



IM Appoints a Missionary Couple to Serve in Evangelism in Turkey

January 13, 2015



Rich and Laura Freeman

The Rev. Dr. Richard (Rich) Freeman and his wife, Laura, of San Pedro, California, have been appointed Associate Missionaries by American Baptist International Ministries (IM). The Freemans have been supporting the work of Turkish pastors and Christian leaders and establishing new churches in Turkey through their non-profit organization, [Turkish Connections International](#) (TCI). Their home church is Ocean View Baptist Church in San Pedro, California.

The Freemans' appointment with IM began on January 1, 2015, and will allow them to more effectively partner with U.S. churches through the IM network, as well as giving them valuable access to IM's expertise, experience and contacts in Europe. The Freemans' ministry with IM will include extended trips to Turkey, often with teams of volunteers from U.S. churches, to support the work of the Turkish church planters.

"We feel a sense of call to work with Turkish pastors and Turkish Christian leaders to assist in the planning and planting of new churches in this Islamic country," commented Rich. "We would love to see 100 new churches established in this country over the next 20 years. We also provide short-term mission opportunities within Turkey to help Christians in America see what God is doing in one of the least-reached countries in the world," he added.

compassion through medical work. I really have the best job in the world!

My first day in Monrovia (after a late night arrival and the beginning of weeks of no touching, temperature being monitored and hands being washed in a 0.05% chlorine solution) started with the World Health Organization (WHO) cluster meeting. This was a meeting where all aid agencies gathered together once a week to learn about the current situation, any changes and new information. The who's who of everyone Ebola were there...and now so was I! I learned that there was a new language being spoken...an acronym language that I didn't understand. In fact, in the next few days, I wrote down almost 100 acronyms specific to Liberia and Ebola that were used like actual words in most conversations! I had a lot to learn. I had originally thought that language wouldn't be a problem because Liberians spoke English but the reality was that Ebola had a language all its own and there were no classes to take to help me learn. I just began writing acronyms down and looking them up every night until I had my list. Within 72 hours I was nearly fluent with basic conversational Ebola and after a week, I was giving advice to another new volunteer and passing along my word list. How quickly time was flying.

My job in Liberia was to help the Liberian trainers that worked for Medical Teams International (MTI) teach infection prevention and control (IPC), triage set-up and waste management at almost 130 non-Ebola health facilities that MTI was assigned to by Ministries of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW). (See all of those acronyms in just one sentence!!) Each day a 4 teams of 3 trainers would be assigned a set of facilities within Montserrado County, load up SUVs with donated supplies and make site visits. If it was the first time we were visiting a facility, we would tour their facility and do an initial assessment of IPC, waste management and their ability to have triage point in their facility to prevent Ebola from entering the clinic. Then we would begin training from scratch. Other days, we returned to previously visited facilities to mentor or re-train them. This training could take 3-4 hours at a facility and some days we were at 4 facilities. If a clinic was 2 hours away, it could be a long day!! Some centers were rural with poor access to the main city of Monrovia while others were right in the middle of major market areas and we actually had to ask vendors to move their stalls to drive down roads to get to the clinics that were down back alleys and pressed between larger buildings. Some people were happy to see us and very receptive. Some of the clinic staff could care less that we were there and were blatantly rude. I never knew what to expect each day that I went out with the teams.

The one constant of my day was the dedication of the trainers that I worked with. They were amazing people with a heart for making their country safe and ridding it of Ebola. They shared their lives with me and laughed with me and answered my myriad of questions about culture, life and disease in their country. It was hard to say good-bye. I felt like I was abandoning them when they still needed so much support and encouragement. Imagine spending 4 hours training at a clinic, encouraging the workers, giving them supplies so that they can do all of the things you've asked them to do so that they are safe and they send you off with smiles and assurances that they will do all you've asked. Then you go back in just a week and they are doing nothing and pretend that they don't even know you. It can be so discouraging. It can feel like you've wasted your time and energy. Yet these trainers keep going out, day after day, because they still find clinics that are making positive changes and keeping Ebola at bay. We are finding clinics who have made BIG changes and have more patients than ever because they are now considered safe clinics when before they were not. Change is happening but in a way that might seem too slow for many of us. I learned a phrase that my Liberian friends taught me...small, small. Accept the changes you see. They don't have to be big or grand...they can be small, small and that's still a change and that's still ok. So, today, I pray for change to keep moving in a positive direction...little by little...small, small.

The biggest issue when I left was that people were starting to get too relaxed about Ebola. The numbers of cases were down so people believed it was gone. Hand-washing stations were disappearing or people just stopped using them. Chlorine wash buckets were empty and no one cared about refilling them. Unfortunately 3 health care workers died the last week I was there. We have to do better. So the trainers still go out, every day and make a difference one clinic at a time.

Kristy Engel



Liberia - Part 2



Working in Liberia...Facts and Fiction

January 2015

I hope you enjoyed the first newsletter about how I came to join others in West Africa in their fight against Ebola. Below you will find the continuing story of what it was like for me to work in Liberia. Thank you for your continued support and for believing in the work that I am part of.

Many blessings,

Kristy

Fighting the Spread of Ebola

While I was in Brussels for my training with MSF, I learned several things about Ebola that made going a very serious decision. So serious that on the last day of training, in the last hour, they asked all of us to seriously consider if we were ready and if we were not, to PLEASE not go. They told all of us that it was not shameful to walk away at this point but to know your limits. Here is what they shared just before asking us to consider our decision:

1. 311 health care workers have died in the outbreak and all worked in Ebola treatment units. (as of early November)
2. Everyone who has had a needle-stick has died.
3. Liberia has lost 30% of its doctors.
4. The disease goes against our natural instincts to care for each other...it destroys families.
5. The time of diagnosis is not playing a factor in mortality or survival. The onset of illness and day of the beginning of therapy does not make a difference in survival.

These are grim facts to hear just hours from boarding a plane and heading into a country infected with a deadly disease that has no cure. It's no wonder that I didn't sleep much the night before I left for Liberia! But, my decision to go never wavered. I think about I Timothy 1:12 that says, *"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service."* It really is an honor to serve and go forth...I know that must sound corny to some people but it's the truth. I am honored to be able to go to the places I go and work...to be a light...to show love and

Notes From the Moderator

We're well into the New Year and though we are limited in number, there are a lot of things going on.

Knit or Crochet It Forward is ongoing. Those of us who knit or crochet make 9" squares from spare yarn which is then forwarded to Roswell Park. They are made into lap blankets for patients undergoing treatment for cancer. If you have squares made, bring or send them in to church and they will be taken to Roswell.

Missions for February continue with Blanket Sundays. During February we will collect funds to be sent to Church World Services for purchase of blankets to be used in the US and abroad during natural disasters or for refugees of political upheaval. They are used as blankets, shelter, stretchers, and carry-alls. The contribution of \$5 buys a blanket in the country of the disaster and distributed to those in need. It seems like a good place to donate \$5 or more.

Our Second Sunday lunch will be a Soup Sunday and there will be a speaker instead of a concert. The Rev. John "Jake" Marshall from Hospice from Hospice Niagara County will be telling us about the many Hospice programs and how they help those in need locally.

Our Third Sunday contributions for February will focus on dry mixes and personal care items. The mixes for cakes, rice and pasta, main courses are handy helpers for folks who have limited incomes and benefits that don't last the month. Personal care items are not covered by food assistance.

Need exercise and hate the cold? Walk the Church! New program: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Coffee pot always on! Yes, you can get a mile in, up and down and through all the corridors and stairways at church. Have a problem with stairs, stay on one floor. The gym is "empty" at the moment; the rummage has gone to Community Missions,

which makes it a good place to start. Think about shuffle board or volley ball to add to your fun. There will be games on Family Night (February 26 - 6:00 PM) for little (and big) people and the possibilities are limitless.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th and we're telescoping Shrove Tuesday pancakes into Ash Wednesday and we're having breakfast for dinner with pancakes, sausage and fruit at 6:00 PM with the service to follow at 7:00 PM. Our Wednesday Lenten services will be led by a visiting pastor from Canada, the Rev. Cheryl Wood-Thomas. There will be a series theme to be announced and the chance to expand our spirituality. Lent is a time of preparation and repentance. Some folks give up a favorite thing for the duration. Don't ask me to give up my coffee as the results would be most unpleasant. Other folks take on a new habit, spiritual quest, or worldly project. Either way, join us Wednesday evenings at church.

Donna Flood, Moderator



The Family Night is turning out to be a big hit. Last month's Family Night on January 22 was the hilarious tale of Joshua and his problem with the big wall.

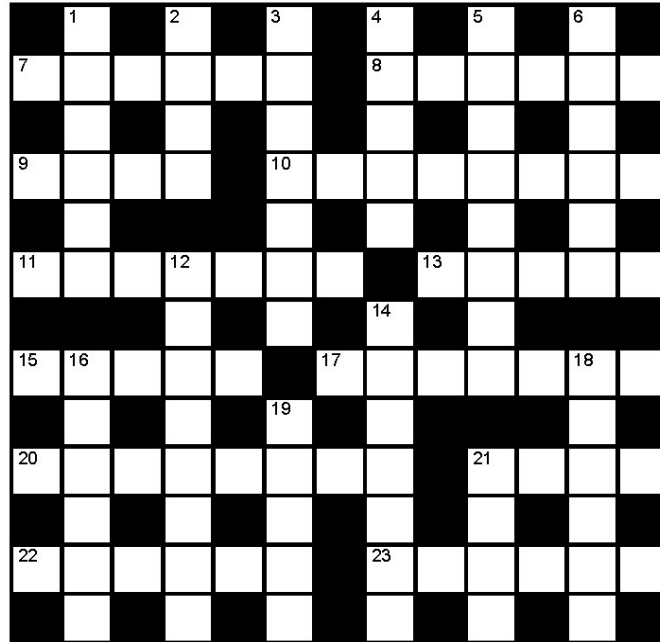
Our new large screen 60" TV with extra "sound bar" audio equipment provides a big, engaging picture with superior sound to captivate the audience, young and old(er).

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?

February 26 is Family Game Night with fun for young and old(er) alike!

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

1 Peter



Across

- 7 Peter encourages servants to be subject to not only the good and _____ masters, but also the forward. 1 Peter 2:18 (6)
- 8 The Hebrew name for God. (6)
- 9 "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of _____ souls." 1 Peter 2:25 (4)
- 10 Your faith is more _____ than gold. 1 Peter 1:7 (8)
- 11 Peter urges us to be sober and vigilant because the devil is like a lion, _____ whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (7)
- 13 Christ "was manifest in these last _____ for you." 1 Peter 1:20 (5)
- 15 Christ suffered for our sins so that He might _____ us to God. 1 Peter 3:18 (5)
- 17 "Likewise, ye _____, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5 (7)
- 20 Peter was one of these. There were 12 total. (8)

- 21 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, but His _____ is against those who do evil. 1 Peter 3:12 (4)
- 22 "But the word of the Lord _____th for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." 1 Peter 1:25 (6)
- 23 Peter says to be ready to give this to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15 (6)

Down

- 1 Christ was "foreordained _____ the foundation of the world." 1 Peter 1:20 (6)
- 2 This appeared in the sky at Christ's birth. (4)
- 3 This creature beguiled Eve and was cursed to crawl on its belly. (7)
- 4 Also called Cephas and means "rock." (5)

5 "To him be glory and _____ for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 5:11 (8)

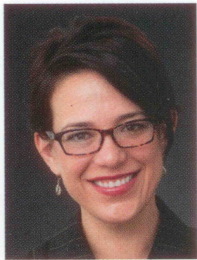
6 The phrase "The like _____ whereunto" is used to compare the saving of Noah and his family from the flood with the baptism of believers. 1 Peter 3:21 (6)

- 12 Two words. This Old Testament character pursued David and sought to kill him. (4,4)
- 14 Two words. These are the rules that the Lord gave to the Hebrews through Moses. (4,3)
- 16 1 Peter 2:11 urges believers to "abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." The bible teaches to do this if you do sin. (6)
- 18 This word means to abstain or keep away from. 1 Peter 3:11 (6)
- 19 Peter exhorts these people to be examples and feed the flock of God. 1 Peter 5:1 (5)
- 21 Along with prayer, this spiritual discipline was practiced by many members of the early church. (4)

ABHMS board member installed at historic church

The Rev. Dr. Amy K. Butler, a member of ABHMS' board of directors, was officially installed on Oct. 5 as senior minister of the historic Riverside Church, New York City. Elected to the position on June 8, she is the church's first female pastor.

Existing for 84 years in its current location, the church is known for its diversity and



political activism—a fact unlikely to worry Butler.

“The [Christian] Church has the challenge and opportunity of prophetically speaking to the issues of our day and the shortcomings of our society—all the while resisting the pull to be defined by them. We become a people reflecting radical gospel when our ‘activism’ blossoms out of a commitment to love our neighbors,” Butler writes on Riverside’s

website. “When we live in the way Jesus taught us, we can’t help but become agents of transformation in the world.”

Butler writes a “Talk with the Preacher” blog that appears in Baptist News Global.

Previously, Butler was the first female pastor at another historic church—Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C. She also served at Lake Shore Baptist Church, Waco, Texas, and St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans. In addition, Butler ran a women’s shelter in New Orleans.

She earned a Doctor of Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C.; a master’s degree at Baylor University, Waco; and bachelor’s degrees from the International Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland, as well as Baylor.

Butler has three children. The eldest of five siblings, Butler was raised in Hawaii.

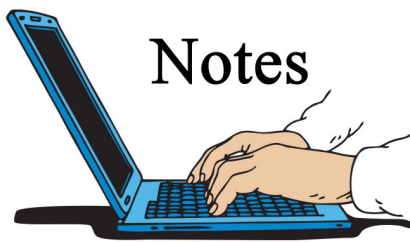
On behalf of Community Missions, thank you so very much for taking part in our Christmas Program by sponsoring one or more families in need. Because of your support and generosity, 164 families, a total of 394 children, were provided gifts, food, and joy this Holiday Season.

We cannot begin to express how appreciative we are for the support we’ve received through this program. It is truly because of you that we are able to continue serving and caring for the growing number of people of all ages who come to us in need.

Thank you again, on behalf of all those we serve, for caring about our community.

Best,
Andrea

Scholar-in-Residence



Tower Topics is a delightful little magazine and the editor, Jim Flood, usually asks me to contribute an item. He says he recommended me as a preacher at First Baptist because he thinks I am a famous author, and the congregation could use a little intellectual stimulation in the spiritual dimension. That may be so, but left at that, there could be something lacking.

I had a student assistant once who worked weekends with me in a church in Toronto. She said she came to work there because of the intellectual content of my sermons, but she warned me that it was not enough for the people. She said something that I think could be posted on the wall of every minister's study. "They don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." It was a warning that I could not leaving personal and pastoral contact with church members to others on the team alone.

Since the passing of the Rev. Wesley Bourdette, whose sermons I enjoyed as much as I do those of our fine colleague Kathleen Ordiway, I have assumed some more responsibility at First Baptist. We have been getting to know each other better. Even just for preaching it is important to know personally those to whom one is preaching, or the message may be only potentially inspiring to people who are not even there. But there is more to it than that.

I just preached a sermon on "What a Friend we Have in Jesus" but I know that there are times when you may need a friend in your minister too ... what we call the pastoral relationship.

I want you to know how much I do care, and to let you know that in any pastoral emergency or any situation of need, I am available. My home phone number is in the bulletin each week, and I live only eight minutes (on average) from the church. I have sort of taken up residence in the minister's study lately, but I am just as comfortable coming to your home.

In the course of time I hope to do some calling on a regular basis, but for now I also have responsibilities across the river too, and in other places. That limits my involvement here especially between now and this summer. But I have come to truly care for everyone I meet at this wonderful little church. We say that First Baptist is an "historic and progressive" congregation, but I have found it to be a church in which members care for one another and for the community. Count me in on that; I'm not here to show you how much I know ... I want you to know how much I care.

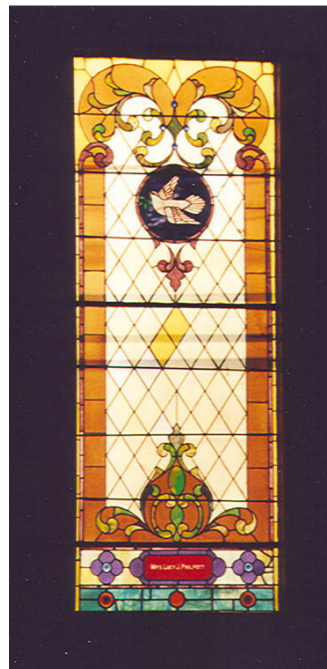
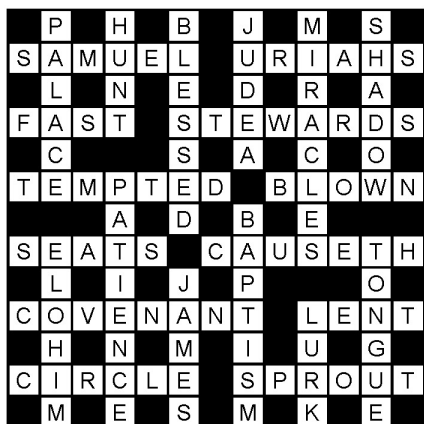
Brian



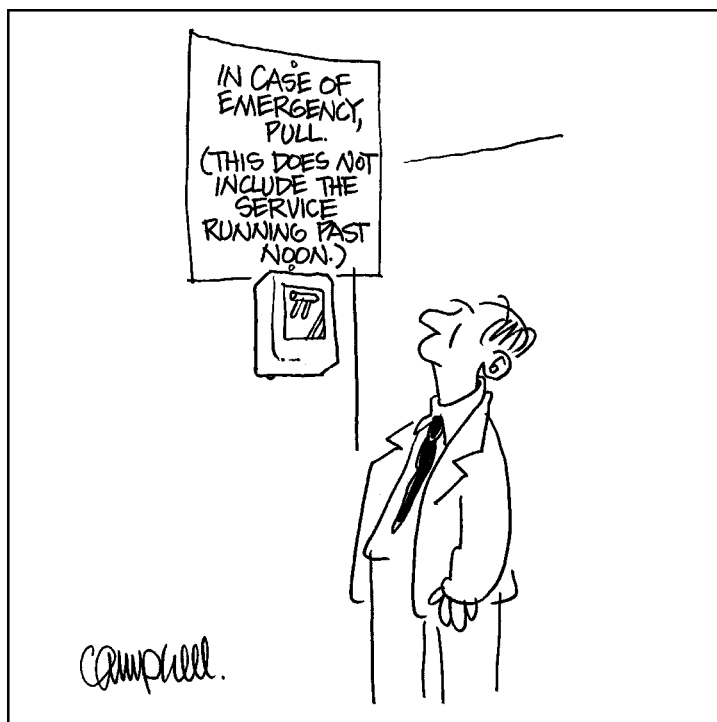
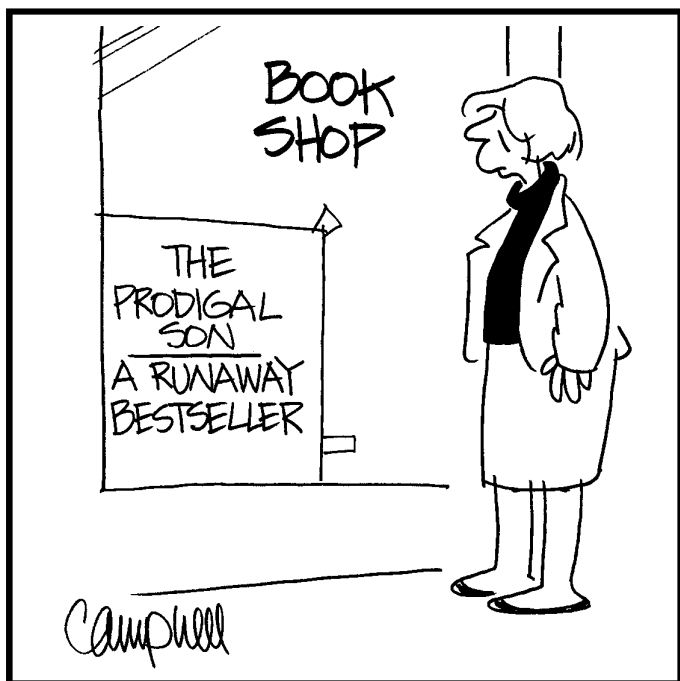
Our Church library is growing. We now have four new books by Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb on display in the Friendship Room. These four volumes have been written by Charles Lamb over several years and are stories and tales, humorous and inspirational, gleaned from his vast experiences as a local minister, teacher, scholar, and district minister. The different chapters are gems. Some are eye-opening, some emotional, some downright funny. Do not miss borrowing a book or two; they're well worth reading, contemplating and enjoying.

last month's answers

James



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 returned our stained glass – all fixed up. The new glue chip glass in the folding doors is especially attractive.



L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, February 1, 2015**5:00 PM****“Fun in February”**

Pot Luck.

Bring a dish to pass.

Sign up in the Friendship Room.

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.

February 8, 2015 – 12:15 PM

SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

And at 2:00 PM:

Rev. John Marshall

Speaking to us about

Hospice

On August 25, 2014, Marjorie Arthur passed to her eternal reward. She and her daughter, Cyndy Lin, used to read the Tower Topics regularly and pray for those on the prayer list. Marjorie's obituary is on the Lane Funeral Home's website, if you have access to the Internet.

Cyndy has many fond memories of friends at First Baptist Church, and sends her love to all.

We just received a nice letter from Springbrook in Oneonta, NY, where we send the items from the Christmas Mitten Tree. It is posted on the bulletin board for all to read. They are appreciative of the mittens, scarves, hats., etc., we send them each year.

Kath's Notes**White Cross Generosity**

For being modest in number, we are an extremely generous church, serving wherever we can! Whether it's collecting food, school kits or mittens, contributing to every special offering, or offering a welcome to visiting strangers, we certainly try our best to listen to the urging of the Holy Spirit.

On January 18th, a group of ABW women sat around the conference table, ripping and rolling bandages to be sent to the Congo. We completed 29 bandages, 3" across by 5 yards. We are also working on beautiful baby receiving blankets. When completed, we will have 20 blankets for beautiful little babies, also in the Congo.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Kathleen Ordiway represented First Baptist Church at the Niagara Ministerial Council's Martin Luther King, Jr. Musical Celebration, held at Trinity Baptist Church on Sunday, January 18th. It was an amazing

In February 2015: Dr. Brown will continue his series: the Canadian Coutts Hallmark poem *Footprints*; and Canadian legends of northern survival based on knowledge of the Bible. Don't miss one thrilling episode!



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



Birthdays

4 Paul Einstein
20 Carole Buchalski
28 Patricia Dibble



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 Christmas card from Janet Keebler, who lives in State College, PA, thanking us for our continued prayers.



February 1 – Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY

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. “Fun in February”

January 4 – Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch Luncheon

February 8 – Sunday

FIFTH SUNDAY after the EPIPHANY

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Brian A. Brown, FRSA, preaching
12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch
2:00 PM John Marshall speaking about *Hospice*

February 11 – Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

February 15 — Sunday

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

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

February 18 – ASH WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM Pancake Supper
7:00 PM Worship with the imposition of ashes
Rev. Brian Brown, FRSA, preaching

February 22 - Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching

February 25 – Wednesday

7:00 PM Lenten Vesper Service

February 26 - Thursday - Family Night

6:00 PM FAMILY GAME NIGHT

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

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

February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 5:00 L.I.F.E. "Fun in February"	2  Groundhog Day	3	4 12:15 Inasmuch lunch	5	6 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	7
8 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Brian A. Brown, FRSA, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 Rev. John Marshall speaking about <i>Hospice</i>	9	10	11 OFFICE HOURS 2 – 5 PM 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	14  <i>St. Valentine's Day</i>
15 TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	16  OFFICE CLOSED	17	18 OFFICE HOURS: 2 – 5 PM  6:00 Pancake Supper 7:00 Service	19  Chinese New Year	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	21
22 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching	23	24	25 OFFICE HOURS 2 – 5 PM 7:00 Lenten Vesper Service	26 OFFICE HOURS 2 – 5 PM 6:00 Family Game Night	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	28

1842



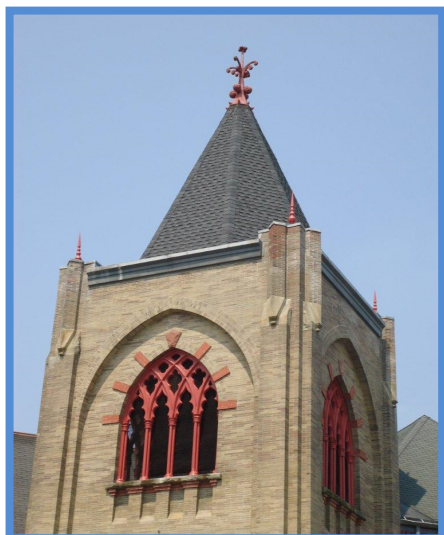
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2015



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VOLUME 67

NUMBER 2

2015

First Baptist Church

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