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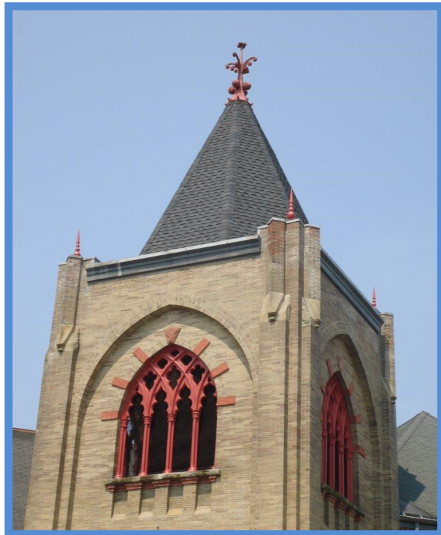
TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2014



IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 3 — Looking at this Month
- ➔ p. 4 — Brian's Notes
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VOLUME 66








NUMBER 6

2014

First Baptist Church

554 Main Street
Corner of Main and Fourth
Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ASCENSION SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 5:00 L.I.F.E. "Birds of a Feather"	2	3	4 <u>Wes in the office</u> 12:15 Inasmuch lunch	5	6 RUMMAGE 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	7 SALE 9:00 AM – 12:00
8 PENTECOST BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch	9	10	11 <u>Wes in the office</u> 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting	12	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	14  Flag Day
15 TRINITY SUNDAY 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship and men's pancake breakfast 11:00 Divine Worship Kathleen A. Ordiway, Preaching <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 	16	17	18 <u>Wes in the office</u>	19	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	21  Summer Begins
22 2ND SUN. AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching	23	24	25 <u>Wes in the office</u>	26	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	28
29 3RD SUN. AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rummage Sale June 6 & 7. You can still bring in donations. Call the office. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Celebrate Father's Day on June 15 at the Men's Pancake Breakfast: 10:00 AM. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This month you will see holes where stained glass panels used to be. Not to worry! They will be back at the end of August all fixed up! We can still use donations.				



TOWER TOPICS

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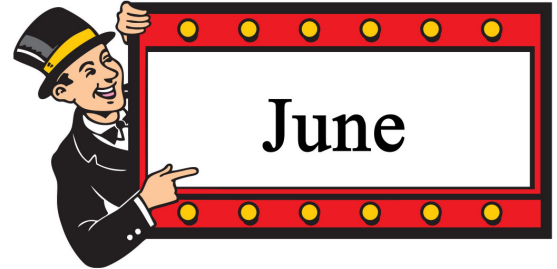
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



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



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Margaret Saul, John Petrozzi, 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.



June 1 – Sunday

ASCENSION SUNDAY

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. “Birds of a Feather”

June 4 – Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

June 8 – Sunday

PENTECOST

Baccalaureate Sunday

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

June 11 - Wednesday

7:00 PM Trustees/Diaconate Meeting

June 15 – Sunday

TRINITY SUNDAY

10:00 AM Father's Day pancake breakfast
11:00 AM Divine Worship
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection

June 22 - Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

June 29 - Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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

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

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, June 1, 2014**5:00 PM****“Birds of a Feather”**

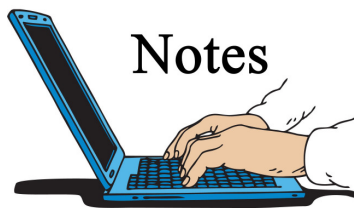
Pot Luck.

Bring a dish to pass.

Sign up in the Friendship Room.

Do We Have Your Birthday?

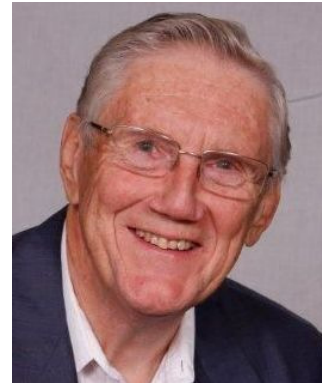
If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, **please** call the office (716-282-4666) to let us know your special date so we can include it.

Scholar-in-Residence
**GOLD MEDAL FOR First Baptist
SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**

AS WE GO TO PRESS, BRIAN AND JENNY BROWN are at a gala in NYC where Dr. Brown is receiving the IPPY Book Awards gold medal in the Religion category. This award to our scholar-in-residence is for the paperback edition of his book, *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel and Quran*, published a few months ago with what Brian considers significant improvements to the opening chapter.

While in New York the Browns will also be meeting with Arthur Strimling, the director of the play based on the book, and together they will begin the audition and casting process for the play premiere. The Off- Broadway production opens at

the West End Theatre (literally about fifty steps off Broadway) next May. Some of us hope to go,



Author,
Rev. Dr.
Brian A.
Brown

after which we anticipate the possibility of a chancel production in our church, engaging local amateur theatre in reaching out to other faiths and other progressive Christians.

Brian Brown



Mr. And Mrs. Paul Einstein
The Terrace At Glen Eddy
1 Ascot Ln Apt 154
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4962
518-280-8201



**FROM THE RISING
OF THE SUN
TO ITS SETTING,
THE NAME OF
THE LORD IS
TO BE PRAISED!**

PSALM 113:3, ESV

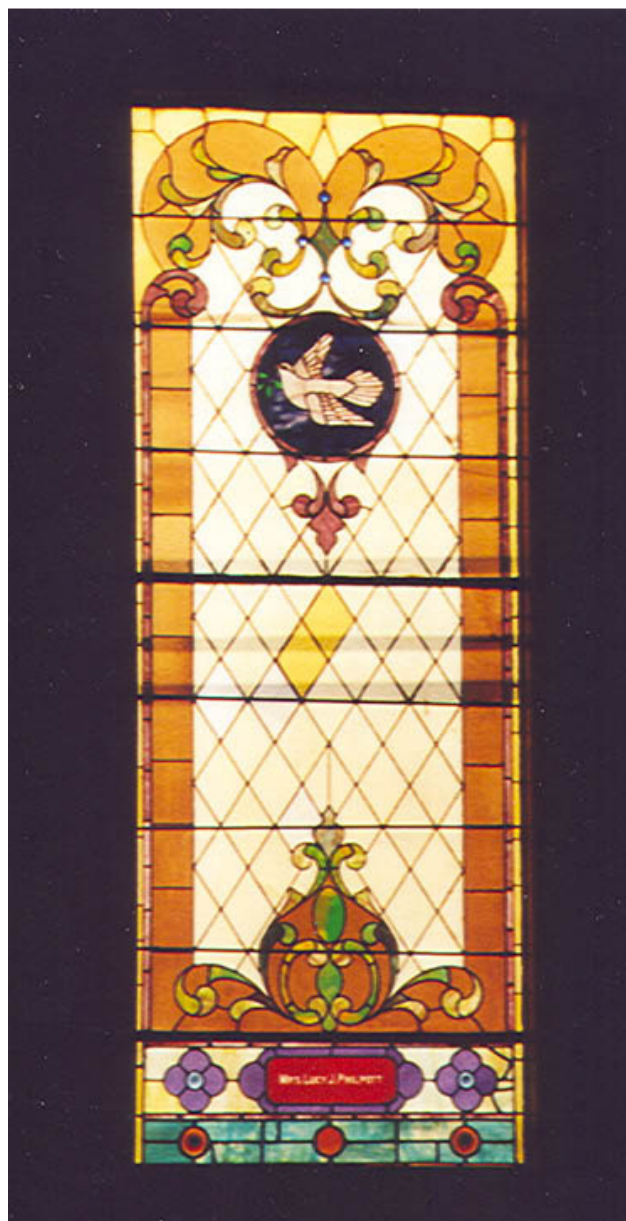
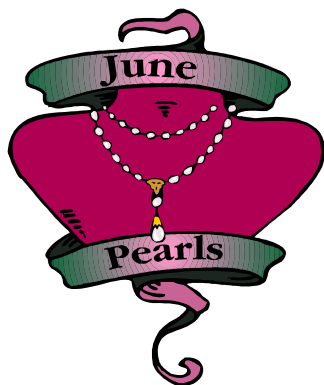


last month's answers

Philippians



The World Missions Conference from July 21-25, 2014, will be held at Green Lake, WI, will include all of the missionaries with International Ministries plus over 100 international guests. Food, fun, music and information about amazing ministries will abound! Can you be a part of this once in a lifetime conference event? Call the church office for details.



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, has been chosen to do the restoration work. You may have noticed some “holes in the wall” already. We will be missing these sections until the end of August when they will return and re-install the new and re-leaded sections.

Envelopes for contributions are still available on the table in the Friendship room.

Kristy Engel writes**Past and future travel...**

Starting at the beginning of January and through most of March, I was traveling through much of Southeast Asia as well as Nepal and the Dominican Republic in my role as regional Health Care Relief Resource Missionary for International Ministries. Now, I know, these countries aren't all in the same region but I was basically loaned out to other regions to do what I've been doing in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2012. I was able to visit Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal and then end with a visit to the Dominican Republic where I joined a medical work team from Rhode Island. In each of those visits, I was able to ask the question, "If you had the



power to change one thing about health in your community, what would you change?" It's a powerful question! In some places, change is dangerous and so no one considers change. I was asking people to dream and consider the possibilities. It was a fascinating journey which I hope to continue to share through successive newsletters focused on each of these countries in the next couple of weeks.

In the next few months I'll be planning a return trip to Thailand to help with a small medical team working as part of a Discovery Team with International Ministries. We will partner with Mike and Becky Mann to work in building latrines and a clean water system for a remote Thai village. During their construction time, I will hopefully have a small medical team helping me see patients. If you are interested, please contact me immediately as the trip is planned for October. I am also planning on returning to Haiti to help the new Baptist Convention hospital in the north with their expansion of the emergency department. It is my hope to have help from the Good Samaritan Hospital in the Dominican Republic as they are a fantastic resource and so close by. Finally, I will continue to work with my friends in Bolivia and Nicaragua as we plan future trips with medical teams and possibly a new Discovery Team (medical!!) to Nicaragua in 2015!! Who wants to join me?

Right now, I'd like to give you a resource that you might find interesting. International Ministries has just published the Guide to Global Servants with a page dedicated to every missionary's ministry.

Thank you, again, for all you have done to make this ministry possible. Please know that your involvement continues to reach people around the world as you support me and travel with me on each trip I make.

Sincerely,

Kristy Engel,
International Ministries

Kristy also adds this . . .

Psalm 4:8



"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe."

During my travels, these last months, I met many people who had no hope in safety or peace, no hope in food or a roof over their head that night and some, although they may have had a bed to sleep in, may have feared things that come in the night...things you and I only have nightmares about. And yet, I met these same people with a sense of peace about them. I often marveled at their peace and even their laughter and joy...the smiles they greeted me with, knowing their stories and pain, yet seeing their hope. I am privileged beyond measure to continue to witness the miracle of God's overwhelming hope and peace in the lives of so many in this world and marvel that I am a small part in that. Each day we are given opportunities to share that same hope and live a life of peace and joy. We often choose other ways. I would challenge you, today, to be a light of hope and peace to everyone you meet and see how God can use you in new ways!





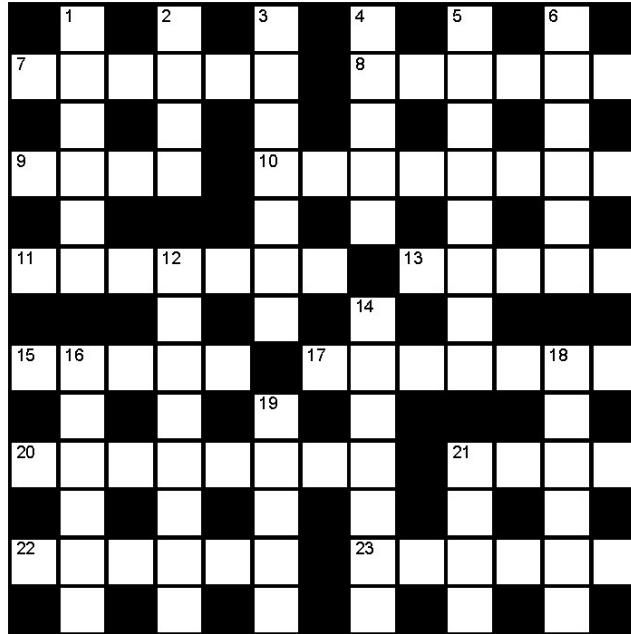
A colorful sign announced our Sacred Sites architectural tours the weekend of May 17 & 18, 2014.



Joe Heasley stands ready to greet people interested in our architecture.

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Colossians



Across

- 7 "_____ puffed up by his fleshly mind." Col 2:18 (6)
- 8 We shall do this with Christ in glory. Col 3:4 (6)
- 9 "Masters, give unto your servants that which is _____ and equal." Col 4:1 (4)
- 10 "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well _____ unto the Lord." Col 3:20 (8)
- 11 Anointed one. (7)
- 13 Paul is absent from the Colossians in this, but says he is with them in spirit. Col 2:5 (5)
- 15 "But he that doeth _____ shall receive for the _____ which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." Col 3:25 (5)
- 17 Two words. God's commandments are clear. However, we are quick to turn away and follow this. (4, 3)

- 20 "For I would that ye knew what great _____ I have for you." Col 2:1 (8)
- 21 Jesus withered this fruit-bearing tree because "the time of _____ was not yet." Mark 11:13 (4)
- 22 "_____ lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit." Col 2:8 (6)
- 23 Jesus was born in this. (6)

Down

- 1 Paul asks that the Colossians do this to the brethren in Laodicea. Col 4:15 (6)
- 2 Paul desires that the people's hearts be comforted and "_____ together in love." Col 2:2 (4)
- 3 A disciple at Laodicea whom Paul salutes. Col 4:15 (7)
- 4 "Thus saith the LORD the _____ therefore, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name." Jer 33:2 (5)

- 5 There were 12 of these. (8)
- 6 Paul writes "to the _____ and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse." Col 1:2 (6)
- 12 A title of Jesus. (3, 2, 3)
- 14 "Buried with him in _____, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Col 2:12 (7)
- 16 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: _____ and built up in him ..." Col 2:6-7 (6)
- 18 Heavenly creatures. (6)
- 19 "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is _____ to me for you, to fulfill the word of God." Col 1:25 (5)
- 21 Paul says to obey your masters and to _____ God in Col 3:22. (4)

From the Moderator...

May was a busy month at First Baptist. Our thank you's go to Betty Richardson for the lovely Mother's Day breakfast before the service. Again, it's wonderful seeing family and friends of our congregation. More kudos go to Jim Flood who designed, printed and assembled our Annual Report and thank you's go to all those who wrote such informative reports. The Open House Architectural Tour will be redesigned for the future. As the stand alone church in Niagara Falls, there wasn't much business or interest. Memorial Day will be soon upon us and June will be here.

In the month of June, we recognize graduates from any program. We celebrate Sara Cooke's completion of high school and wish her all the best for her upper level studies in Early Childhood Development. The Baccalaureate service will be June 8.

On June 6 & 7, we will be rummaging to present our spring Rummage Sale. All gently used items are needed and no electronics, please. Bring your closet clean-out items to church anytime and thank you for your donations. We need volunteer rummagers for an afternoon or evening. See or contact Donna if you can lend a hand. We can't let the morning group have all the fun of discovery. It's a good work out and beats anything you do on the trail or in the workout room for exercise.

For Father's Day this year, we're having a Pancake Breakfast before the service at 10:00. Come and have a time of Fellowship and Food on a day we honor the Dads in our life. Bring your son, a favorite uncle, or good friend if your Dad is away or has passed. Fatherhood doesn't get much publicity unless it's the wrong kind. Being a good Dad means the same dedication and example that being a Mom requires. Remember: Honor thy Father and Mother.

See you in church!

Donna Flood

If you were not able to attend the Annual

Meeting and would like a copy of the Annual Report, please contact the Office. We'll be happy to mail one out to you!

Whose Church Is It?

This resource highlights a stand-alone article from the pages of [Church Law & Tax Report](#).

Applying the "neutral principles of law" approach, the California Supreme Court ruled that the national Episcopal Church owned the property of a local church that voted to disaffiliate from the denomination as a result of the ordination of a gay priest. Although for more than fifty years the deeds to the church property vested title in the local church, the court concluded that the local church, from the beginning of its existence, agreed to be part of the Episcopal Church and to be bound by its governing documents. These documents make clear that church property is held in trust for the general church and may be controlled by the local church only so long as it remains a part of the general church. When a church disaffiliates from the general church, it does not have the right to take the church property with it.

Rest assured, this could never happen to us. We are governed by ourselves on the "congregational system" (as opposed to the "Episcopal System.") We, the local church, own our own property and control it 100%. Even though we may belong to an "association," no outside person or church body can tell us what to do with our own church.

Naturally, with this, comes the responsibility for our property and also our spiritual well-being. As an American Baptist no one has the right or the authority to tell us what to think. It is our duty and privilege to study, pray, and meditate on our own personal relationship with our Lord and Savior.

“I Am the True Vine” and United Mission**Rev. Dr. Ron Vallet, Ambassador for American Baptist United Mission****April 2014****When we are united in God’s mission, our United Mission will grow.**

The central claim made in John 15 is that Jesus is the true vine. In the Old Testament, Israel is portrayed as a vine (see Psalm 80:8, which in its plea to God signifies Israel as a vine: “You brought a vine out of Egypt.”)

Over time, wrote Obery M. Hendricks, Jr., the term began to be used to signify more specifically the inhabitants of Jerusalem and, by the time of Jesus, to the most influential of those inhabitants—the priestly caste. Ezekiel 17:12 likens the vine and its branches to the ruling elites of Jerusalem, the most prominent of whom were the priests.

Thus when Jesus said, “I am the true vine,” it was a revolutionary statement. By speaking these words, he stood in radical opposition to the priests’ reading of Israel’s social structure, which portrayed their privileged social and economic status in Israel as their legitimate right.

Widespread poverty and hunger prevailed in the setting of Jesus and his listeners, including those in John 15. *Knowing* about poverty and hunger, however, does not give us a full sense of the *effects* of the hunger that was a world-shaping factor when Jesus spoke.

Hendricks noted that a more contemporary description of hunger and its effects can be found in John Steinbeck’s, *The Grapes of Wrath*, which tells the story of the economic exploitation of Oklahoma peasant farmers during the great drought and the Oklahoma dust bowl of the 1930s. There are many correspondences between the material plight and the social marginalization of first-century Galilean peasants and that of the Oklahoma peasants.

In chapter 17, a “ragged man” tearfully relates the starvation deaths of his children: “I can’t tell ya about them little fellas layin’ in the tent with their bellies puffed out an’ jus’ skin on their bones, an’ shiverin’ an’ whinin’ like pups, an’ me runnin’ aroun’ tryin’ to get work—not for money, not for wages! . . . jus’ for a cup of flour an’ a spoon a lard.”

An even more vivid portrayal of the effects of hunger and poverty in *The Grapes of Wrath* occurs in the book’s final scene. A man is near death from starvation after having fed his young son every scrap of food he had been able to forage for the past six days. When Ma Joad and her daughter Rose of Sharon come upon the man and his son, they realize he is dying, but they have no food either. After an exchange of knowing looks, Ma Joad places a comforter around Rose of Sharon, who beneath the modesty it provides, feeds the starving man the breast milk her child, stillborn just hours earlier, will never taste.

A current report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the effects of global climate change are likely to grow. “Nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change.” One of the major results will be hunger related to growing food shortages. Feeding the world will grow harder and more expensive.

Is there hope? I believe there is. Both education and money are needed: A process of education to let more people know and realize the extent and the depth of the world’s hunger problem and money to seek and implement ways to combat hunger.

A major way that American Baptist congregations can help combat hunger is to give generously and regularly to American Baptist United Mission. Through United Mission funding, American Baptist congregations, can be part of the ongoing work of American Baptist Ministries, the American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist Churches in the USA, and American Baptist Regions across the United States and Puerto Rico. What a package! United Mission helps support each part of it!

Thank you for your support through American Baptist United Mission.

OPEN HOUSE AT CAMP VICK

June 14, 2014



10:00 - 3:00 RAIN or SHINE



Free Lunch
Tours
Crafts
Campfire
Fun Fellowship



Camp Vick is in Sandusky, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Arcade on Route 98 at Sandbank Road. Turn right onto Sandbank Road and the entrance to camp is about 2,000 feet on the right.



Camp Vick
11165 Sandbank Rd.
Freedom, NY 14065
716 492-4494

e-mail: campvick@abc-nys.org

Website: www.vpccministries.org

Information, registration forms, and Camp dates are in the Church office and on the bulletin board. Register early, discounts available! Camp is not just for kids and teens. There are Adult weeks, too.

Volunteers and staff are needed.

Would you like to sponsor a child or teen?

First Baptist can provide "camperships" also.