

TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 3 — Looking Ahead at the Month
- ➔ p. 4 — New in the Church Library
- ➔ pp. 5 & 6 — IM Missionaries
- ➔ p. 7 — From the Moderator
- ➔ p. 9 — ABHMS
- ➔ p. 10 — From Pastor Wes

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First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It's not too late to bring in more "stuff" for the Rummage Sale! There's always room for more. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wes and Jim get lonely. Wes is in the office Wednesday mornings. Jim has the coffee on for the men on Friday mornings. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Have you seen some of the new books in the church library? Read this month's article. You may borrow any item.						1
2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E. "Summer in June"	3	4	5 9:00-12:00 Rev. Wes is in his office. 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	6	7 10:00 Men's Coffee RUMMAGE SALE 9 AM – 3 PM	8 SALE 9:00 AM - NOON
9 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch	10	11	12 9:00-12:00 Rev. Wes is in his office 7:00 Trustees/ Diaconate Meeting	13	14 10:00 Men's Coffee  Flag Day	15
16 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>  Baccalaureate Sunday — Fathers' Day	17	18	19 9:00-12:00 Rev. Wes is in his office	20	21 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  Summer Begins	22
23 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	24	25	26 9:00-12:00 Rev. Wes is in his office	27	28 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	29
30 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Do you have a graduate this year in your family? Let the church office know so we can honor them on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 16 th . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Is there an article in you for Tower Topics? Submit it by the 15 th of the month and see yourself in print! Any subject of value and of interest to the church members is welcome.					



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6	Eileen Palmer Wrobel
9	Connie Davis
10	Dorothy Jackson
22	Joanne Coons
22	Christeen Palmer Salimbene



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for 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

June 2 Sun.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

June 5 Wed.

12:15 PM	Inasmuch luncheon
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June 9 Sun.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

June 12 Wed.

7:00 PM	Diaconate/Trustees Meeting
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June 16 Sun.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

June 23 Sun.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

May 30 Sun.

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, June 2, 2013

5:00 PM

“Summer in June”

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 include *I Did It His Way* which is a collection of religious comic strips

by Johnny Hart, the author of the comic strip “B.C.” John Lewis “Johnny” Hart was born in Endicott, New York in 1931. From an early age he was a cartoonist and in 1958 he debuted the newspaper cartoon “B.C.” and in 1964 he and Brant Parker began the strip “The Wizard of Id.” In 1984 Johnny Hart became a Christian and began writing his comic strip with many Christian messages. It is these comic strips that appear in this collection. Johnny passed away on Easter eve 2007, but his talent and wit continue on in this book, which is published as a tribute to him.

When God Makes Lemonade is a collection of true stories that amaze and encourage and come from the lives of everyday folk. They are about people like you and me who have discovered unexpected sweetness in the midst of sour circumstances. Some of the stories are laugh-out-loud funny, others are sobering, and more than a few will have you searching for a tissue. When in life “stuff happens” know that lemonade happens too!

The Harbinger by Jonathan Cahn is about an ancient mystery that holds the secret of America's future. Written from a definite point of view, it is a New York Times best seller that explores ancient Biblical verse from the Book of Isaiah.

Mark Mittelberg has written *Choosing Your Faith*. Join this best-selling author on a spiritual adventure as you explore your particular pathway to faith. Discover the source of your beliefs while determining how to find a faith that makes sense. “A lot of books tell you what to believe, but *Choosing Your Faith*” shows you how to decide what to believe. You are sure to be challenged and encouraged.”

For those of us interested in modern theology and a story of radical integrity, Michael Van Dyke has written *The Story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*. Pastor, professor, and one of the twentieth-century's most brilliant minds, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was caught in Nazi Germany, saw its evil, and joined the resistance to the country's dictator, Adolph Hitler. Bonhoeffer pondered and wrote on deep spiritual issues, even as a prisoner in a Gestapo jail. A truly gripping, true story.



IM endorses two missionaries for service in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Katrina and Kyle Williams, from Everett, Washington, have been endorsed by American Baptist International Ministries (IM) to serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with IM's partner, the Baptist Community of Congo at the Pastoral Institute of Kikongo. They will assist with training pastors and their spouses in theology, literacy and church and rural development.

Kyle is currently a graduate student in psychology at Central Washington University. Katrina is a photographer and graphic artist. Together they have worked summers at a family commercial fishing site in Alaska. They are home schooling their four children, Ian Patrick (8), Adison Grace (7), Elijah Jacob (3) and Abram Isaac (2), who will be serving with their parents in the DRC. Their home church is First Baptist Church of Everett, Washington.

When asked how they became connected with IM, Kyle recalled, "Glen and Rita Chapman [IM missionaries] spoke at our church. My wife and I had been looking for a mission organization to

partner with... we were hooked because of [the Chapman's] holistic view of ministry that involves economic and agricultural development alongside theological development."

"I could not be more excited for the endorsement of Kyle and Katrina," commented Brian Harpell, pastor, First Baptist Church of Everett. "They have enormous passion for the mission of Christ demonstrated in their willingness to sacrifice, a genuine humility and compassion, and incredible gifts for practical service."

Dr. Charles Revis, executive minister, ABC of the Northwest, agrees. "I understand that this journey toward endorsement has been a healthy and exciting process. Last year Kyle and Katrina met with the Lowerys and Chapmans [both IM missionary couples]. This interaction fueled their vision for the DRC. They met with FBC Everett's outreach team for over a year. They received prayer, counsel and discipleship. We are confident that God will use the Williams in a great way, and we are thrilled that this endorsement has transpired."

As endorsed missionary candidates, the Williams will be working in the months ahead to build their Missionary Partnership Network. They will be inviting individuals, groups, and churches to partner with them by committing to share the spiritual, relational, and financial support needed for them to begin their ministry with the church leaders to whom God is calling them.

Please join IM in celebrating this new endorsement and praying for Kyle and Katrina and their children as they invite others to join them in "working hand in hand with Congolese leaders to equip rural pastors with the tools to aid in the mission of Christ" (Matthew 28:19-20). You may send words of encouragement and communicate directly with the Williams at

williams@internationalministries.org.

IM Endorses Two Missionaries For Service in Thailand

Debby and Kyle Witmer from Springville, Indiana, have been endorsed by American Baptist International Ministries (IM) to serve in Thailand

with IM's partner, the Thailand Karen Baptist Convention (TKBC) at the Siloam Bible Institute in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The couple will work in pastoral education and leadership development. Kyle will also do continuing education with TKBC pastors and evangelists.

The Karen (pronounced Kar-an) is an ethnic tribal people group, a minority in Thailand. Karen young people who attend the Bible school wish to follow the call of God on their lives to be pastors and evangelists among the Karen villages in the hills of Thailand.

Kyle currently serves as pastor of Avoca Baptist Church in Avoca, Indiana, where Debby also serves as worship leader and head of the missions committee. Their church is excited about partnering with them in this new area of ministry. Kyle and Debby home school their four children, Hannah (16), Brennan (12), Julia (10) and Emma (7), who will be serving with their parents in Thailand.

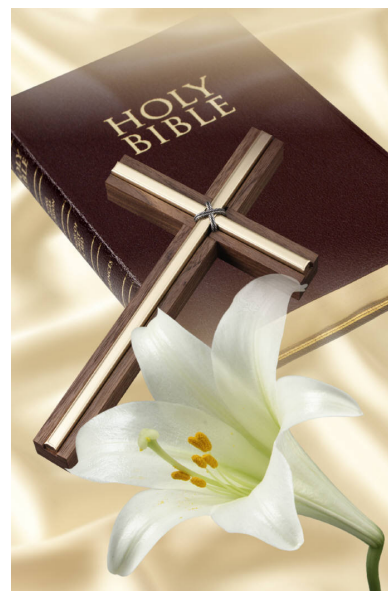
When asked why they feel called to this ministry, they responded, "The church is called to make disciples of all ethnicities. Our sense of call to this ministry is a response to our call to serve the church. Leadership development is greatly needed. The work at Siloam is established and is helping pastors grow and learn, as well as calling new pastors in villages to the ministry."

Rev. Soozie Whitten Ford, executive minister, ABC of Indiana & Kentucky, is enthusiastic about the couple's call. "It is an honor for the ABC of Indiana and Kentucky to support Debby and Kyle as they respond to God's call for this phase of their lives together. The Witmer's call to global service through IM is the natural fruit of their deep personal spiritual disciplines, a lifelong openness and responsiveness to God's leading and a passion for developing disciples and training leaders. In all areas of their lives they model biblical stewardship, with an enthusiastic expectation that our generous God will provide the necessary resources for all they are being called to do."

As endorsed missionary candidates, the Witmers will be working in the months ahead to build their Missionary Partnership Network. They will be inviting individuals, groups, and churches

to partner with them by committing to share the spiritual, relational, and financial support needed for them to begin their ministry with the church leaders to whom God is calling them.

Please join IM in celebrating this new endorsement and praying for Debby and Kyle and their children as they invite others to join them in "the journey to become all God has intended for us as Jesus' disciples." You may send words of encouragement and communicate directly with the Witmers at witmer@internationalministries.org. Learn more about the Witmers on the IM website: <http://www.internationalministries.org/teams/594-witmer>



IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we inform you of the passing of Mildred "Mike" Gunther on May 18, 2013, from pneumonia, at Fox Run nursing home in Orchard Park, NY. Mike was the wife of Rev. Edward Gunther who pastored at First Baptist Church in the 1960's.

There will be a Memorial Service at St. Stephen's United Church of Christ, Tonawanda Creek Road, on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at 2:00 PM.

AND FROM THE Moderator...

The month of June will bring the end of school, graduations and Father's Day. We will celebrate **Tyler Ordiway's graduation on Baccalaureate Sunday**. Please check the calendar for the date and our congratulations go to Tyler and his parents Kathy and Toby Ordiway. These are happy times and we all rejoice together.

Unfortunately, spring has not been a happy time for those living in Texas and Oklahoma whose homes were lost during the recent spate of tornados. Our prayers go out to them and American For Christ is already in action. Our mission dollars are put to God's work both in the U.S. and abroad.

The **Christian Education** committee of Joe and Jeanette Heasley, Kathy Ordiway, and Betty Richardson have been tasked with nursery safety and getting the Christian Education moving in our church. Safety for little ones is nothing to take for granted. Setting up a nursery room is just the beginning of a process which will include program concerns, volunteer screening, supervision and new procedures that follow both law and insurance concerns. It's not the same world we grew up in and we must be responsible to not only teach the words of Jesus, but to ensure the best of care for those who come to us. We have webinars to view, forms to write, supervision to ensure and materials to screen.

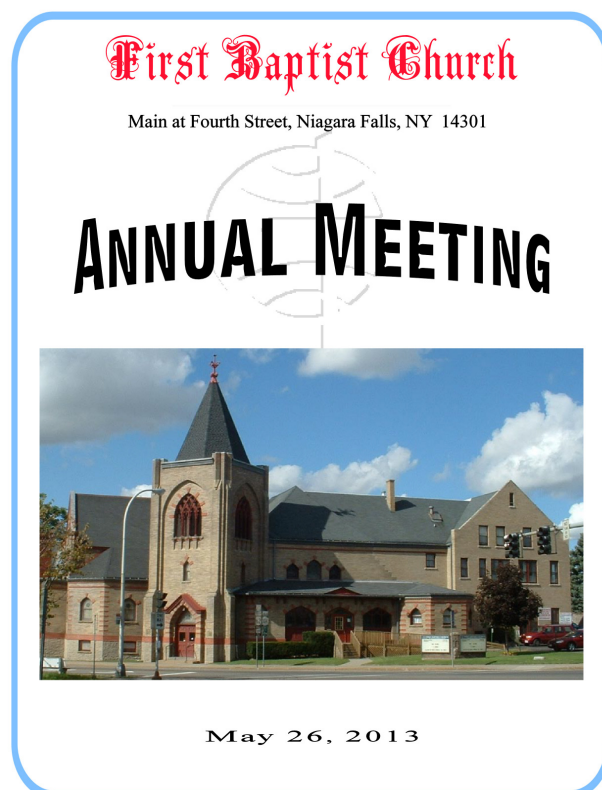
The **Rummage and Chowder Sale** on June 7 & 8 is being set up in our gym. Bring clean, lightly used items to the church by June 5. If you wish to assist in set up, take down or during the sale, see Donna. The proceeds of the sale will go to our Building Fund which will be restoring the external walls and windows of the east side of our historic church. Our mission donations for June will also go towards the expense which will cost approximately \$7,000. We also have roofing problems to attend to this spring which have damaged ceilings.

The Trustees and Diaconate thank our **Nominating Committee** members, Dorothy Jackson, Marge Bozigar and Margie Blakely, for calling church members for nominations for the recently passed slate of officers, trustees, deacons, and church representatives. We have many hands performing many tasks to keep our church and its programs in operation. Donations of service and time have great value in the eyes of the Lord.

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

Corner of
Main and Fourth

Rummage (and Chowder!)

Sale

Friday and Saturday

June 7: 9 AM - 3 PM

June 8: Bag Sale: 9 AM - 12 PM



- **TELL YOUR FRIENDS**

- **PUT UP A POSTER**

- **BRING IN YOUR RUMMAGE**

- **PATRONIZE THE SALE**

- **THE CHOWDER IS DELICIOUS!**

ABHMS-supported children's home needs help

For more than a century, with support from ABHMS, Murrow Indian Children's Home, Muskogee, Okla., has been nurturing homeless, abused and neglected Native American children and guiding them along the path to a bright future.



Now, this life-transforming ministry needs financial help to meet a recent state mandate that children be housed in familylike settings.

The home's children presently live in three cottages—two for females and one for males—where they are supervised by shift workers.

However, a *familylike* setting means supervision by live-in house parents, which, for Murrow, entails constructing on each of the cottages a self-contained apartment in which houseparents can sleep. In addition, alarms and cameras must be installed to alert houseparents when a child gets out of bed at night.

Licensed to house 30 children, the facility was housing 14 at the time of this writing, with several additional children expected. Currently, the youngest child at Murrow is age 3. Some residents stay until they graduate from high school.

The new rule affects children in state custody only—not those in tribal custody—and compliance deadlines have been set according to age group. Because of its current mix of children, Murrow will be in compliance by updating only one cottage for now.

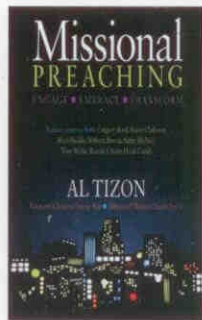
How You Can Help

You can help the home by sponsoring a child; praying for the children and staff; donating to the capital campaign; or contributing via the annual benefit pow wow slated for June 29 at Bacone College, Muskogee.

To sponsor a child, contact volunteer Sharon Woolwine at sewoolwine@gmail.com or 1-812-890-0231. To donate in any other way, contact Betty Martin, the home's executive director, at murrowhomedirector@gmail.com or 1-918-682-2586.

Judson Press book receives Outreach Resource of Year award

"Missional Preaching: Engage • Embrace • Transform" by Dr. Al Tizon has received the 2013 Outreach Resource of the Year award in the Preaching category from Outreach magazine.



A pastor, professor and missionary, Tizon takes an in-depth look at the integral relationship between preaching and the aim of the missional church. He introduces the essentials of missional preaching and then offers chapters about mission grounded in biblical themes, including:

- alternative community,
- holistic transformation,
- justice and reconciliation, and
- whole-life stewardship.

Using sermons from leading Christian preachers—including Greg Boyd, Shane Claiborne, Brenda Salter-McNeil and Ron Sider—Tizon illustrates how the themes can be proclaimed from the pulpit.

"Al Tizon carefully takes the popular 'missional' word and shows in three foundational chapters how it is God's middle name, how it should guide the way we study and preach the whole Bible, and how it cannot be separated from worship," says Knute Larson, retired pastor of The Chapel, Akron, Ohio.

An ordained minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church, Tizon is an associate professor of holistic ministry at Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, Pa., and director of the Word & Deed Network of Evangelicals for Social Action.

"Missional Preaching: Engage • Embrace • Transform" retails for \$16.99 and can be purchased at 20 percent off at www.judsonpress.com.

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824

From the Pastor

WHEN MY ONE AND ONLY SISTER, Peggy, died in 1976, of cancer, it was a challenge to understand “Why?” especially since she was just 46, never smoked and to our knowledge only occasionally enjoyed a glass of wine. She left behind a husband and three children.

Harold Kushner, a rabbi of the Jewish conservative tradition, had the same questions when his son died of an incurable genetic disease, progeria, at the age of 14.

In an attempt to explain his son’s death he wrote a book entitled, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. In such circumstances we wonder if there is a good God and our question is, “How can a loving God allow such events. How can a loving God create a universe that experiences both Good (beauty, Yellowstone National Park, Niagara Falls) and Evil (war, diseases, tornadoes, etc.)?”

When I read the rabbi’s book, I began to understand my sister’s death.

Rabbi Kushner attempts to address the skeptics who wonder how a loving God could allow such a thing. The calling home of a child awakens in the most hardened of skeptics the moral reality of God. In asking, “How could you, God?” presupposes a moral authority who chooses the “hows” of life, the “hows” that it works by.

So whether it is a child, family, or skeptic, we come face to face with a God who remains a “mystery.” Those who experienced the reality of war, especially World War II and the existence of a Hitler, wonder “Why?” The evil acts of terrorists escape our understanding and we wonder, “Why?”

This book appeared on the New York Times Best Seller List – nonfiction. Two copies of the book are in our church library for you to borrow and read.

There are two other books that you may find interesting and helpful: *The Healing Power of Humor*, by Allen Klein and *Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff, and It’s All Small Stuff*, by Richard Carlson. All of these books are available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

Wes

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

IT’S GETTING WARMER, little bit by little bit, and so the Trustees will be turning 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 new smaller Building Fund envelopes newly placed in the pew card holders. Whatever you can do to help out is most sincerely appreciated. We have a real legacy and a responsibility with our historic architecturally significant worship space. Everyone without exception who visits our church comments on the beauty of the architecture and also how well we maintain and care for it.

On May 18th and 19th, in conjunction with the New York State Sacred Sites Conservancy, we held an open house for interested parties to view our church inside and out. As the “anchor” of the southwest corner of the Park Place Historic District we are doing our part for the community’s historic preservation. We can be justly proud of our building and commitment to it. A HUGE thank you to all!

A QUICK NOTE ON ST. STEPHEN’S UCC: It is a difficult church to find. The address is 8520 Tonawanda Creek Road, East Amherst, NY 14051.

Directions: Go to Transit Road (Rt. 78). The church is on the Tonawanda Creek Road that is south of Tonawanda Creek, just north of where Millersport Hwy. meets Transit Road. Turn east off Transit Road and go 1½ miles. Church is on the left.

Mike Gunther’s memorial service is at 2:00 PM, Saturday, June 15, 2013.