesday service is coming up on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. The Diaconate/Trustees meeting will be at 6:00. Kath Ordiway will be preaching a Lenten series on Wednesday evenings through Lent and Rev. Brian Brown will be preaching a series on five Sundays during Lent.

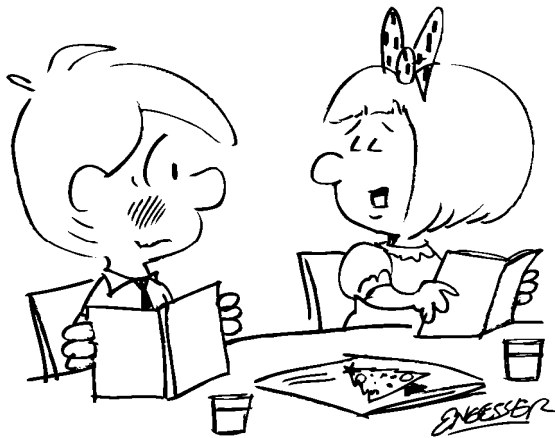
A new members' class will be formed if there are people interested in membership or Baptism. We traditionally Baptize on Palm Sunday and the following Sunday, Easter would be the time for the Right Hand of Fellowship or joining the church. If you or a friend or family member wishes to join, speak to Donna, Kath, Jim or Brian.

January was our mission of the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Fund and February moves us into Blanket ministry. Instead of one Sunday, we will collect during the entire month of February. This being the middle of winter, we use phone tree calls or channel 2 TV for closings due to weather problems.

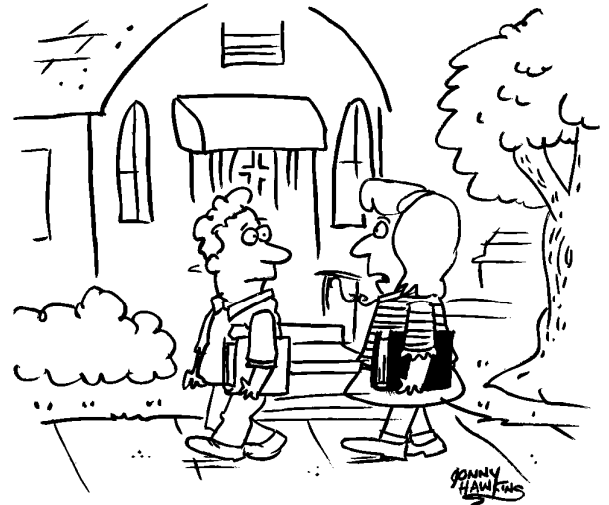
Our Third Sunday mission for Heart, Love, and Soul continues as does our Knit It Forward project for Roswell Park Cancer Treatment Hospital. The squares are knitted or crocheted with scrap yarn and sewn together later by other volunteers for blankets for cancer patients. Stay tuned for special events during February that haven't been planned as of this writing.

Donna Flood

SUNDAY SCHOOL



"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"



"They must have had some form of email. The Apostle Paul wrote the epistles."



"Dad, can you make dinner for me and my entire Sunday school class?"



"Quiet! I want to hear what's trending."



"Remember, you're under oath."

THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY



Sacred Sites Turns 30 - Let's All Celebrate

After 30 years and thousands of travel miles clocked, the Conservancy's [Sacred Sites program](#) has given **grants totaling \$9.3 million to 750 congregations** from East Hampton to Niagara Falls, funding 1,350 restoration projects. Our grants have had an outsized impact, helping historic religious properties complete restoration work totaling more than \$600 million, regardless of denomination.

We've connected hundreds of congregations to just the right architect, conservator, contractor, or stained glass studio for their particular project.

In 30 years, we've sponsored 40 workshops, providing training to over 3,000 clergy and congregation leaders in proactive maintenance and repair of roofs and facades, energy conservation, generating rental income via shared and partial adaptive use, fundraising for capital projects, and long-term financial management.

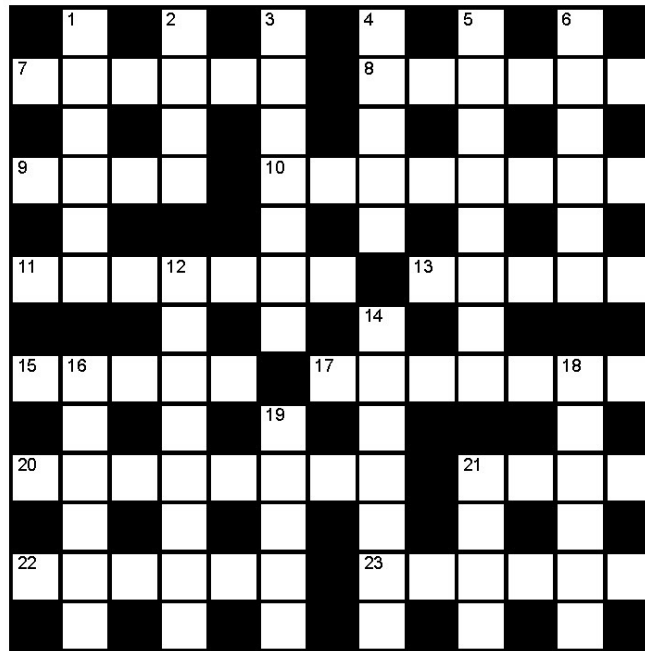
Maintaining and restoring these facilities has enabled them to continue to serve their communities with day care, senior programming, food pantries and cultural programming. Within the last year alone, our grantees provided services to over 164,000 individuals.

Our program publication, [Common Bond](#), with special anniversary issues in 2011 and (forthcoming in) 2016, provides practical information on consultant and contractor selection, the proper care and maintenance of slate, shingle, and copper roofs, gutters, masonry and stained glass, fire prevention, energy conservation, and fundraising, with articles highlighting congregational success stories and best practices. [Our publications](#) "Managing Repair & Restoration Projects, A Congregation's How-To Guide," and "Inspecting and Maintaining Religious Properties," have guided hundreds of congregations through major repair projects.

We plan on celebrating throughout the year with a special anniversary issue of Common Bond, lectures, and special insider tours of sites participating in our annual **Sacred Sites Open House** this May 21st and 22nd. We hope you'll join us!

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Ruth



Across

- 7 Son of Jacob who became a respected authority in Egypt. (6)
- 8 Another name for Jacob. (6)
- 9 When Naomi and Orpah parted, Naomi _____. (4)
- 10 "And she _____, I am Ruth thine handmaid." Ruth 3:9 (8)
- 11 Boaz _____ the young men in his fields to not bother Ruth as she gleaned from his field. Ruth 2:9 (7)
- 13 Naomi instructed Ruth "when he _____ down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in ..." Ruth 3:4 (5)
- 15 "Thy people _____ be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16 (5)
- 17 "And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi ... _____ a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's." Ruth 4:3 (7)
- 20 Ruth was Naomi's _____ in law. Ruth 1:6 (8)

- 21 "And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, _____ Tamar bare unto Judah." Ruth 4:12 (4)
- 22 Ruth lay at Boaz's feet until morning and "rose up _____ one could know another." Ruth 3:14 (6)
- 23 "_____ therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman." Ruth 3:9 (6)

Down

- 1 "For thy daughter in law, which _____ thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him." Ruth 4:15 (6)
- 2 "So they two _____ until they came to Bethlehem." Ruth 1:19 (4)
- 3 Ruth gathered among the _____. Ruth 2:7 (7)
- 4 Ruth showed her dedication to Naomi by saying, "Where thou _____, will I die, and there will I be buried." Ruth 1:17 (5)

- 5 Type of offering they willingly offered unto the LORD in Ezra 3:5. (8)
- 6 The bible tells us to do this when we sin. (6)
- 12 Christianity is this. (8)
- 14 "Then said Boaz unto Ruth, _____ thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens." Ruth 2:8 (7)
- 16 God's dwelling. (6)
- 18 A doubting disciple of Jesus. (6)
- 19 "The name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the _____ Ruth." Ruth 1:4 (5)
- 21 "The Lord recompense thy _____, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." Ruth 2:12 (4)

➡ From Ward Kaiser:

Two days. Two events.



Different audiences. Surprisingly connected!

On January 16 I attended a barbeque hosted by the Islamic Center of Orlando, where I was privileged to present a statement of solidarity with the Muslim community on behalf of thousands of non-Muslim Americans. The previous day, I introduced a new map to Greater Good at their weekly breakfast. Greater Good is a group of Christian social activists, all men, from a range of business backgrounds and church affiliations.

From Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School:

Not a day goes by during the current presidential campaign without someone in the news media referring to the political influence of evangelical Christians. Over and over again the news media tells us what evangelical Christians want, for whom they will vote, and how much political influence they have. ➡

The truth is that there is absolutely nothing in common between the meaning of the word evangelical and the 21st century political agenda of some right-wing political conservatives who just happen to be Christians. As a lifelong Christian, a 40 year pastor and clergyman, and now as president of a theological seminary I feel the need to rescue the word evangelical from the distortion of its present use. Evangelical Christians are not defined by the issues of the Tea Party, the Republican Party or the most conservative wings of any political party. The word evangelical carries absolutely no political connotation whatsoever. The word evangelical, rooted in the Greek word that means "good news" is a way to identify people who believe in a set of core beliefs including the authority of scripture, the divinity of Jesus, the fallen nature of humanity, the challenge to extend the message of Jesus to the whole world, what is known as the priesthood of all believers, and the belief that sinners can be saved. There is nothing in the meaning of the word evangelical about a reduced size of government, about repealing the Affordable Care Act, about limiting immigration of Muslims or relocating millions of illegal immigrants, about the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms even though that amendment was written in the time of single-shot flint rifles and is now being celebrated in an age of automatic weapons with ammunition magazines that hold 30-50 bullets. These issues that are at the center of the current political climate are a central part of a conservative political agenda that may appeal to some people who are Christian, but these issues have absolutely nothing to do with the word evangelical. According to the historical understanding of this word I would proudly identify myself as an evangelical. I believe in the good news; the redemptive life and message of Jesus. What I do not believe in is the way in which this word evangelical is employed within the current presidential campaign. The idea that Donald Trump and Ted Cruz have the support of "evangelical Christians" is a tragic and misleading notion. There are millions of true evangelicals based upon the actual meaning of this word that have absolutely no interest in the political agenda of either of those men. I am not writing in order to attack their ambitions to become president. I am writing to clarify the way in which the word evangelical is being misused and distorted in this and so many other election seasons. If ever there was an issue involving the separation of church and state this is it. The word evangelical belongs to the life of the global church and not to the political commentators on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC. Those Christians who buy into the political agenda of certain conservative candidates and office holders are free to do so, but the proper term for them is "conservatives" but not "evangelical Christians." The two issues have nothing in common and should not be used interchangeably.



New Country of Service for Ketly and Vital Pierre



Ketly and Vital Pierre

The celebration of a new year for Ketly and Vital Pierre included giving thanks to God for a new ministry that began in the Caribbean during the last portion of 2015. Having served since 1999 as International Ministries (IM) missionaries on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, the Pierres are now applying their skills to strengthen local congregations and encourage existing churches to start new ones on the East Coast of the Dominican Republic (DR).

The couple's ministry will focus on leading and coordinating seminars and workshops to equip Nicaraguan church leaders to begin and strengthen a broad range of outreach ministries in their communities. The Pierres will also serve as a link with volunteer groups, matching them with local ministries according to where they would be the most effective, as well as encouraging and facilitating Haitian mission work both within the DR and beyond.



Of their previous 16-year ministry in Nicaragua, which occurred in three different areas, Vital recently wrote: "Ketly and I worked ourselves out of job. We evangelized, made disciples and sent people out as witnesses for Christ. They are doing a tremendous job." He then specified how this ministry is being left in the capable hands of local church leaders whom he and Ketly trained: "Escarlet Fletes Córdoba is pastoring the congregation and directing the school in El Rama. Indira Fletes Sing is pastoring the church and directing the school in Kukra Hill. And Francisco Montiel is pastoring the church in Bluefields under the umbrella of a Council of Elders."

Anticipating how God can use them in the DR, Ketly comments: "Reconnecting with people with whom we worked from 1993 to 1997 in La Romana, DR, has been refreshing because God has prepared our lives for such a time of harvest. At the right time, we were invited to return to the DR in order to encourage, walk side-by-side and disciple those that God has called for His service. As Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:12-13, 'to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.' Yes, it is our deepest desire for God to continue to use us as He did in Nicaragua, to do greater things in the DR and, through the Dominicans and Haitians who are here, in the world."

As the Pierres begin their new ministry, the Rev. [Adalia Gutierrez Lee](#), area director of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean, says: "I have had the privilege to experience what true friendship and collaboration is about. Through daily discipleship, our Haitian-descent brothers and sisters like Ketly and Vital serve and empower their own people who work in the Dominican Republic's sugar cane bateys and team up with those visionaries from previous generations who first shared God's love and passion for mission among them."

