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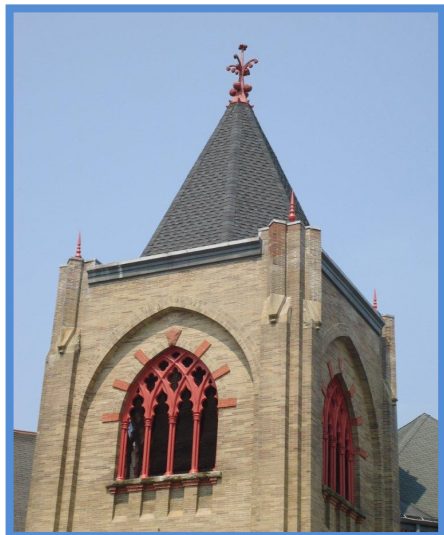
TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2014



IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 6 — Moderator's Notes & Hospice
- ➔ p. 7 — A letter from Roy Medley
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VOLUME 66

NUMBER 12

2014

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 Christmas Music 6:00 Candlelight: Lessons and Carols</p>	1	2	3 12:15 Inasmuch lunch <u>Poinsettia Orders Due</u> 7:00 Bible Study	4	5	6
7 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 5:00 L.I.F.E.	8 <u>"Adopted family" gifts due</u> at Community Missions.	9	10 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	11	12 RUMMAGE 9:00 AM-3:00 PM	13 SALE 9:00 AM - NOON
14 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music</i> : Christmas Organ Favorites	15	16  Hanukkah	17 7:00 Bible Study	18 6:00 PM Family Night VeggieTales: <i>Beauty and the Beet</i>	19	20
21 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 3:00 Christmas Tea  Winter Begins	22	23	24  Christmas Eve 5:30 Music 6:00 Candlelight Service	25  Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26  OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	29	30	31  New Year's Eve	 It's not too late to bring in rummage!  Try to make the two Bible studies in December. It's worth it!  Have you picked out a gift for our Christmas "adopted family?"		



TOWER TOPICS

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NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



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



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

We have received a lovely Thanksgiving card from Mary Saul saying that Margaret Saul, her sister-in-law, continues to do well and thanks us for our continued prayers.



December 3 – Wednesday

- 12:15 PM Inasmuch Luncheon
- 7:00 PM Bible Study with Charles Lamb

December 7 – Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 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. “Celebrate December”

December 10 – Wednesday

- 7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

December 12 - RUMMAGE SALE: 9:00-3:00

December 13 - RUMMAGE SALE: 9:00-12

December 14 – Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching
- 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch
- 2:00 PM *Gift of Music*: Christmas Organ Favorites

December 17 - Wednesday

- 7:00 PM Bible Study with Charles Lamb

December 18 - Thursday - Family Night

- 6:00 PM VeggieTale: *Beauty and the Beet*

December 21 - Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- 10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

December 24 - Wednesday – Christmas Eve

- 5:30 PM Christ Eve Music for Meditation
- 6:00 PM Service of Lessons and Carols

December 28 - Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday — Friday

716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, December 7, 2014

5:00 PM

“Celebrate December”

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.

December 14, 2014 – 12:15 PM

Second Sunday LUNCH

With

Gift of Music

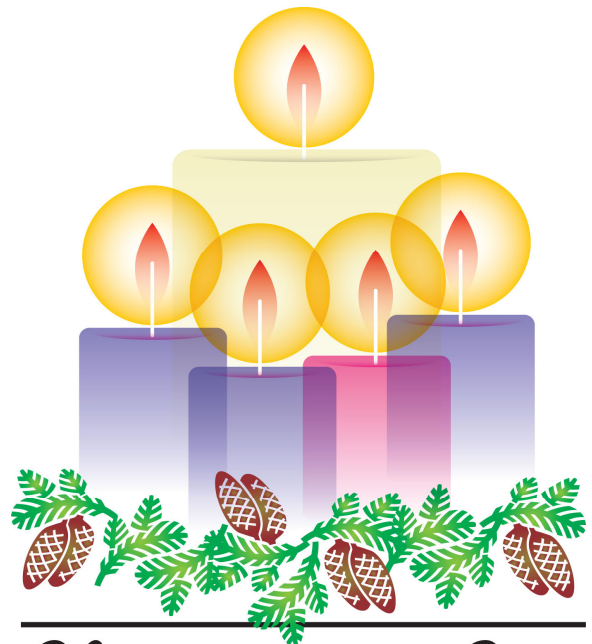
2:00 PM

Christmas Organ Favorites



Shirley Chew

The congregation extends its deepest sympathy to Celia Krasinski and family on the passing of her mother, Shirley Chew, on November 15, 2014. Services were held at the Tuscarora Chapel.

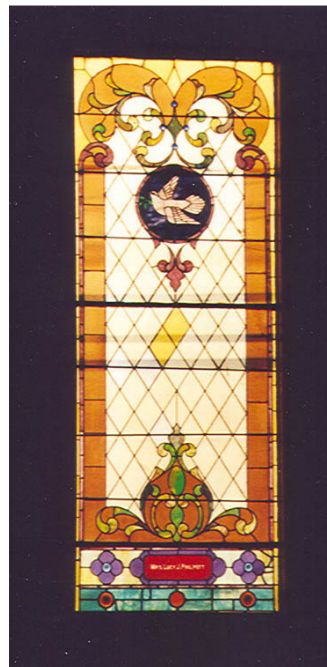
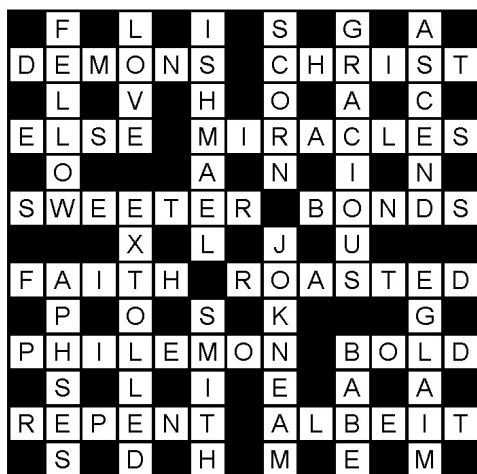


Christmas Eve

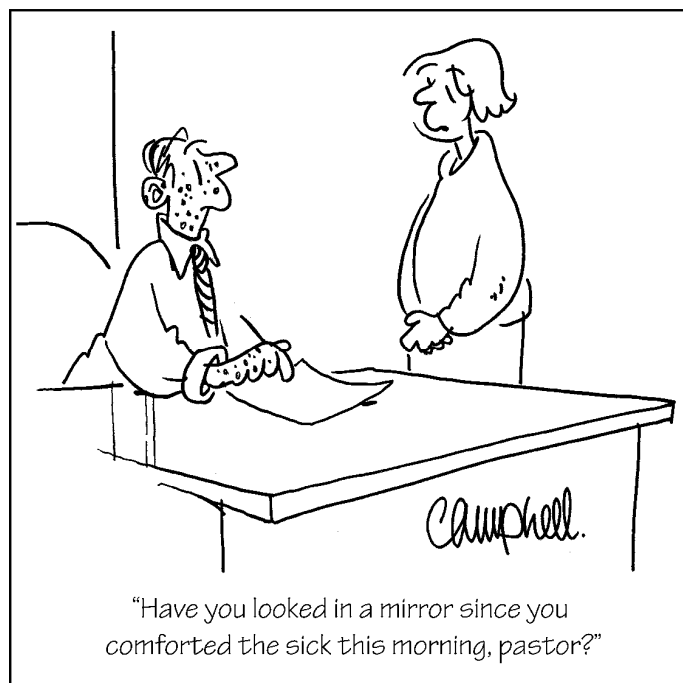
Everyone is invited to our beautiful Christmas Eve Service. Candlelight, lessons and carols will mark the birth of our Savior. There will be music for Christmas meditation at 5:30 PM with the Service at 6:00 PM. The singing of “Silent Night” by candlelight is always a seasonal high point. Bring your friends and neighbors to this moving service.

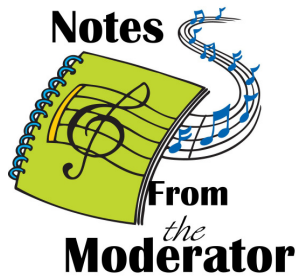
last month's answers

Philemon



WE ARE INDEED FORTUNATE to have many beautiful stained glass windows in our church, especially the two very large triple lancet windows in the sanctuary. The Jerome Durr Studio, LLC, in Syracuse, NY, was chosen to do the restoration work. The Studio has just informed us that our stained glass will be back and in just about the time this publication is delivered.





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, Ron Bowser, Kay Buckley, Michael Baxter, 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 Jim or Hazel to order or call the office to have your order ready to go for pick up.

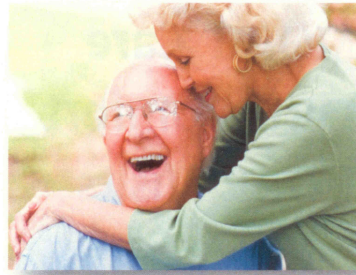
Our Nativity Festival plans were in full gear. This all-church activity was open to everyone to see our Nativity sets, listen to holiday music and purchase from our Bake Sale.

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, formerly Upstate Baptist Children's Home, near Oneonta, will be collected. The Springbrook report is on the coffee table in the Friendship Room if you want more information on their mission. Secondly, we have "adopted" a family from Community Mission and their wish list is 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 ABW Christmas Tea benefits White Cross on the third Sunday of December. Enjoy tea, cookies and conversation with congregation members and guests. The program will be presented by Betty Bond.

The Christmas Eve Service of lessons and carols is listed in the calendar. Come early for Christmas organ music and don't forget the Gift of Music Concert on December 14 with Jim Flood playing Christmas Favorites. Bring friends and share the beauty of our sanctuary and historic Hall organ.

Donna Flood



Hospice patients live longer and better....

The New England Journal of Medicine published a study that supports the fact that

patients who receive hospice care live longer than those who receive standard care. The study found that patients lived an average of two additional months. Researchers also found that hospice patients reported a higher quality of life through the final course of their illness. Considered the gold standard of end-of-life care, choosing Hospice ensures the most comfort and best quality of life for both patients and families. Hospice is a Medicare, Medicaid, VA, private insurance and HMO covered benefit.

Just one call to Niagara Hospice provides:

- Physicians, Pharmacists
- Nurses, Social Workers
- Aides & Homemakers
- Volunteers
- Spiritual Care
- Massage & Music Therapy
- Caregiver Support
- Oxygen
- Home Medical Equipment
- Bereavement Care

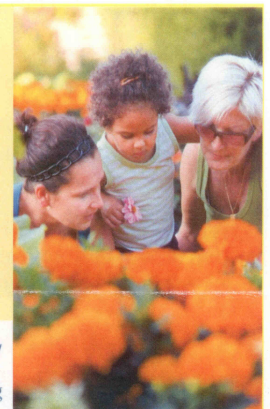
Call Niagara Hospice at **439-4417** or visit NiagaraHospice.org to learn more.

"We got almost a year with Hospice. In that time we had another Christmas, two more grandchildren were born..."

Once we made that decision to call Niagara Hospice, my dad's life got so much better."

- Paul Mullane, Lockport

NIAGARA HOSPICE (716) 439-4417
www.NiagaraHospice.org



Christmas will be here before you know it. Let's remember to give thanks for our wonderful and beautiful church with a gift to our traditional special Christmas Offering. This offering is important to our overall budget. Many, many thanks.

BEHOLD
the Birth of the Savior



A Letter from Missouri

Dear American Baptists,

I just returned from St. Louis and Ferguson, Missouri, where we held the governing board meeting of the National Council of Churches on Monday and Tuesday, November 17-18.

Just driving down the main street of Ferguson mid-day as we did, you would not recognize it as a tension-filled community. Yet the declaration of a state of emergency by the state's governor while we were there was a vivid reminder of the conflict that has swirled there since the killing of Michael Brown.

We met to connect with our churches – most of the member communions have congregations in that area. Several ABC pastors from the area attended our Monday evening worship service and sought me out to express their thanks for our being there.

We had spent that Monday afternoon hearing from church and community leaders. Here are some of the things said that stayed with me:

- Ferguson is the flashpoint for the moral outrage related to the violence against young black men and their disproportionately high rates of arrest and incarceration. (An article in the November 19 issue of "USA Today" refers to the staggering disparity in the racial gap of arrests in the United States.) One community leader said, "If young white males were dying or being imprisoned in these numbers there would have been a political protest raised up long ago. Something would have been done." A pastor reminded us that "Ferguson is in your area as well."
- Pastors and community leaders drove home time and again the disconnect between the church and the young people who have taken to the streets. They reinforced the message of *Transformed by the Spirit* – the churches have to leave their four walls and re-engage with their communities.
- Many, many, many are working to promote non-violent protests and civil disobedience. Pastor Traci Blackmon reminded us that of the 101 days of protest since Michael's death, only two days were marked by looting and violence.
- Another speaker challenged us as the church to raise the level of moral outrage within our congregations against what is happening to young black men in our society to the level and intensity felt toward slavery, segregation, and apartheid.

We face a moral and social crisis related to black males. It is a crisis that many are blind to or ignore as long as it doesn't spill over into their lives. It is a crisis that costs lives and devastates families. It is a crisis that deprives us of leaders, doctors, teachers, and workers. It is a crisis that is turning us into the largest penal colony in the world.

WE FACE A CRISIS, a crisis that mirrors Lincoln's declaration of June 16, 1868, "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free."

The deaths of Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin, like that of Emmett Till, are now symbols of this larger moral and political crisis. **And regardless of the color of our skin, WE ALL have skin in this crisis.**



A. Roy Medley
General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA

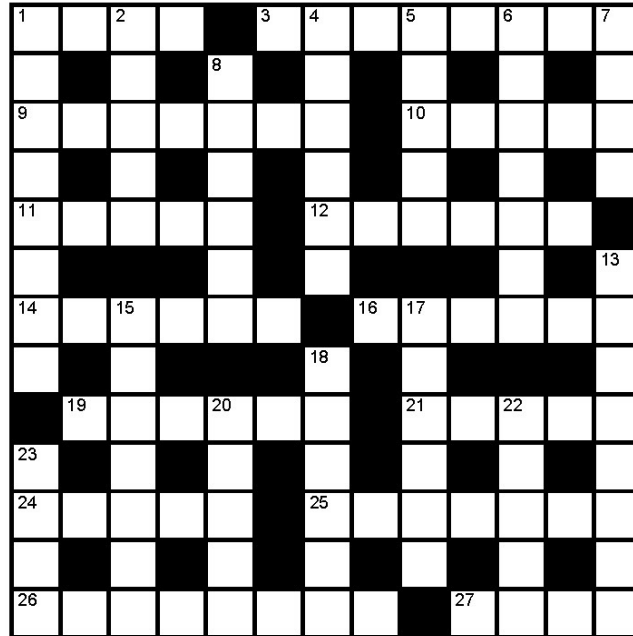


Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Hebrews

Across

- 1 The Hebrews have more of a need for milk than this. Heb 5:12 (4)
- 3 "Again, he _____ a certain day, saying in David ... To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." Heb 4:7 (8)
- 9 Christ entered into the holy place "_____ by the blood of goats and calves," but by his own blood. Heb 9:12 (7)
- 10 "Let us go on unto perfection; not laying _____ the foundation of repentance from dead works." Heb 6:1 (5)
- 11 "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus _____." Heb 6:9 (5)
- 12 How shall we do this, if we neglect so great salvation? Heb 2:3 (6)
- 14 "The Lord sware and will not _____, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." Heb 7:21 (6)
- 16 "And unto them that look for him shall he _____ the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb 9:28 (6)
- 19 "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the _____ of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." Heb 10:7 (6)
- 21 These people "received their dead raised to life again." Heb 11:35 (5)
- 24 "And as a vesture _____ thou fold them up, and they shall be changed." Heb 1:12 (5)



- 25 Abraham sojourned in this type of a country. Heb 11:9 (7)
- 26 "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise ... _____ in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob." Heb 11:9 (8)
- 27 "Being made so much better than the angels, as he _____ by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." Heb 1:4 (4)

Down

- 1 Christ sprinkled with blood the tabernacle and the vessels of this. Heb 9:21 (8)
- 2 The writer of Hebrews urges us to lay _____ every weight and sin and run the race set before us. Heb 12:1 (5)
- 4 God made a new covenant with the house of _____ and the house of Judah. Heb 8:8 (6)

5 Abraham's son who was offered up. Heb 11:17 (5)

6 "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same _____ of unbelief." Heb 4:11 (7)

7 Christ sat down at the right _____ of the Majesty on high. Heb 1:3 (4)

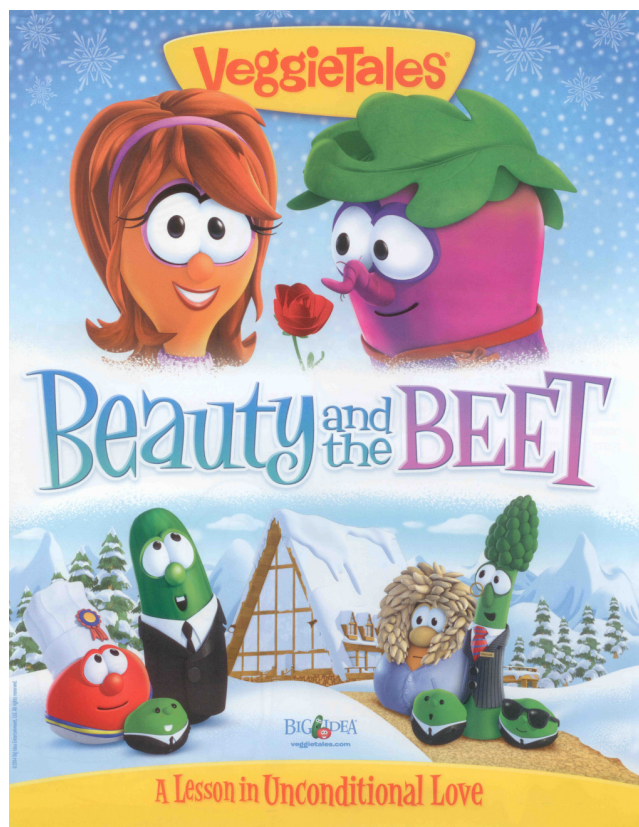
8 "And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are _____, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be _____ may remain." Heb 12:27 (6)

- 13 "And again, when he _____ in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him." Heb 1:6 (8)
- 15 Esau is described as this type of person. Heb 12:16 (7)
- 17 Those who are enlightened have tasted of "the _____ of the world to come." Heb 6:5 (6)
- 18 God's Son is the "express image of his _____." Heb 1:3 (6)
- 20 "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, _____ I make thine enemies thy footstool?" Heb 1:13 (5)
- 22 The tabernacle contained a golden pot that had this in it. Heb 9:4 (5)
- 23 "Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so _____." Heb 10:33 (4)



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Presented Thursday, December 18, 2014, at 6:00 PM, this is a lesson in unconditional love, just right for the Christmas season, for all ages, with engaging songs, veggie action, and terrible jokes and puns. Come for the free popcorn and soda, stay for the movie, and perhaps meet some of our neighbors of all ages who come and receive a Christmas Christian message – another outreach of your church.



The Family Night is turning out to be a big hit. Unfortunately, last month's VeggieTale, *Josh and the Big Wall*, had to be cancelled due to the weather.

This month's Family Night on December 18 (note the time: 6:00 PM) will be the newest VeggieTale movie, a Christmas tale, *Beauty and the Beet*.

Our new large screen 60" TV with extra "sound bar" audio equipment provides a big, engaging picture with superior sound to captivate the audience, young and old(er).

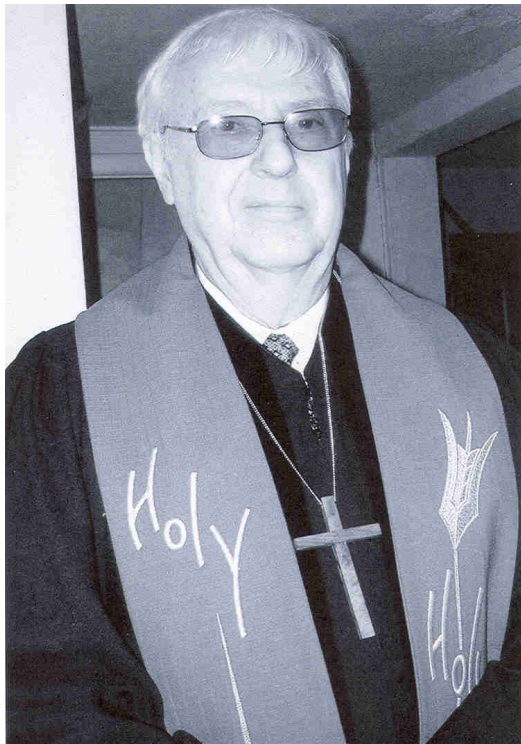
We need a few people from our congregation to volunteer to be at the Family Nights to speak to the people who come in. It's not enough to pass out free popcorn and a brochure on the church; the personal touch is what's needed. This is a real opportunity for outreach and service. Can you be there some nights?

*But when
the fullness
of time
had come,*



*God sent his
Son....*

Galatians 4:4



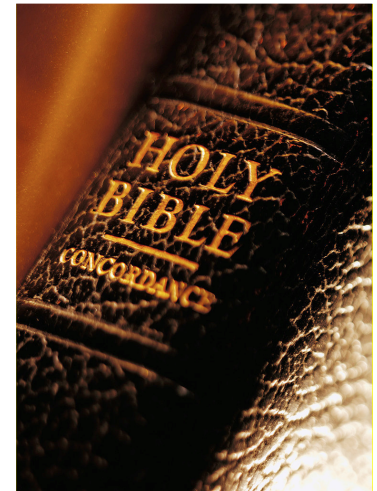
Bible Study

The **Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb** has graciously agreed to lead our Bible Study classes this fall.

The first sessions were absolutely wonderful! The wealth of knowledge that was passed around from almost all participants was nothing short of astounding. **Do not miss out on the remaining meetings!**

This fall series is a general survey to provide deeper understanding of the Bible as a whole. In the spring the study group will be able to choose a specific area for closer attention.

Mark your calendars right now to save the remaining dates for this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in Biblical knowledge under the guidance of a gifted teacher.



*Dates for the
Bible classes
All classes start at
7:00 P/M*

December 3 —
The Epistles
December 17 —
The Gospels

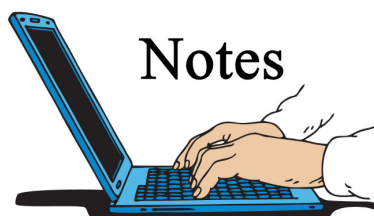
We are adjusting to the loss of our senior minister, Wesley, and though we miss him the Trustees and Diaconate have taken in hand the plans for the future. We will be following the same general plan as we have had for the past few years. Kathleen Ordiway will preach twice a month and Brian Brown will preach either once or twice a month depending on his schedule and demands of staging his play, based on his book *Three Testaments*. This allows us to have, on occasion, a guest preacher, which will prove informative and interesting. After Easter and the Congregational meeting in May, the Diaconate and Trustees will review the situation thoroughly. In a couple of months there will be a survey in Tower Topics inviting all members to express their opinions as we "Look Forward."



Remember

**the
Reason
for the
Season**

Scholar-in-Residence



First Baptist Staffer on a Mission

The Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown will be preaching on *Characters from the Crèche* at here on two Sundays in Advent, December 14 and 21, inspired by the Nativity Festival display at our church.

The Browns have just returned from Dr. Brown's speaking engagements in the West Indies where he made three presentations on Morality in the Workplace for audiences including business leaders, unions, politicians and the courts.

Brian travels the world at the invitation of church and academic organizations, always accompanied and assisted by Jenny, and in this case connecting with family members in a part of the world where Jenny grew up. A cousin shot a few pictures which the Brown's share with us in this issue.

Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown
Scholar-in-Residence



- ◀ At left. Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown addresses West Indian Community leaders on morality in the workplace.
- ▼ Below. The Brown's married granddaughter (who lives in Trinidad) sits beside Jenny Brown at the lecture.



CHRISTMAS Adopt-a-FAMILY

We will once again be collecting gifts for a family this Christmas. Community Missions has found us the perfect family and has given us this information.

"With the Holidays just around the corner, Community Missions staff and volunteers have begun preparing. A time that for many is filled with joy, family and abundance ... can also be the most difficult time of year for those in need." (Community Missions) Our hearts have been so filled with giving every year and I know that God will continue to lead each of us.

All gifts are due at the Mission by Monday, December 8th. It is requested that each gift is labeled with the child's / parent's name and assigned family number. We will also be donating a \$25 gift certificate to a grocery store. All of the gift requests are available on the table in the Friendship Room.

Kathleen Ordiway



First Baptist Church




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

Candy Order Form

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 1 lb. boxes _____ x \$10.00 = _____ total.

(We can ship, too. Add \$3.00 for first box and \$1.50 for each additional box.)

Pickup Date _____ We also accept    Fill in information below..

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

(Optional) Credit Card Number _____ Expiration _____ CCV # _____