

TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

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First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✝ Lent is very early this year. We are having special services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM all through the Lenten Season. Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to come share the insights and messages of Charles Lamb. These are shortened Vesper services, with emphasis on Prayer, Meditation, Music, and the Spoken Word. First Baptist has not had regular Wednesday night Lenten services in some years. Let's support these Vespers as part of our spiritual journey this Lent.</p>					1	2 
3 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.	4	5	6 12:15 Inasmuch 7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees	7	8	9
10 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch  Chinese New Year	11	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13  7:00 PM SERVICE	14 	15	16
17 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection.</i>	18  President's Day	19	20 7:00 PM Vesper Service Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching	21	22  Washington's B'day	23  Purim
24 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	25	26	27 7:00 PM Vesper Service Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching	28	<p>✝ February is Blanket Sunday month. Church World Service does more than just blankets. Read the articles on page 6 to learn more about CWS.</p>	



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Paul Einstein
20 Carole Buchalski



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Margie Ogden, Rev. Hal Faba, David Compton, Celia Krasinski, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Margaret Payne, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Mike Gunther, Robert Hogan, Tara Clifton, Judy Einstein, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 3 Sun.

4th SUN. AFTER THE EPIPHANY

10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship-Holy Communion
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
5:00 PM L.I.F.E.

Feb. 6 Wed.

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon
7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees

Feb. 10 Sun.

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching
12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch

Feb. 13 Wed.

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM Service with the Imposition of Ashes
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching



Feb. 17 Sun.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

Feb. 20 Wed.

FIRST WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES

7:00 PM Lenten Vesper Service
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching

Feb. 24 Sun.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
10:00 AM Breakfast for Everyone
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday — Friday
716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org

Feb. 27 Wed.**SECOND WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERIES**

7:00 PM Lenten Vesper Service
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching

**L. I. F. E.**

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, February 3, 2013
5:00 PM

“Love in February”

Pot Luck
Bring a Dish to Pass
Sign up in the Friendship Room

From the Moderator..

Our prayer list is updated at every meeting of the Diaconate and in prayer for healing; we added Rev. Hal Faba and Rev. Margie Ogden, both former members of our congregation who have retired after serving our church. Margie is a retired pastor and Hal is a retired moderator and member.

We have started a new program, caring for our active duty members or children and grandchildren of members who are serving overseas. Please let us know who they are, where they are and their APO address. We are sending items to keep warm, soothed and refreshed while we pray for them as they serve. If you wish to contribute an item, see Donna.

Our LIFE program continues on the first Sunday evening with the theme of “Love in February”. “Lively, Interesting, Fellowship for Everyone” has been happening on First Sundays back into the early 1980’s or late 1970’s. Ask Betty Richardson to tell you about it and thank her for her many years of service.

The Mission for February is Blanket Sunday. Blankets are used for shelter, emergency clothing, carrying supplies, and warmth. They are your support for those in need during hard times due to storms, earthquakes, blizzards, and political upheavals. The envelopes for your donation will be in the February bulletins, Tower Topics sent by mail or available from an usher.

As you may know, Peggy Tompkins retired as our church secretary and a thank you note from her is posted on the bulletin board. If you haven’t checked out the Christmas cards our church has received from those away, take a look before they disappear.

Ash Wednesday comes very early this year, February 13th, and The Rev. Wes Bourdette will preach that evening. On the following Wednesday evenings there will be a Lenten series preached by the Rev. Charles Lamb, doing a series of sermons listed in his article elsewhere in this Tower Topics. We are exploring advertising in the Niagara area papers that reach into Wheatfield and Grand Island. Lent can be a time of repentance where one “gives up” some habit as a personal sacrifice, small though it may be, as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Some of us add something to our lives, doing good works, saying extra prayers, to pay it forward. Whichever you choose, Lent is the time of repentance, our church colors turn to purple, think about making a change, large or small, to sacrifice or pay it forward.

The ABW (American Baptist Women) are collecting pennies for the White Cross, an organization started by the ABW toward the end of World War I, to make bandages and gather health supplies for missionaries in the field. The ABW reports they have made their first challenge of the year and are working on their second. Save those pennies for the penny jar on the table in the Friendship Room if you’d like to help.

The sanctuary carpet is an impressive Cathedral Red and our thank you's go to Glenn Richardson who donated the funds in memory of his wife Carolyn, his parents, Dorr and Frances Richardson and the Ralph Sweet family. Our sanctuary never looked better so this is an opportune time to invite friends and family in to check it out.

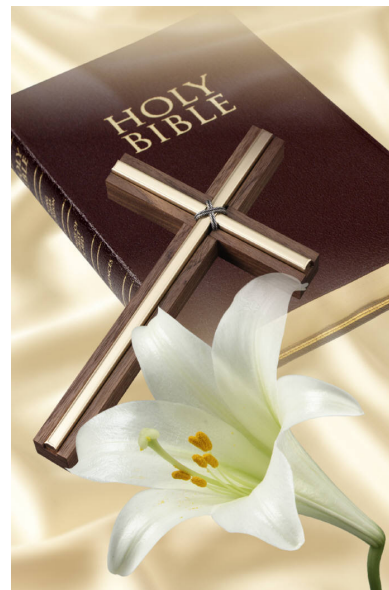
Have you cleaned out a closet recently? Don't know what to do with those spare items? It's that time again to collect gently used, clean items for our spring Rummage Sale on June 7 & 8. Call Jim at the church office if you need a pickup, 282-4666 or e-mail me, dmflood@roadrunner.com and schedule a time. If you can, bring items to church with you and put them in the gym or on the porch.

Donna Flood, Moderator



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.



Wednesday Lenten Series

This Lenten season we are having Wednesday evening Vesper Services at 7:00 PM for the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. The Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, well-known to us at First Baptist, will be the speaker for each service. See the Article on page 7.

Blankets



+ Resources

The Community Food Bank of New Jersey's Phyllis Dunlop and CWS President and CEO, the Rev. John L. McCullough move blankets at the Food Bank's Hillside, N.J., warehouse. Photo: Carol Fouke/CWS

Blankets+



Pre-positioned CWS Blankets are distributed in San Juan dela Maguana, Dominican Republic, following Hurricane Sandy. Photo: CWS

What is the CWS Blankets+ Program?

Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world.

For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops

and gardens

- Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.

November 28, 2012

On Long Island, spring shipments help after storms

*By Chris Herlinger
Church World Service*



The Rev. Tom Goodhue of the LICC readying CWS Hygiene Kits for distribution. Photo: Chris Herlinger/CWS

Freeport, New York – To outsiders, New York's Long Island may evoke images of summer homes and beach living. But economic hard times have not been kind to working-class communities like Freeport. And the damage brought by Hurricane Sandy has only worsened -- and deeply so -- what have already been tough years.

"For some of the most vulnerable on Long Island, their lives were already a disaster before Sandy," said the Rev. Tom Goodhue, a United Methodist minister who heads the Long Island Council of Churches.

So, shipments of Church World Service Blankets, Hygiene Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets are proving to be a boon to those in communities like Freeport who were already vulnerable before the disaster.

But those who never thought they would ever need assistance – say, in the form of a blanket, or a bucket and cleaning supplies – find themselves suddenly vulnerable.

"What changes after an event like Sandy is that people who aren't accustomed to needing help suddenly need help," Goodhue said earlier this week, nearly a month after Sandy hit shore in New York and New Jersey.

"They have needed to 'muck out' their homes. So things like the CWS buckets have been greatly needed," Goodhue said during a few spare minutes at the council's food pantry in Freeport.

"The CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets are tremendously helpful to a family who is cleaning up," he said. The needs are not going away, either. It will take months (at the least) for some homes to be restored to some level of normalcy. And of course, some homes will never be restored from flood and water damage. So the term "long-term recovery" takes on a whole new meaning, Goodhue said.

"The recovery will be very, very long-term," he said, adding that affected residents are already worried about being forgotten in the months, even years, ahead when the immediacy of the disaster will be behind them. "Church World Service is different, though, because it is committed to long-term recovery," Goodhue said.

One reminder of that is due to the relationship between Long Island residents and CWS. The Long Island Council of Churches has long been a supporter of CWS's CROP Hunger Walks. Now, residents find that their support of CWS has a direct impact on their lives and the lives of their communities.

Goodhue finds himself thanking residents who have participated in the CROP Hunger Walks, especially walks held earlier this year. "What they did in the spring allows CWS to respond in the fall," he said. "The connection is very real now," Goodhue said. "They can see how their support is put to use."



Our Lenten Series

With the Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb

This year First Baptist is going to have a series of Lenten Vesper services during Lent, as we did years ago. We are fortunate to have the Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, well known to us here at First Baptist, as the speaker for the series. The series of topics looks very intriguing:

Let's Listen to the Prophets!

Week #1 Would You Break God's Heart?

Week #2 What if you're Too Late?

Week #3 What if Life is Unfair?

Week #4 But I Don't Want to Repent!

Week #5 An Invitation for Everyone

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM
Come and support our Lenten series!

Member's Spotlight

By Kath Ordiway

After a very long hiatus, I'm back to writing about our fellow church members. This month I had the pleasure to learn more about Jeanette Lillian Shull-Heasley! You know her as one half of our Lector Team. The other half is her husband, Joe Heasley.

Jeanette grew up in hillbilly country – Born in Norton, Virginia which is in Wise County, where she lived until 4th grade. She went to school in Big Stone Gap where her favorite subject was... Recess! Wise County has been called home by a few other people you might know, including the actor, George C. Scott and (being the right month to be reminded) former Green Bay Packer and Super Bowl Champion from #1 and #2, Carroll Dale. Jeanette was named after her mom, Jean. Adding the "ette" to her name literally brings her name to "Small Jean". Her dad's mother was Lillian, hence Jeanette's middle name.

One of Jeanette's earliest childhood memories was when she was probably only about 4 years old, "trying to get rid of our collie dog." Lassie followed Jeanette everywhere. No matter how often Jeanette told Lassie to go home, "there was her wagging tail."

Lassie was certainly Jeanette's protector. "Many years later, Lassie nervously watched me as I played on the ice (close to the shore) in front of the house in Wilson. She usually stayed right with me, but that day, she wouldn't come with me, kept barking at me. I fell through the ice." Everyone says that animals know things that we don't know – Lassie sure knew that Jeanette needed her by her side!

Wise County, Virginia was not a wealthy community after the coal mines were closed; in fact Jeanette said that everyone was poor. She remembers the Christmas that she was in second grade. She woke up at 12:30 a.m. on Christmas morning, and found that everyone else in the house was asleep. So quietly crept to the Christmas tree, found the one gift with her name on it, unwrapped it and revealed a baby doll. That doll was certainly very special to Jeanette – she crept back to her bed and slept with her until 6 in the morning. Jeanette then got back up, wrapped her doll and tucked her back beneath the tree so that she would have a present to open when her five older brothers opened their one gift each.

Growing up in a household of boys did not create an athlete in Jeanette, but she says "I was pretty good at Kick the Can!" Like many children who grew up before computer games and who were encouraged to play outdoors, Jeanette and her brothers were good at making up games. Here's a game you've probably never heard of and would probably not pass any of the safety tests on the playground: "Pumpkin Head... We wrapped a pillow and blankets around one kid's head and gave him a plastic bowling pin for each hand. The rest of us also got a bowling pin. The object of the game was to bop the Pumpkin Head on the head without getting hit by him!!!" Just like games that you might have played, their games involved a little bit of danger where her brother, Jimmy, received a toe injury (for those children who might be reading this interview, I won't say how he got that injury) and Jeanette has a scar on her thigh from the same "game." "Doggie Bite Toe" sounds interesting. Although Jeanette says that safety was found on the furniture, I'm thinking that it's not like the games we played, avoiding the "water" which the floor was comprised of, while leaping from furniture to furniture. She says Robin really played the part, which caused "Doggie Bite Toe" to be quite risky!

After 4th grade, Jeanette's family moved to Wilson, NY, where her favorite subject became Art. That love stayed with her. She graduated from Buffalo State College with a major in Art Education. She is now a public school art teacher which she finds to be very rewarding "when all the state requirements don't get in the way!"

Jeanette attended a Methodist church as a child. She still has the Bible she received with her name spelled out in gold letters on the front cover – spelled out wrong! She remembers the youth fellowship in Wilson where she enjoyed the interactive games. She also enjoyed the fun times camping at Silver Lake.

As Jeanette grew, the world changed. Her second oldest brother, Gary, was drafted and sent to Vietnam. She remembers praying everyday with her girlfriend for Gary's safe return home. Although she knows that God's perfect answer is not always the same as our hopes, her and her girlfriend developed a strong faith in God when Gary came home safely!

While in high school, Jeanette was a nurse's aide and a cleaner at Stella Niagara during two summers.

As the years passed, Jeanette was blessed with two children, Corinne Safer and Harry Schlyer. After her divorce, Jeanette was introduced to Joe Heasley, by his sister. They have been married for 23 years!

Joe had a hand in creating Jeanette's favorite vacation memory. He took Jeanette and her kids camping, working their way to Maine, where they stayed right on the shoreline. "One morning, Corinne and Harry came running up from the beach, all upset because the jellyfish were stranded in low tide, and dying. Quick identification... Moon Jellies are not poisonous, so the rescue began. The four of us worked until exhausted, saving the moon jellies. It was great!"

Jeanette and Joe have done their fair share of traveling. Many of you know that they enjoyed a lovely vacation in Paris last year. "If you don't

mind walking and love art work, Paris is the best place to go.” She loved the late sunsets (10:30 p.m.), the cool temperatures (mid to high 60’s, some 70’s) in July and they didn’t mind the light rain. While in Paris, there were NO bugs! Not a mosquito, a fly or bug of any kind in sight.

Jeanette has been to Southern California a couple times, where her first husband’s family lived. In 1972, Joe and Jeanette went to Israel with the Ransomville Methodist Church. For the last few years, they’ve gone back to Virginia and New Hampshire each year, sometimes 2 or 3 times a year. She doesn’t have a particular place in mind for other vacations, but she does have her plane tickets already purchased for their next trip to Paris in July!

I asked Jeanette about her spare time, and like many of us she says “What spare time?!!” If she was blessed with more spare time she’d fill it with reading, knitting, taking better care of her husband, her pets (she has adopted three stray cats as well as caring for her eight zebra finches – do cats and fish go well together?), her orchids and maybe doing some spring cleaning.

Jeanette enjoys listening to 826 Sonic – the Spirit, a radio station that plays “random Christian music.” When she’s tired, “it really helps just to lie down and listen to the music.” She calls herself a slow reader and doesn’t have much time to indulge, but when she has the time – it’s the Bible that she usually picks up. Jeanette has one of those “read the Bible in a year” editions, but doesn’t feel pressured to be on the right date.

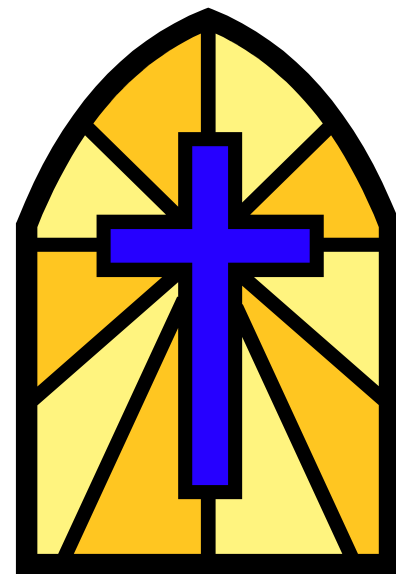
Like many of us, Jeanette loves to eat, but has been behaving herself very well lately! Her one special treat shows up when she goes to the show, especially with her grandson. She buys all their favorite candies and makes goodie bags to feast on! Reminds me of the days when my daughters carried large purses at the ripe old age of 4 and 6 so that they could tuck their drinks and favorite box of candy inside to watch a movie at the theater!

Besides being our lector, Jeanette also enjoys putting together our informal Adult Sunday School

material, sharing information about the hymns that we sing during service. Her favorite hymn? She says “there are so many lovely ones... Amazing Grace” though is her favorite. After retirement, Joe and Jeanette plans to keep an open mind to see what God has in store for them as a couple at First Baptist, as she “rather expects to be living here in Niagara Falls” because of the low resale housing prices in their neighborhood.

We all have our favorite scripture passages, and Jeanette isn’t an exception. Without hesitation, she told me it is John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” “That any parent would give up their child for someone else... I can imagine no greater sacrifice. It demonstrates God’s great love for us.”

What a great testimony and final words for this month’s story!



Here we go! From Kristy Engel.

I can't express to you how excited I am about my new role and all of the many ways that we are going to be able to partner together in the future.

There are exciting new places that need health care teams and ongoing projects that are expanding or changing to meet the needs of their community. And my role in all of this is to connect needs with resources while also being able to serve in some of the most desperate areas throughout IberoAmerica and the Caribbean.

Several people have asked me two very important questions that I want to answer for all of you. "Am I still a missionary with International Ministries?" and "Do I still have to raise my funding?" The answer to both of these questions is, YES! I am still a full-time International Ministries missionary and I will be based in Atlanta, solely for having greater access to travel quickly to many locations in an emergency. I still have my normal fundraising goals to meet each year and hope that if you or your church has any questions about this that you will contact me immediately. Just because I'm based in the US doesn't mean I will actually be here that much and have several trips planned in the next few weeks.

