

TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

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First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✝ The next quarter's <i>Secret Place</i> is now available in the Friendship Room.</p> <p>✝ Are you reading your <i>Sanctuary for Lent 2013</i> ? There are still a couple of copies left in the Friendship Room.</p>					1	2
3 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 10:15 Diaconate Meeting 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.	4	5	6 12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers – Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching “What If Life Is Unfair?”	7	8	9
10 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music:</i> Peter Gonciarz, organ Daylight Savings Begins	11	12	13 6:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers – Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching “But I Don’t Want to Repent!”	14	15	16
17 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 SPRING BEGINS 7:00 PM Lenten Vespers – Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching “An Invitation for Everyone”	21	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 10:00 Breakfast for Everyone 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Distribution of Palms	25  Passover	26	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY  7:00 Service	29 GOOD FRIDAY  12-3 Meditation	30 HOLY SATURDAY
31 EASTER SUNDAY! 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Festival Service	The Rummage Sale is coming up June 7 & 8. Now is the time to start cleaning out the attic, closets, and basement for donations. Bring them in any time and we thank you for all you do for your church. If you need a pickup, call Donna at 759-6442 to arrange a time. Or, you can bring them to the church any time during office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon. All gently used, cleaned items in good working condition are accepted.					



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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 24 Marge Bozigar
- 25 Ron Bowser
- 29 Elaine McGrath
- 30 Tim Baxter



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



LOOKING AHEAD

Mar. 3 Sun.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

- 10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
- 10:15 AM Diaconate Meeting
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship - Holy Communion
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
"Repent or Perish"
- 5:00 PM L.I.F.E. "Spring in March"

Mar. 6 Wed.

THIRD WEDNESDAY IN LENT

- 12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon
- 7:00 PM Lenten Series: *Listen to the Prophets!*
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching
"What If Life Is Unfair?"

Mar. 10 Sun.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

- 10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
- 11:00 AM Divine Worship
Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching
- 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch
- 2:00 PM *Gift of Music*: Peter Gonciarz, organ

Mar. 13 Wed.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

- 6:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting
- 7:00 PM Lenten Series: *Listen to the Prophets*
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching
"But I Don't Want to Repent!"

Mar. 17 Sun.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Mar. 20 Wed.

FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

- 7:00 PM Lenten Series: *Listen to the Prophets*
Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, preaching
"An Invitation for Everyone"

Mar. 24 Sun.

PALM SUNDAY

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

Mar. 28 Thurs.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

- 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service with
Communion
Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
"Love and Be Loved"

Mar. 29 Fri.

GOOD FRIDAY

- Noon – 3:00 PM Meditation with booklet and
Music for reflection



Mar. 31 Sun.

Resurrection Sunday - EASTER!

10:00 AM Adult Study and Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
 "His Love Endures Forever"

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, March 3, 2013
 5:00 PM

"Spring in March"

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

Springbrook

First Baptist has received a very nice letter from Springbrook in Oneonta (the former Upstate Home for Children and Adults) thanking us for the gifts of mittens and scarves from our mitten tree which were sent to them in January.

The letter is posted on the bulletin board and lists their many activities and programs.

First Baptist can be proud of the many worthwhile local organizations we support. Charity begins at home and rather than sending all our mission gifts away, we respond to many needs locally and regionally.



Think of all we do:

Major National Appeals

Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering
 Blanket Sunday (Church World Service)
 One Great Hour of Sharing
 America for Christ
 World Fellowship Offering
 Crop Walk (a portion)

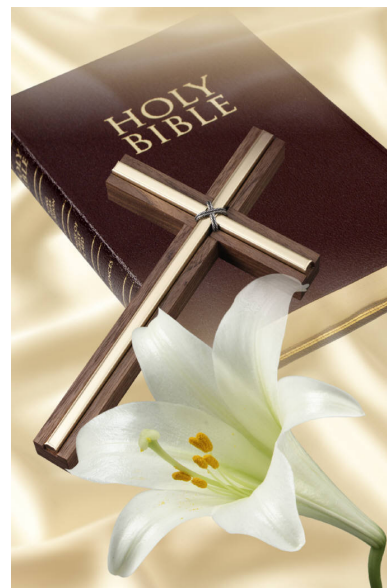
Local and Regional

Community Missions
 Heart, Love, and Soul
 Springbrook (Mitten Tree)
 Crop Walk (a portion)
 ABC-NYS
 Knitted squares for afghans for Roswell Park
 Quarterly Women's Retreats
 Church Camp Scholarships

Our mission dollars added to many others make a significant impact. First Baptist does make a difference!

Do We Have your birthday?

If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, please call the office to let us know your special date so we can include it.



Wednesday Lenten Series

This Lenten season we are having Wednesday evening Vesper Services at 7:00 PM for the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. The Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb, well-known to us at First Baptist, will be the speaker for each service. Tell your friends. Put up a poster or two (or three). Read your Lenten devotional booklet "The Sanctuary for Lent 2013" every day during Lent.

From the Mission Field

Spotlight on

Rev. Benjamin S.L Chan

Area Director of East Asia and India

American Baptist International Ministries

The Rev. Benjamin S.L. Chan has served with the International Ministries since April 1992. He coordinates American Baptist mission work in China/Hong Kong, India, Korea, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Ben maintains relationships with fifteen Baptist conventions and councils in the region. These partner churches have grown to a combined membership of more than 2 million (not including China). Ben also supervises International Ministries missionaries of his region and Global Consultants. He is currently the Chair of the Board of Foundation of Theological Education in South East Asia .

Ben was born and raised in Hong Kong. He was a graduate of the Chung Chi Divinity School of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Divinity School of Yale University. He was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church, New Haven, Connecticut. Before joining the International Ministries, Ben served as a pastor of the Community Baptist Church in Milwaukee. Throughout his ministry, Ben has devoted his skills to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in cross-cultural settings. He does this in a manner that touches the emotional, social and spiritual needs of people.

Ben's parents are members of the American Baptist-

related Mongkok Swatow Baptist Church in Hong Kong. Ben, his wife, Becky reside in Royersford, Pennsylvania.

IM Announces Expanded Role for Kristy Engel

The New Year is bringing an expanded role for International Ministries (IM) medical missionary, Kristy Engel. After serving for 12 years as a pediatric health practitioner and coordinator of medical and volunteer teams at the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, Kristy will be employing her medical skills and experience in a wider field of service.

Starting this year, Kristy becomes one of IM's regional missionaries. This means that she will serve all of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean (Haiti, Cuba, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica). In this new role, Kristy, a fluent Spanish-speaker, will put her medical experience and training to work for medical relief associated with crises, education, medical resources, encouragement, and continuing education.

"I can't express to you how excited I am about my new role," wrote Kristy in a recent journal about her transition. There are exciting new places that need health care teams and ongoing projects that are expanding or changing to meet the needs of their community," she explains. "And my role in all of this is to connect needs with resources while also being able to serve in some of the most desperate areas throughout the region."

Kristy will start by assisting three IM ministries: the **House of Hope in Cochabamba, Bolivia;** **Deborah's House in Tijuana, Mexico;** and the **Cap Haitian Eye Clinic in Haiti.**

In Bolivia, Kristy will work with IM missionary Mario Morales at the [House of Hope](#), which provides medical services to children and their families. While she is there in February, Kristy will work with a church from Ohio, and local physicians who are volunteering their time at the House of Hope.

In Mexico, Kristy will be partnering with IM missionaries Ray and Adalia Schellinger-Gutiérrez at [Deborah's House](#). This special ministry assists women and children who have experienced abuse and trafficking and is changing lives. Kristy is going to work with Ray and Adalia to find ways to replicate this program throughout Latin America.

And in Haiti, Kristy will be working with IM missionary Nzunga Mabudiga as the [Cap Haitian Eye Clinic](#) expands its work to include an ear, nose and throat specialty. Kristy will be helping to find partners for construction, medical supplies, and sponsors so that they can continue to provide free medical care.

Kristy's reassignment does not change her status as an IM missionary or her fundraising needs. Her move entails a change of focus and location only. She will live in Atlanta, Georgia, where she can easily and quickly access transportation to the many ministries that are calling on her services.

To learn more about Kristy or to support her work, visit her [profile](#) for more information.

And from Kristy Engel....

I can't express to you how excited I am about my new role and all of the many ways that we are going to be able to partner together in the future. There are exciting new places that need health care teams and ongoing projects that are expanding or changing to meet the needs of their community. And my role in all of this is to connect needs with resources while also being able to serve in some of the most desperate areas throughout IberoAmerica and the Caribbean.

Several people have asked me two very important questions that I want to answer for all of you. "Am I still a missionary with International Ministries?" and "Do I still have to raise my funding?" The answer to both of these questions is, YES! I am still a full-time International Ministries missionary and I will be based in Atlanta, solely for having greater access to travel quickly to many locations in an emergency. I

still have my normal fundraising goals to meet each year and hope that if you or your church has any questions about this that you will contact me immediately. Just because I'm based in the US doesn't mean I will actually be here that much and have several trips planned in the next few weeks. You can read more about the first three projects below!

Cochabamba, Bolivia

In early February, I will be traveling to Cochabamba, Bolivia to work with fellow missionary Mario Morales and the House of Hope. The House of Hope works to alleviate the health care needs of children and their families by providing medical services, leadership projects and partnerships with local churches. I'll have the opportunity to work with a church from Ohio as well as local physicians who are volunteering their time for the House of Hope. To learn more about this ministry and how you can help expand the work (maybe to the Bolivian Amazon!), please contact me about working on a medical team or other project.

Deborah's House

Missionaries Ray and Adalia Schellinger-Gutierrez have partnered and guided a women's shelter and counseling center in Tijuana, Mexico named, Deborah's House. The facility works with local churches and is able to give hope to women and children who have experienced a lifetime of abuse, trafficking or misuse. Deborah's House has had such a life-changing impact on women and children's lives that we are working to plant other homes in new locations throughout Latin America. Their model of whole-person care as well as ministry with the abusers is one that needs to be replicated in other needy areas. I will be working with Ray and Adalia to establish new Deborah's House ministries throughout Latin America.

Haiti Eye Clinic Expands!

Missionary Nzunga Mabudiga has been helping to administer the eye clinic in Cap Haitian, Haiti for many years now. They provide much needed eye

surgeries, glasses and consultations to a population without any other hope. Recently, the clinic decided to expand their work to include an Ear, Nose and Throat specialty and have asked for my help in locating individuals that would like to partner with this clinic in a construction project. They are also in need of supplies for their eye clinic and sponsors so that they can continue to provide free services and care.



IM Announces 2013 Theme and a Variety of Experiences to Celebrate 200 Years.

In 2013 American Baptist International Ministries (IM) will honor what God has done internationally through American Baptists over the last 200 years by renewing its commitment to Christ's mission in the future. Under the theme, "EMBRACE THE CAUSE," IM will both celebrate 200 years of God's blessing and guidance, and also seek God's renewal and guidance for a third century in mission service. IM's educational materials, events, trips and activities throughout the year will be grounded in the mission contained in God's promise to Abraham, "All the families on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3 NLT).

"We hear God's invitation to new life in Christ as a gift," comments Stan Slade, IM's associate executive director for program. "We hear it also as a calling: to glorify God in all the earth by crossing cultural boundaries to make disciples of Jesus Christ. IM joins with churches and partners throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, and with partners around the globe to embrace this cause. We re-affirm our desire to be

used by God to bless all the families of the earth."

American Baptists -- with Baptists everywhere -- are currently celebrating the bicentennial of Ann and Adoniram Judson's entry into mission service. After 200 years, they are still outstanding examples of what it means to embrace the cause. The Judsons sailed from Salem, MA in 1812 and began their work in Burma in 1813. These courageous servants of God endured great hardships to bring Christ to the peoples of Burma. God used them not only to produce great fruit in Burma, but to inspire many Americans to pray, give and go, as they embraced the cause to which the Judsons dedicated their lives.

The cause to which the Judsons so sacrificially gave themselves continues today. As American Baptists celebrate our rich heritage in mission, we are called to embrace that cause in new ways in our own time. Throughout 2013, IM will be seeking in a variety of ways to help American Baptists embrace the cause:

May, 2013

"Adoniram Judson: The Man and the Mission" This six- video collection on DVD will tell the story of Adoniram and Ann Judson and the beginning of the American mission movement. Researched and narrated by Dr. Jerry Cain, former president and current chancellor of Judson University, the collection provides an inspirational and educational overview of the amazing lives of Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American Baptist missionaries. More information to come.

May 1 – June 30, 2013

Matching Gift Opportunity:

Individuals will be invited to embrace the cause by providing support for those who go: both new missionaries and missionaries who are already serving. New or increased individual contributions to support this effort will be matched at 100%. God has called IM to enter its third century of mission with an expanding missionary force, and this Matching Campaign is dedicated to pursuing that vision. More information to come.

June 21-23, 2013

The American Baptist Mission Summit, in Overland Park/Kansas City provides an opportunity for

American Baptists to experience the power of God's call to global mission and to embrace the cause. The **IM luncheon on Saturday, June 22** will feature Dr. Allen Yeh, associate professor of Intercultural Studies and Missiology at Biola University, the Chin Youth Choir and an engaging interactive exhibit. Mission Summit speakers will include Dr. Yam Kho Pau, leader of Baptists in Myanmar (Burma), plus other inspirational speakers, global music, informal discussion, worship and prayer.

August 9 – 11, 2013

Embrace the Cause: Stepping into Global Mission

At the Green Lake Conference Center

This is a special opportunity for those exploring a call to international cross-cultural mission service. The weekend will combine elements of spiritual retreat, discernment and training. Participants will meet with IM missionaries and staff to pray, worship, learn and reflect upon God's call on their lives. information, contact Jim Bell: jim.bell@abc-usa.org.

July 2013

The 2013 **Mission Study Guide** will focus on Myanmar and provide devotionals, Bible studies and stories from IM missionaries Joel Hoefle and Trish Magal, Duane and Marcia Binkley, as well as women in leadership in Myanmar.

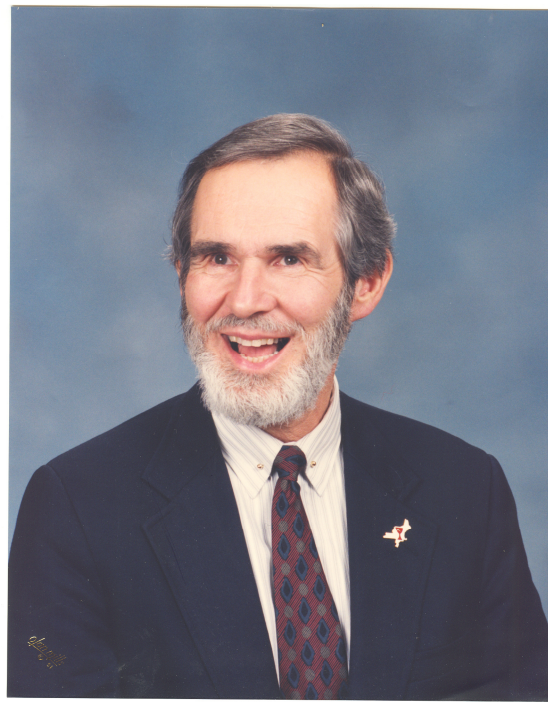
August – September, 2013

World Mission Offering promotional materials will be received in churches in July and will feature Myanmar and the amazing work of church building and discipleship happening today through the Myanmar Baptist Convention. This work began in 1813 with American Baptist missionaries Adoniram and Ann Judson and continues to the present day.



Our Lenten Series

With the Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb



Dr. Lamb works at First Presbyterian, Youngstown, as assistant to the pastor since retirement in 1999. Before that, Charles was Regional Minister for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Northeastern Region for 28 years. Before that, he was pastor of E. Aurora Christian Church. He holds degrees: Doctor of Ministry from NY Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary, Bachelor of Arts from Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee. He is married to Betty, who retired after 26 years as a counselor with abused children. We are indeed fortunate to have our friend Charles Lamb preaching in this year's Lenten Series!

The series of topics looks very intriguing:

Let's Listen to the Prophets!

Week #1 Would You Break God's Heart?

Week #2 What if you're Too Late?

Week #3 What if Life is Unfair?

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

Week #5 An Invitation for Everyone

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM

Come and support our Lenten series!

From Pastor WeS. . .

How do we interpret the Bible? The Scriptures of the Christian community. Does it really matter! One word is the answer: YES! With the Bible in hand, Christians have often justified punishment, retribution, prejudice, slavery, and the pursuit of "Christ's will" at the end of a gun barrel or a sword. Yes, even some Christians use the Bible to reject the scientific pursuit of knowledge and then there are some interpreters who claim they are not interpreting at all but are simply presenting the definitive, unadulterated words of God. Well, that is nonsense.

In truth, we all interpret! It is our responsibility to interpret. It is even our responsibility as followers of Christ to participate in communities of interpretation, in congregations, study groups in order to read, listen, speak, reflect and decide what we think God is doing in the world and what is the work God is calling us to do.

Despite our claim to be Christians, many Americans are driven by ideology and hatred rather than the quest for truth or the teachings of Jesus.

What about other faith books? Such as the Qur'an? Some time back there was a pastor of a 50 member congregation threatening to burn the sacred scriptures of the Muslim faith community. We know full well that the Qur'an is used to deny many things by conservative Muslims, and especially by the Taliban, to forbid access to education for women! Only a month or so ago a young 14+ year old Muslim girl was pulled off a school bus and shot in the face, only because she was a strong advocate of education for women. She was flown to a hospital in the U.K. for surgery and medical care. Modern medicine has done wonders. She is on the mend and vows to return to her homeland!



Camp Vick and Pathfinder Lodge

Our regional American Baptist Camps have released their 2013 schedule of activities and camp weeks. The schedules are posted on the bulletin board. Bear in mind that First Baptist Church provides one-half scholarships to anyone associated with our church who wants to go to one of these very worthwhile weeks. Many of us remember fondly our weeks at Church Camp (albeit quite a few years ago!). This is just another example of our mission commitment.



We Do Our Bit . . .

At First Baptist we do our part. The January Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering was much better than last year. In February we sent a check for \$187.00 to ABC-USA. That represents the actual M&M Offering plus the Communion Offering for January. The Blanket Sunday Offering will be higher this year, also. As mentioned above as a part of the Springbrook article, we do many things, and not hide our light under a bushel!

And From the Moderator . . .

Prayer List updates for the bulletin can be sent or called into the church office at 282-4666. Please keep track of your person for whom we're praying to let us know when they can be taken off the list.

Our Mission for March is twofold; the Easter offering (envelope is included in sent Tower Topics) and collecting items for the CWS School Kits. There's a box in the Friendship Room for

your contributions and a list of items for the collection on the table. Last year we sent 10 kits and perhaps we can do a bit better this year.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series will be preached by the Rev. Dr. Charles Lamb on "Let's Listen to the Prophets". Dr. Lamb is an engaging and interesting preacher who is no stranger to our pulpit. The services are at 7:00 PM and follow the themes mentioned earlier in the Tower Topics' article "Our Lenten Series." There are many questions being asked and I'm sure the suggested answers will be different for everyone.

The Holy Week Services are listed on the calendar for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday Meditation and Music, and Easter Sunday. Both Kathleen Ordiway and the Rev. Wes Bourdette will be conducting the services.

The date for the spring Rummage Sale has been set for June 7 & 8 so now is the time to clean out the attic, closets, and basement for donations. Bring them in any time and we thank you for all you do for your church. If you need a pickup, call Donna at 759-6442 to arrange a time. Or, you can bring them to the church any time during office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to Noon. All gently used, cleaned items in good working condition are accepted.

Donna Flood



Help US go green . . .

If you would like to receive the Tower by email, instead of a printed (and/or mailed) copy, just let the Church office know. All we need is your email address and you will get the Tower faster and save the printing and mailing costs. If you want to receive Tower Topics both ways, that's OK, too.



Undoubtedly many of you have noticed the beautiful solid brass plaque, newly mounted on the wall between the narthex and the Friendship Room. It was a real privilege to have Paul and Betty with us for so many years; the Church seems emptier without them in the pews. Whenever I walk by the plaque, several times a day, it never fails to bring a smile to my lips.

JDF



IF you receive the Tower by email . . .

and would like to order flowers for Easter Sunday, just call the Church office or send in \$7.00 for each 6" pot, either lilies or this year, hyacinths, also. Orders must be pre-paid and in the office by Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at the latest. You may pick up your flowers after the Easter Service, or we will see that they get to a shut-in: your choice.

