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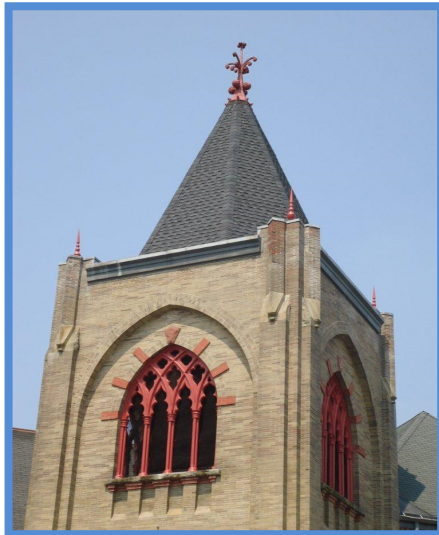
TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2013



IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE:

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VOLUME 65

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2013

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street
Corner of Main and Fourth
Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E. "All About Christmas"	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 OFFICE CLOSED 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 Don't miss  NATIVITY FESTIVAL! 10:00 – 3:00
8 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music:</i> Christmas Organ Recital	9 <i>Do you have all your Christmas candy needs?</i>	10	11 Rev. Wes in the office 7:00 PM Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	12	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	14
15 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 3:00 Christmas Tea	16 <i>Get your Butter Crunch candy before it's all gone!</i>	17 <i>WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIKE >> HOME COMMUNION?</i>	18 Rev. Wes – Home Visitation with Communion	19	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	21  Winter Begins
22 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve 5:30 Music 6:00 Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight	25 OFFICE CLOSED  Nativity of Our Lord	26 Boxing Day  Kwanza	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	28
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	30	31 OFFICE CLOSED  New Year's Eve	❄ Invite everyone you know to the Christmas Eve Service: Music, candlelight, carols, and the reading of the Christmas story.			
						



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Gladys Lewis
9	Jeanette Heasley
10	Kathleen Buckley
17	Donna Flood
21	Mark Clark, Sr.
21	Mark Clark, Jr.
27	Jason Clark
28	Bonnie Cook



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Otis Garis, Ron Bowser, Dorothy Jackson, Lucas Standish, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Robert Hogan, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our missionaries, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



LOOKING AT THIS MONTH

December 1 - Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship - Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching
5:00 PM	L.I.F.E. "All About Christmas"

December 4 - Wednesday

12:15 PM	Inasmuch luncheon
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December 7 - Saturday

10:00 AM-3:00 PM NATIVITY FESTIVAL

December 8 - Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching
12:15 PM	Second Sunday Lunch
2:00 PM	Gift of Music: Christmas Organ Recital, James Flood, organ

December 11 - Wednesday

7:00 PM	Trustees/Diaconate meeting
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December 15 - Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>
3:00 PM	Christmas Tea

December 22 - Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

December 24 - Tuesday

Christmas Eve

5:30 PM	Pre-service music
6:00 PM	Service of Lessons and Carols

December 29 - Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, December 1, 2013

5:00 PM

“All About Christmas”

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 to let us know your special date so we can include it.

BOOKSHELF CORNER

First Baptist has a nice library. It is fairly extensive and has books and materials covering a large variety of subjects. Everything is available for loan to members of our congregation. All you have to do is fill out a library loan card and drop it in the basket. (Remember to take the card out of the basket and toss it away when you bring the item back.) The library is open to suggestions in case there is something you'd like to see on our shelves.



This month's focus is Rev. Dr. Brian Brown's latest book *Three Testaments Companion*. This book which was just published last month is an introduction and supplement to his book *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel and Quran*. There is a forward and three study guides by Dr. David Bruce and comments by Her Excellency Houda Ezra Nonoo and Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed.

The inside front and back covers have colored charts showing sources of the Pentateuch and Revelations in the Quran. There are also portions of Dr. Brown's play *Some Day in Jerusalem*, which we are reading on second Sundays, after lunch. There are guides to help the reader understand the background of the Torah, Gospel, and Quran. With the help of this *Companion* the background for the Torah, Gospel, and Quran (which are linked in many ways) comes more into focus and provides a deeper understanding of the connectivity of these sacred texts.

Rev. Brown, our scholar-in-residence, has graciously provided copies for our library. If you are so inclined, this *Companion* will better enable you to grasp some of the intricacies put forth in the play *Some Day in Jerusalem* as well as a deeper understanding of our Bible and its life and times.



200 Years Ago a Leader Helped Create a Mission That Lasts

Friends of mission ought to know British-born William Staughton (1770-1829), who led American Baptists to unite nationwide in foreign mission. Staughton succeeded because he had learned the power of collective effort. In 1792, while still a ministerial student, he and eleven pastors in Kettering, England founded the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS). That day he emptied his pockets giving half a guinea for the cause. Later he would say his participation in that meeting was one of the best achievements of his life.

Though only twenty-two, Staughton was elected to the Society's Executive Committee. He helped appoint William Carey and John Thomas as the first BMS missionaries and was on the wharf in March 1793 to pray with Carey and Thomas when they departed for India.

That autumn, Staughton moved to America where he promoted mission as a widely known pastor and college president. Staughton believed those who support mission have "the honor of being fellow workers with God."

In February 1812, Congregationalists met in Massachusetts and commissioned their first foreign missionaries. Of the group, Adoniram and Ann Judson and Samuel and Harriet Newell immediately sailed to India. Nine days later, Staughton and pastors of several denominations held a farewell meeting for missionaries sailing to India from Philadelphia.

They included Congregationalist Luther Rice as well as William and Ann Johns, English Baptists who were taking funds for Bible translation to William Carey. Little did Staughton know that Johns would be the catalyst leading Rice to question infant baptism.

When the Judsons and Rice became Baptists in India, Carey and his co-worker William Ward quickly sent Staughton the surprising news. Carey appealed to Staughton to form

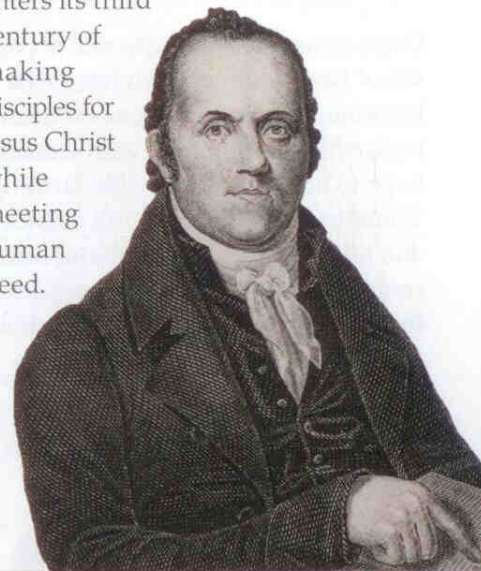
Local missionary societies knew they could not achieve the coordination, financial support and continuity necessary for long-term sustainability.

a missionary society. Ward, who had baptized the Americans, was even more emphatic saying, "Put your shoulder to it, my dear Staughton." The English Baptists would not desert the new missionaries, but they required an American base of support that could last beyond initial enthusiasm and occasional generosity—an agency to call, prepare, care for and ensure accountability of the missionaries.

Local missionary societies knew they could not achieve the coordination, financial support and continuity necessary for long-term sustainability. Luther Rice was back from Burma

traveling tirelessly and repeating Staughton's call for a national organization. Finally, in May 1814, delegates from eleven states and the District of Columbia gathered in Philadelphia. They formed a "General Missionary Convention" to meet every three years and a "Baptist Board of Foreign Missions" with Staughton as corresponding secretary to conduct the ongoing work of missionary appointment, instruction and oversight.

During Staughton's twelve-year leadership, the society sent some 57 missionaries to Burma, Liberia and to eight Native American Indian nations. Since then it has sent more than 4,000 others. Now known as American Baptist International Ministries, it continues drawing strength from God's Spirit and from partnering with others. The Staughton influence in mission lives on as the society he shaped and led now enters its third century of making disciples for Jesus Christ while meeting human need.



And how did we do with Acts?

Acts




CHRISTMAS⁺

Amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

The Christmas Offering envelope included with this newsletter is an important part of our year-end budget. We have done so much this year! Not the least of which is the pointing and repairing of the east side of our building, including repair, reglazing, and painting of all the windows both on the east side and the north side. Make sure to check out the original color which matches the Medina red sandstone. Let's end the year on a fiscally happy note!

Nativity Festival

Saturday, December 7
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Enjoy:

Nativity Displays
Bake Sale
Christmas Music
Gift Items for Sale



(Tables available for rent to show your crafts and creations, as well as items like Mary Kay Cosmetics, 31 Bags or Tupperware)

Christmas Clearance Rummage Sale

BOOK SIGNING

With Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown

*This is going to be a wonderful, relaxing day
early enough in the Christmas season to be enjoyed by all!*

Comfort, Dignity and Choice...



when it's needed most.

Many family members state that they wish they had called hospice sooner?

Could you or someone you know benefit from hospice services?
Could a caregiver use some help?

Do you know someone who:

- ☐ needs help bathing, dressing, toileting, getting out of bed or eating?
- ☐ has unintentionally lost weight in the last 6 months?
- ☐ has fallen 3 or more times over the past 6 months?
- ☐ is often short of breath?
- ☐ has open wounds that won't heal or a history of infections?
- ☐ has started taking medications to lessen pain?

If you can answer "Yes" to three or more of the above questions, this person may benefit from the many services Niagara Hospice provides.

**NIAGARA
HOSPICE**
(716) 439-4417
TDD: 1-800-662-1220

Don't pre-judge if or when hospice care is right for you or a loved one, let us explain how we can help.

Anyone can call Niagara Hospice at 439-4417 to make a referral or to simply get more information.

Don't be another who says:

"I wish I had called Hospice sooner."

Take a moment to stop by the Hospice table during the Nativity Festival to learn more about Niagara Hospice.



First Baptist Church

554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584 (716) 282-4666

2013 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Orders for poinsettias for Christmas along with payment must be in the Church office no later than Friday, December 6, 2013. You may put this form in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Number of poinsettias _____ @ \$7.00 ea. _____ 6" pot

Total of order: \$ _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

☐ I shall pick them up. **OR** ☐ Please deliver to Shut Ins

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Clip and mail or call in your orders.

Add \$3.00 for first box and \$1.00 for each additional box if you want your candy shipped.

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584 (716) 282-4666

Candy Order

Absolutely delicious Butter Crunch candy is available in one (1) lb. boxes for a donation of \$10.00 each. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Number of boxes _____ x \$10.00 = _____ total.

Pickup Date _____

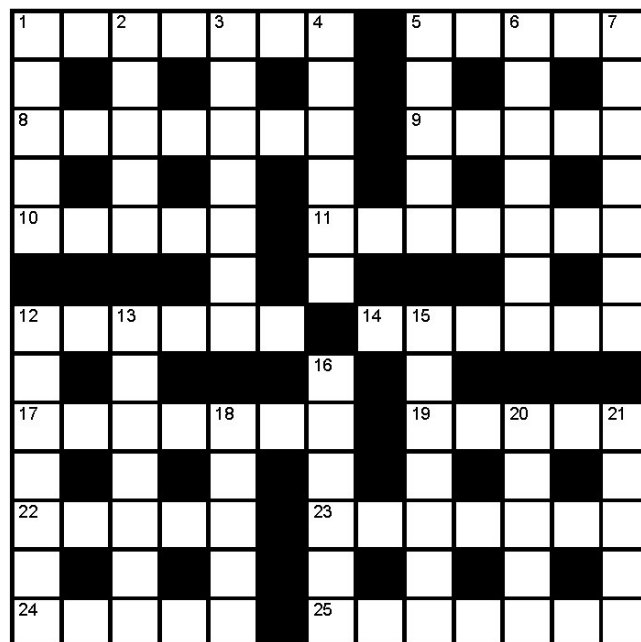
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Sold by _____

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Romans



Across

- 1 Avoid those who cause divisions "contrary to the doctrine which ye have _____" Rom 16:17 (7)
- 5 Paul wrote the book of Romans. This is another New Testament writer. (5)
- 8 We are not to walk in this. Rom 13:13 (7)
- 9 Paul hopes to journey here. Rom 15:24 (5)
- 10 "For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man _____, why doth he yet hope for?" Rom 8:24 (5)
- 11 "... For he is the minister of God, a revenger to _____ wrath upon him that doeth evil." Rom 13:4 (7)
- 12 "For I delight in the law of God after the _____ man." Rom 7:22 (6)
- 14 Through Christ "we have _____ by faith" to grace. Rom 5:2 (6)
- 17 "There is none that understandeth, there is none that _____ after God." Rom 3:11 (7)
- 19 A place where sacrifices were offered. (5)
- 22 Do this to that which is evil. Rom 12:9 (5)

- 23 Paul says that "_____ unclean of itself" but only what a man esteems as unclean is unclean. Rom 14:14 (7)
- 24 The first five books of the Old Testament. (5)
- 25 His seed will strike the heel, but his head will be struck. Genesis 3 (7)

Down

- 1 "Whether we live therefore, or die, we are the _____." Rom 14:8 (5)
- 2 "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left _____, and they seek my life." Rom 11:3 (5)
- 3 "_____ yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin." Rom 6:13 (7)
- 4 Paul quotes the prophet Elijah (or Elias) saying, "they have killed thy prophets, and _____

down thine altars." Rom 11:3 (6)

5 Jesus is referred to as the root of _____. Rom 15:12 (5)

6 "... God hath dealt to every man the _____ of faith." Rom 12:3 (7)

7 While we were yet this, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8 (7)

12 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing _____ in prayer." Rom 12:12 (7)

13 "_____ we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." Rom 14:8 (7)

15 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans, _____ 3, verse 23. (7)

16 "Now we know that what _____ soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law." Rom 3:19 (6)

18 God raised Pharaoh up so that his name might be declared throughout all the _____. (5)

20 Paul is from the _____ of Benjamin. Rom 11:1 (5)

21 Christ is at the _____ hand of God. Rom 8:34 (5)

FROM the Moderator...

Have you smelled it yet? The church is permeated with the delicious scent of candy making. This year we have several candy makers to thank who stir, measure, spread hot candy, break it into pieces, weigh, make and fill boxes with a full pound of the sweet taste of the holidays with our butter crunch delight. They are Dave and Michelle Martin, granddaughter Olivia, Ron Bowser, Kay Buckley, Carol and Hank Buchalski, Chuck Compton, Hazel Baxter, Donna Flood, and Marge Bozigar. Every time we meet to make candy, we produce 90-100 pounds which are for sale at \$10.00 per box. See Carol or Hazel to order or call the office to have your order ready to go for pick up. Order forms are included for your convenience in the Tower.

Our Nativity Festival plans are in full gear. This all-church activity is open to everyone to see our Nativity sets, buy crafts from local artists, and rummage around the gym for our Christmas Clearance and purchase from our Bake Sale. See the flyer for further details.

Our December mission is two-fold. Firstly, we are making and purchasing items for our Mission (aka Mitten) Tree. Gifts for those who reside at Springbrook, near Oneonta, will be collected. The Springbrook report is on the coffee table in the Friendship Room if you want to see more information on their mission. Secondly, we have "adopted" a family from Community Mission and their wish list will be in the Friendship Room. Keep the card with the information and tape it to the item, wrapped. Food collected in December on the third Sunday will be given to Heart, Love, and Soul.

The Christmas Tea benefits White Cross.

Christmas Eve Service starts with seasonal music at 5:30 PM.

Donna Flood

Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 PM is the Christmas Tea sponsored by the American Baptist Women. This long tradition gives us a chance to relax from hectic seasonal activities. We meet in the Friendship Room and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Please invite a friend. Ladies of all ages are invited.

This year we are again "adopting" a family for Christmas. See the Moderator's article. Check the table in the Friendship Room for details. Wrap and identify the gifts. Kathleen Ordiway has the details if you have any questions.

Carole Buchalski asks:

Please help us to meet our White Cross challenge by placing your "extra" pennies in our Penny Jar. The jar is on the table in the Friendship Room.

Many thanks.

