

1842



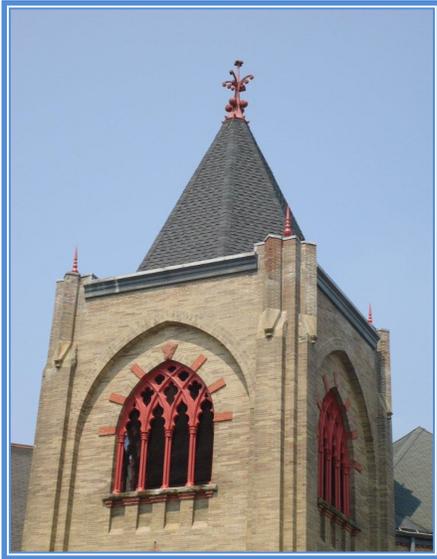
TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2013



VOLUME 65

NUMBER 7

2013

IN THE JULY ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 3 — Looking Ahead at the Month
- ➔ p. 4 — New in the Church Library
- ➔ p. 4 — Dr. Brown appointed Scholar-in-Residence
- ➔ p. 5 — Our very own “Valiant Woman”
- ➔ p. 7 — From the Moderator
- ➔ p. 8 — Annual Meeting Minutes
- ➔ p. 9 — New Feature: Bible Crossword!
- ➔ p. 10 — From Pastor Wes

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office</p> <p>12:15 Inasmuch luncheon at Donna Flood's house.</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Men's coffee time</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 7th SUN AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion With Infant Dedication 5:00 L.I.F.E. "America the Beautiful"</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office</p> <p>NO Diaconate/ Trustees meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Men's coffee time</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 8th SUN AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Men's coffee time</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9th SUN AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Men's coffee time</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 10th SUN AFTER PENTECOST</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>✠ The next round of building improvements is well underway. If something looks a little nicer and different — it probably is!</p> <p>✠ Make sure to read the two articles about our Scholar-in-Residence and our very own "Valiant Woman."</p>		



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 David Martin, Jr.
- 19 Robert Culbreth
- 22 Ronald Blakely
- 25 Florence Bowser
- 28 Mark Boeskin, Jr.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Janet Keebler, Dominic Ligamarri, David Compton, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Robert Hogan, Dr. Gary Shull, Margaret Payne, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



LOOKING AHEAD

July 3 Wed.

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon at Donna Flood's house, 5010 Salt Rd., Clarence



July 7 Sun.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM Divine Worship - Holy Communion
Infant Dedication
Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching
5:00 PM L.I.F.E. "America the Beautiful"

July 10 Wed.

NO Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

July 14 Sun.

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

July 21 Sun.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

July 28 Sun.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
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

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, July 7, 2013
5:00 PM

“America the Beautiful”

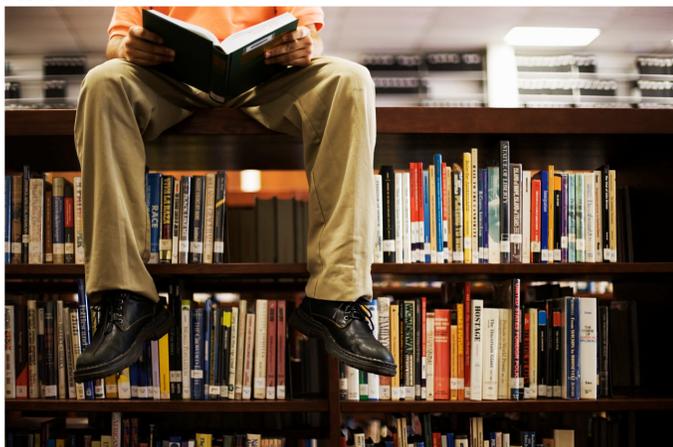
Pot Luck
Bring a Dish to Pass
Sign up in the Friendship Room

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.

New in the Library

First Baptist has quite 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.

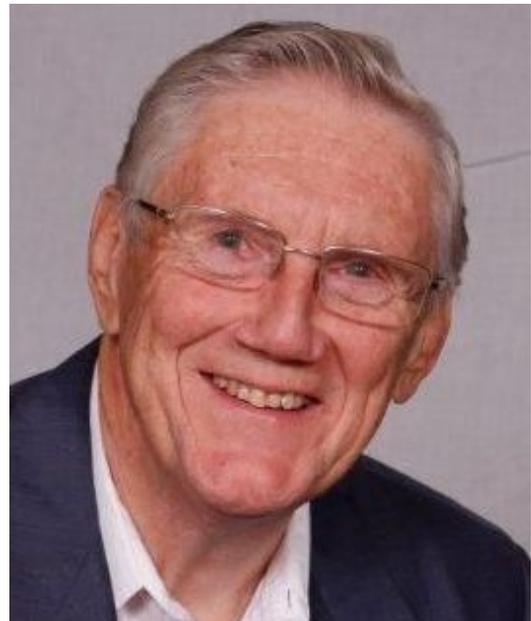


New items in the library this month include Jim Kelly's *Playbook for Dads*. Of course Jim

Kelly has been in the news recently since his announcement of his fight with cancer. His book recounts many moments in his playing career along with many relevant insights. A good read even if football isn't your thing.

And speaking of the library....

First Baptist Church announces the appointment of our Scholar-in-Residence



Noted author Brian Arthur Brown appointed Scholar-in-Residence at First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce that on June 12, 2013, the Trustees and Diaconate of First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, appointed the noted author and editor, Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, as Scholar-in-Residence.

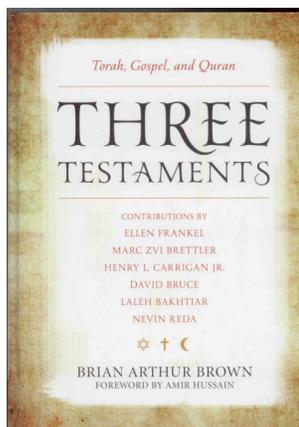
Brian Arthur Brown is a minister of the United Church of Canada who has preached at First Baptist Church on occasion in 2012 and 2013. He is also one of Canada's more prolific authors. His best known books are *Separatism?* (1976) with his friend, Quebec Premier Rene Levesque, followed by *The New Confederation* (1977) with Premier Bennett of British Columbia. For his American readers he wrote *Your Neighbor*

as *Yourself*, with a foreword by John Kenneth Galbraith (1996), a Canadian at Harvard who served as economic advisor to Presidents Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Johnson.

Dr. Brown has accepted the appointment as Scholar-in-Residence at First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, as a base for his American activities, and to preach on occasion. Most of his books will “appear” in our church library. He believes his best work was one of his first books, *The Burning Bush*, a narrative analysis of northern resource development, written during the 1975 Burger Inquiry into an oil pipeline between Alberta and the Arctic, yet to be built. His current (16th) book is *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel and Quran*, a compendium following the popular prequels, *Noah’s Other Son* and *Forensic Scriptures*.

Along with his appointment at First Baptist, an honorary position established by our Trustees at their June 12, 2013, meeting, Dr. Brown has just been named to the Oxford Roundtable on International Affairs at Jesus College in England’s Oxford University. With his lovely wife, Jenny, Brian lives in Niagara Falls, Ontario, less than ten minutes from our church. Their rambling old house is often filled with grandchildren, and the Browns will celebrate fifty years of marriage early in 2014. They were first attracted to First Baptist by its architecture, came to hear the excellent music during worship, and look forward to a future association with this “warm, historic and progressive” congregation.

We are fortunate indeed to have this association with Rev. Brown. Take the opportunity to look at and borrow from our church library one or two of his books. We definitely look forward to having him in the pulpit as the occasion arises.



Our Very OWN “Valiant Woman”

This month’s interview isn’t a true interview as it was prepared in secret for a very special award! Betty Richardson was selected to receive the Valiant Woman award from Church Women United and the biography had to be prepared without her knowledge!

Church Women United (CWU) is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. Founded in 1941, CWU is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women’s movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world, impassioned by the Holy Spirit to act on behalf of women and children throughout the world.

Each unit is urged to honor a “Valiant Woman”. This woman has given service to CWU, her own church and her community for an extended period of time. She does not have to be a leader, but

can be someone who leads in a quiet way through her example. She lives the Gospel message in her everyday life. The Niagara Falls unit did not select a Valiant Woman last year, so Betty is the first woman to be chosen in 2 years. Please be sure to congratulate Betty on this well-deserved honor! Following is the biography used when Betty received her award on Friday, June 7, 2013.

Elizabeth “Betty” (nee Jarden) Richardson, has been active in so many things of which we’d like to share a few!

On July 6, 1963, Betty married the late John Richardson, who became her partner in so many activities at their church – First Baptist, Niagara Falls. Together they created a program that is still loved by many: L.I.F.E., Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone, which welcomes the young and old to share in, well, fellowship! Crafts, games, songs, stories, prizes and food are enjoyed every month and we have Betty and John to thank for the enjoyable evenings.

Betty retired from the Niagara Falls School System, where she taught first and second grades at 79th Street School for 43 years. She still remains close friends with many teachers.

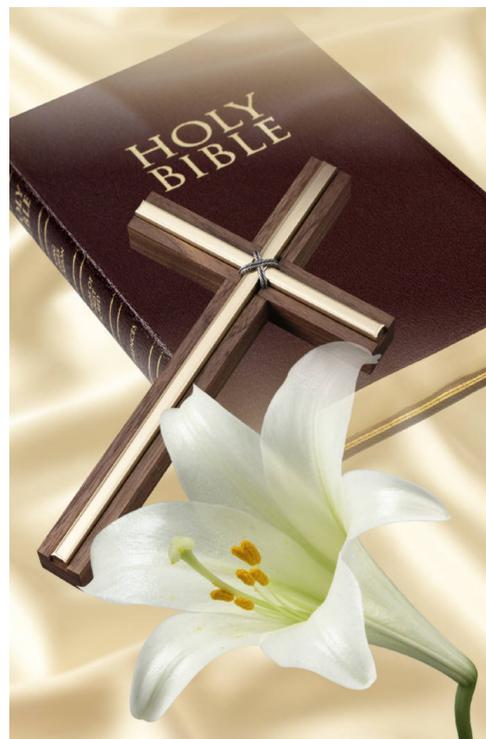
Betty is active in College Club; she was the president of the Niagara Falls Retired Teachers; she is the president of St. John’s Seniors – where she brings many entertaining activities to the group each month; she is on the boards of both Christian Women’s Connection of Niagara, and, of course, Church Women United. At First Baptist she has held many positions, most especially important would be Sunday School Superintendent for many years, where she thrived in organizing and directing the Christmas pageants each year. At one point or another, Betty has held every position in First Baptist’s American Baptist Women’s group, where she has been able to be instrumental in the women’s mission work. Betty was influential in raising funds through the group’s “Love Gift” when she encouraged everyone to collect dollar bills that had an “L” (for love) on them. Through her encouragement, the Love Gift collection easily quadrupled each month. She is also a member of

the church’s Inasmuch group and the combined Diaconate/Trustees board. While the church hosted the Niagara County Nutrition site (Chat ‘n Chew), Betty volunteered her time there also. Amongst other awards, Betty received Iney Wallen’s Good Neighbor Award.

First Baptist Church is very grateful for Betty’s untiring dedication to taking care of the educational wing of the church as well as completely taking care of the dining room remodel.

Betty fosters neighborhood cats, but no biography of Betty, no matter how brief, would be complete without mentioning the loves of her life – her Shih Tzus: Puffy, who she lost several years ago, and Buffy, who is probably one of the most adored pets in Niagara Falls. Buffy and Betty take walks several times a day, and love to sing and to dance together, too.

Betty is an encourager who has shared these paraphrased words of wisdom, “Time goes by quickly. Do the things you want to do in your life so that in 50 years you don’t look back and say ‘Why didn’t I?’” Because of that encouragement, people’s lives have been changed.



AND FROM THE MODERATOR...

Our June Rummage Sale has been successfully completed thanks to the setup, advertising, and sales assistance from Hazel Baxter, Connie Davis, Marge Bozigar, and Carolyn Culbreth. We also thank Jean Potter and the Wilson Baptist Church for their gracious donations. The proceeds which were nearly \$500 goes to our Building Fund for external renovations starting when the weather allows. The sale is a mission to us and the community, providing low cost items for those wanting or needing a bargain. We had lots of really nice items this year and we thank our donors. In case you missed it, we'll have another in the fall.

The **mission** for July will continue being the Building Fund. In last month's Tower, the work needing to be done was described. The brick work, outside window painting, and steps to the gym are all included in the project.

The **Education Committee** has tasked itself with reviewing safety and procedures for working with children by viewing insurance sponsored webinars. These presentations are presented by experts in Christian Education and safety to keep everyone safe. It's a new world out there and the rules of conduct for volunteers are the same as those for professional educators.

The Diaconate is setting up **Communion for the homebound** which Pastor Wes, Kay Buckley, and Ron Bowser will distribute in July. If you have a homebound loved one or are a senior that has difficulty getting to church and wishes Communion, call Jim at the church office at 282-4666 to set a time and date. As our congregation ages, this Christian outreach is available. The same goes for those in hospital or nursing homes.

The ladies (men, too) are invited to a porch party for **In as Much Circle** on July 3rd at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon on Donna's porch, rain or shine, will celebrate summer and each other's company. The address is 5010 Salt Road, Clarence, NY 14031.

Bible Study continues with Kath Ordiway so check the calendar for times and location. It's the second and fourth Sunday of the month. It's an ongoing series but one can jump in anywhere.

Donna Flood

WOULD YOU LIKE AN ANNUAL REPORT?

Annual Reports for 2012 were distributed at our Annual Meeting May 26, 2013. If you did not get one and would like to see the details of the workings of your church, just email the office at nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org or phone at 716-282-4666. A note by snail mail works, too. We'll send one out right away.

First Baptist Church
Main at Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

ANNUAL MEETING



May 26, 2013

First Baptist Church

Main at Fourth Street — 554 Main Street
Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

Annual Meeting

May 26, 2013

- Printed copies of Annual Meeting Report for 2012 distributed to attending congregational members.
- Meeting opened at 12:20 PM with Prayer by Moderator Donna M. Flood.
- Attendance: 19 voting members.
- Last Budget Meeting minutes printed in report booklet. No errors or omissions found. Report stands as printed.
- Nominating Committee: Moderator Donna Flood thanked the Nominating Committee for their diligent work and indicated that next year's slate of officers, trustees, and diaconate was printed on the final page of the Annual Report booklet.
- Call for nominations from the floor. No nominations.
- Motion for Church Clerk to cast a single ballot for entire slate. (H. Baxter/M. Blakely)
- Passed unanimously by voice vote.
- Call for additional questions/motions from the floor. None.
- Motion to adjourn. (R. Bowser/G. Lewis).
- Passed unanimously by voice vote.

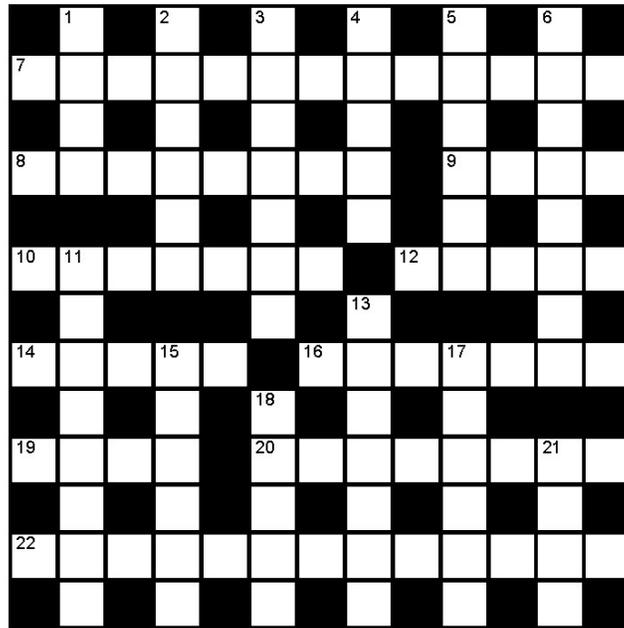
Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Kathleen A. Ordiway,
Church Clerk

KAO/jdf

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Luke



Across

- 7 The governor of Judaea. Luke 3:1 (7, 6)
- 8 Simon was a _____. Luke 23:26 (8)
- 9 "Consider the lilies how they grow: they ____ not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Luke 12:27 (4)
- 10 "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy _____," Luke 14:12 (7)
- 12 "Thou shalt not ____ the Lord thy God." Luke 4:12 (5)
- 14 Andrew's brother, whose name was also Peter. Luke 6:14 (5)
- 16 "And when he cometh home, he calleth together his _____ and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me;" Luke 15:6 (7)
- 19 A physician. Col 4:14 (4)
- 20 One of the commandments: Do not commit _____. Luke 18:20 (8)

- 22 "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, _____ him." Luke 22:43 (13)
- Down
- 1 Meaning set apart. Luke 1:72 (4)
 - 2 "And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved _____; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God." Luke 23:35 (6)
 - 3 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O _____, son of the morning!" Isa 14:12 (7)
 - 4 "And when he had _____ all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want." Luke 15:14 (5)
 - 5 "If then God so _____ the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he _____ you, O ye of little faith?" Luke 12:28 (6)

- 6 In this parable, thieves attacked a man from Jericho and _____ him of his raiment. Luke 10:30 (8)
- 11 "Depart from me, all ye workers of _____." Luke 13:27 (8)
- 13 "Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she _____ forth a son." Luke 1:57 (7)
- 15 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be _____ unto you." Luke 11:9 (6)
- 17 "For John the Baptist came neither _____ bread nor drinking wine;" Luke 7:33 (6)
- 18 Opposite of small. Luke 22:12 (5)
- 21 The veil of the temple was _____ when the sun was darkened. Luke 23:45 (4)

Fear not! Thine answer key appeareth next month!

From the Pastor...

MEETING THE REV. JAMES KELSEY, NEWLY APPOINTED EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES, NEW YORK STATE.

People, clergy and lay persons had the opportunity to meet Dr. Kelsey at New Hope Baptist Church on June 5, 2013. It was a delightful occasion. Dr. Kelsey presented his concerns as well as his hopes for the American Baptist Church in New York State.

There was some discussion about lay training and it was noted that there is a program for the American Baptist Churches of New York.

Considerable discussion was held about the Church and how well the Church is responding to the technology faced by the worshipping community. This discussion continued during lunch. When I got home I found an email which talks about Church services of the future:

[A tongue-in-cheek version]

Church Services in the Future

PASTOR: "Praise the Lord!"

CONGREGATION: "Hallelujah!"

PASTOR: "Can we please turn on our tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Cor 13:13. And please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon."

P-a-u-s-e.....

"Now, Let us pray committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God"

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

"As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready."

"You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password 'Lord_777. ' "

The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers: Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.

Those who prefer to use iPads can open them.

Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements...

This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out. Thursday's Bible study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers. God bless you and have a nice day.

Last Article, but certainly not the least...THE BUILDING FUND

IT'S GETTING WARMER and so the Trustees have turned their attention to the east side (the porch side) of the church. We've made wonderful progress in the last two years, having the north side and the south side and tower of the church pointed and repaired as necessary. Now it is time for the east side. On the east side we have pointing to do and window painting. As the weather gets nicer we'll be able to schedule work by the same company that has been doing the work in the past, Ajax-Smith of Tonawanda, NY.

There are some smaller Building Fund envelopes newly placed in the pew card holders. Whatever you can do to help out is most sincerely appreciated. Everyone without exception who visits our church comments on the beauty of the architecture and also how well we maintain and care for it.

We aren't forgetting the inside of our building, either. You will notice restoration work in the Friendship Room and the rest room off the library. We just had our electrician go through the entire building. He had to replace seven ballasts and a half-case (15) of fluorescent tubes!

We can be justly proud of our building and our commitment to it. A HUGE thank you to all!