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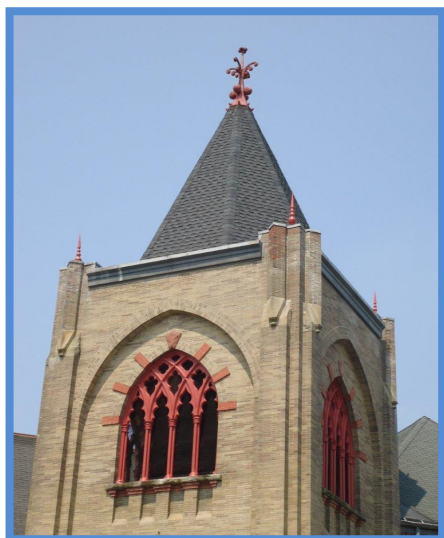


TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



IN THE MARCH ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 3 — Looking at this Month
- ➔ p. 4 — Book: *Seeing the World Through Maps*
- ➔ p. 6 — Article by Rev. Dr. Ron Vallet
- ➔ p. 7 — LENT
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VOLUME 66

NUMBER 3

2014

First Baptist Church


554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584



March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✝ March begins the season of Lent. As we did last year, there will be a series of five Lenten Vesper Services on the five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. This year Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown will be speaking to us. "A Lenten Look at Love: The Christian Gospel in an Interfaith Era" is the series theme. See page 7 for more details.</p>						1
<p>2 TRANSFIGURATION</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>5:00 L.I.F.E. "Shimmering Shamrocks"</p>	3	4	<p>5 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>12:15 Inasmuch</p> <p>7:00 Service</p> 	6	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time</p>	8
<p>9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music: Peter Gonciarz Harpsichord Recital</i> Daylight Savings Begins</p>	10	11	<p>12</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office.</p> <p>6:00 Trustees/Diaconate Meeting 7:00 Lenten Vespers</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>Purim</p>
<p>16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i></p>	<p>17</p> 	18	<p>19</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office.</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Vespers</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time</p>	22
<p>23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>Rev. Wes in his office.</p> <p>7:00 Lenten Vespers</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Men's Coffee Time</p>	29
<p>30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	31	<p>✝ This Lenten season is the perfect time to look over the new additions to our church library and check out a Christian book to read.</p>				



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

12	Christopher Kinsley
24	Marge Bozigar
25	Ronald Bowser
29	Joseph Mark Hoopsick III
29	Elaine McGrath
30	Timothy Baxter



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Dorothy Jackson, 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.



LOOKING AT THIS MONTH

March 2 – Sunday

TRANSFIGURATION

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship - Holy Communion Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
5:00 PM	L.I.F.E. “Shimmering Shamrocks”

March 5 – Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15 PM	Inasmuch luncheon
7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday service Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

March 9 – Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching
12:15 PM	Second Sunday Lunch
2:00 PM	Peter Gonciarz: Harpsichord Recital

March 12 - Wednesday

6:00 PM	Trustees/Diaconate Meeting
7:00 PM	Lenten Vesper service Rev. Dr. Brian Brown, series speaker

March 16 – Sunday

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

March 19 – Wednesday

7:00 PM	Lenten Vesper service
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March 23 – Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

March 26 – Wednesday

7:00 PM	Lenten Vesper Service
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March 30 – Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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, February 2, 2014**5:00 PM****“Shimmering Shamrocks”**

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.

BOOKSHELF CORNER**Seeing the World through Maps;
Seeing the World through Faith****By Ward Kaiser**

First, a triple **thank you** to colleagues Brian Arthur Brown and James Flood for introducing me to First Baptist Church, and to you, who are the church, for your witness to the Gospel in this strategic frontier area and in the wider world. Thanks also for the invitation to write about a passion of mine.

Jim Flood has shown interest in my book, *How Maps Change Things: A Conversation about the Maps We Choose and the World We Want*, even

placing a copy in the library for your use. While not a “religious” book, it finds surprising support among church groups. A question often asked whenever I speak to church people, professional academics, teachers or even service clubs is:

“Why would a pastor get involved with maps, anyway?”

True, I am an ordained minister with experience in pastoral work, overseas mission and religious publishing. It's also true that cartography – making and interpreting maps – is generally seen as foreign to a pastor's calling.

My growing conviction, however, is that maps function not just by providing facts (This is where Niagara Falls is, or You can go from A to B by taking a certain route) but by actually *shaping* our relationship with the world and its people.

Shaping our worldview, influencing the way we live – isn't that the work of faith? By faith we are connected to God and therefore to the world God loves. In a remarkable way maps intersect with our deepest convictions. Maps both illuminate our faith *and* take on rich meaning when we see them through the eyes of faith.

If that is the underlying principle, we'll have opportunity to look at practical examples when I speak at the church's luncheon forum Sunday, September 14. Meanwhile, the book in your library offers a sampling. The reality is that maps and faith belong together – sometimes in partnership, sometimes in open conflict.

The days of oil companies providing free road maps at every filling station may be over, but that doesn't mean we use maps any less. In fact, we rely on them more: Maps are now everywhere: on GPS devices and smartphones, in newspapers and magazines, in classrooms and on computer screens.

So it is with faith. Though some see religion as in decline, the reality may be that it is taking other forms. The human need to connect with the Eternal and meaningfully to the world and all its life forms may not look like our grandparents' religion, but it is not going away. Maps and faith have much in common. Each can partner with the other. The question is what we can learn from them, how we live out what we learn.

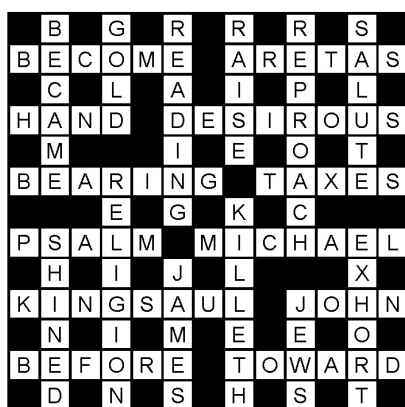
Both maps and faith demand to be viewed critically, to be appreciated for what they are and

Seeing the world ... con't

to be followed with precision. They can lead us in the way we ought to go. But first we must know what they are saying to us.

I look forward to speaking to you after the Second Sunday lunch in September.

Ward

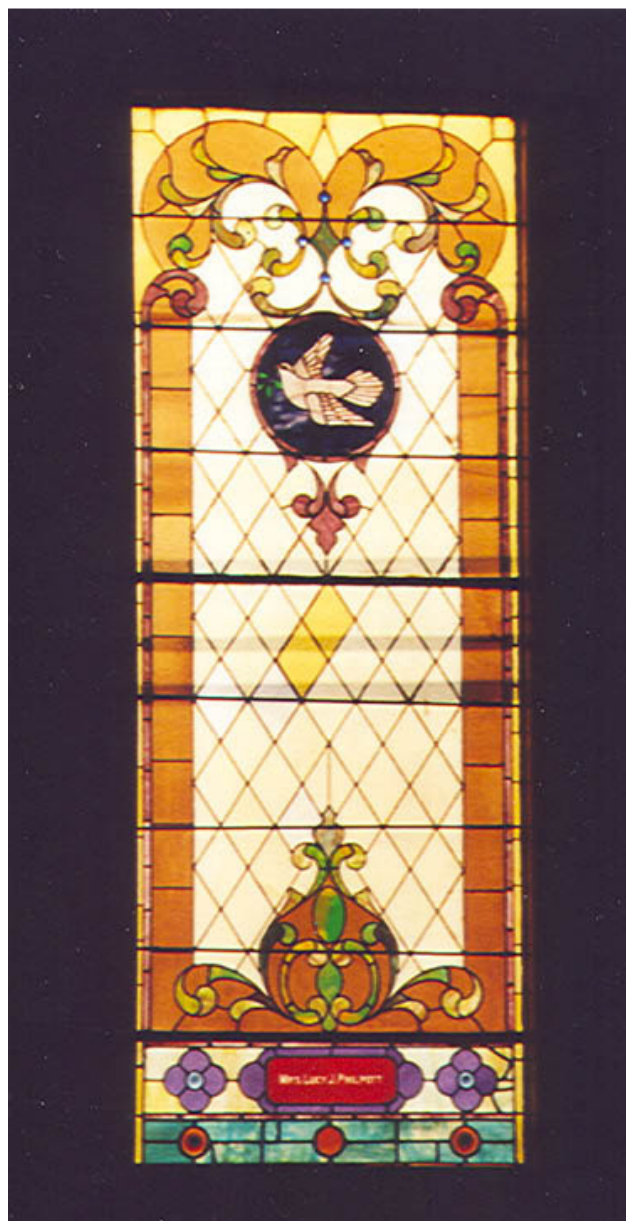
*last month's answers***2 Corinthians**

Ron Bowser wants to share this note:

Thanks to Rev. Wesley Bourdette for the visit to Roswell Park Hospital and phone calls. Thanks to Kath Ordway for special prayers and to my church family for the prayers, love, concern, and support during my recent surgery.

It's another chapter in the book "What My Church Means to Me."

Ron



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. As reported in Tower Topics last month, we are now going to repair the large center window on the east side and the "glue chip" windows in the folding doors, which are all 113 years old. The Jerome Durr Studio LLC, in Syracuse, NY, has been chosen to do the restoration work starting in the next couple of months.

Of course, this will cost money, \$6810.00 to be exact. The March envelope with Tower is devoted to helping defray this cost. Thanks for your help!

Jesus' Call to Love and United Mission

Ambassador for American Baptist United Mission
When we are united in God's mission,

Rev. Dr. Ron Vallet

January 2014

Our United Mission will grow.

"Love your enemies."

Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 5:44

ON FIRST HEARING OR READING, Jesus' words to his disciples to "Love your enemies" seem ridiculous, almost preposterous. Why should we love our enemies? Is it even possible to love our enemies? Most of us struggle with these three words.

Tertullian, in the 2nd century, remarked how Christian love attracted pagan notice: "What marks us in the eyes of our enemies is our loving kindness. 'Only look,' they say, 'look how they love one another.'" Yet, we have seen it happen in three figures in the 20th century: Gandhi, King, and Mandela—persons of color from three different continents. Is this merely a matter of coincidence? I don't believe so. Each of them had known and personally experienced the hatred and brutality of racism.

In 1990 when Nelson Mandela emerged from 27 years in prison, he was not filled with hatred. Even more importantly when he came out, he called for reconciliation, understanding, and forgiveness. The Washington Post noted that although he was an old man by the time he took power in his country, and delegated much of the work of governing to others, the trust he had gained among people in just about every camp was essential in South Africa's transition from a racial dictatorship to a true democracy. Because he loved his enemies, marvelous things happened, including the ending of apartheid as an official policy in South Africa. What followed was not a cure all, but the nation became a more just society. Loving one's enemy is not easy anywhere, whether it is between individuals or among, ethnic groups or nations. On this subject, M. Eugene Boring noted that Jesus' sayings express the inherent rule of the kingdom of God and are God's ultimate way of dealing with humanity, exhibited in the life and death of Jesus who went to the cross. It is not a matter of watering down Jesus' sayings and finding a meaning that seems reasonable, with which we can live. They are not to be made "reasonable." Rather, we must understand that they violate the "common sense" of this world and point to another reality. They ask us whether we are oriented to the God who has redefined power and kingship in the life, ministry, death, and Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

The message that we, as Jesus' disciples, are called to love our enemies is not easy to hear and to carry out. It seems to violate "common sense." Yet there it is, standing at the core of Jesus' teachings. How do we respond? We heed the call of Jesus' words in our congregations and our communities. We send American Baptist missionaries, home and abroad, to carry the message of God's love, our love for one another, and yes, even to our enemies. Let it be done!

A major way that American Baptist congregations can carry Jesus' command to love our enemies to all nations and peoples is to give generously and regularly to American Baptist United Mission.

Thank you for your support through American Baptist United Mission.

LENT

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, Rev. Wesley Bourdette will lead the 7:00 PM evening service, which includes the Ritual of the Imposition of Ashes. During Lent we are having Vesper services on the five Wednesday evenings between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, at 7:00 PM. The Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown is our Lenten series speaker this year, and will present a series of meditations entitled "A Lenten Look at Love—The Christian Gospel in an Interfaith Era." The individual topics will be:

Week #1 — March 12 — "Jesus As the Savior of the World"

Week #2 — March 19 — "Jesus As the Embodiment of Wisdom"

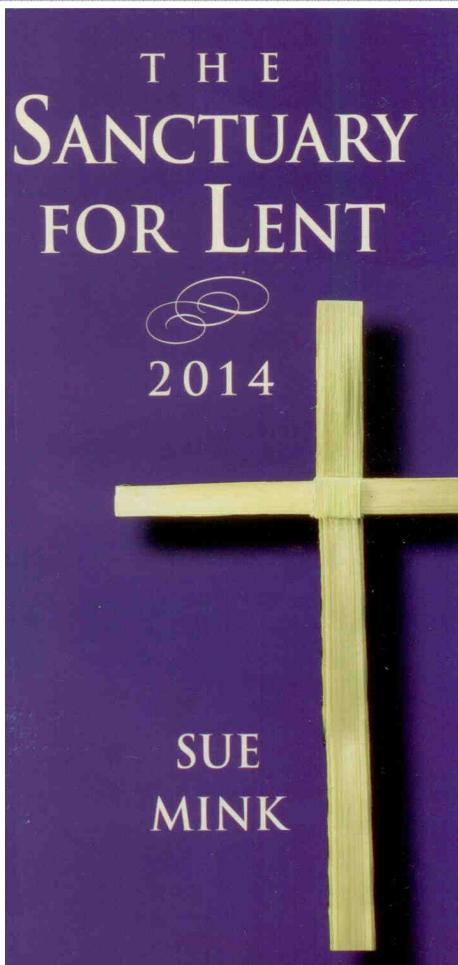
Week #3 — March 26 — "Jesus Among the Gentiles"

Week #4 — April 2 — "Jesus and the Syro-Phoenician Woman"

Week #5 — April 9 — "Jesus and the Dying Thief"

Rev. Brown is well known to us and the larger community in the United States and Canada for his preaching and his writings. His words for us this Lent are not to be missed!

On Good Friday, April 18, First Baptist Church is holding a three-hour service, which will be divided into seven segments, based on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Different ministers in the area will each present a meditation based on one of the Words. Music will be presented in each section, and people may come and go between sections as their schedule allows.



*Have you ever wished you could have
been in Jerusalem and seen Jesus?
Seen his effect on people
and listened to his words?*

In *The Sanctuary for Lent 2014*, Sue Mink looks in on the encounters that others had with Jesus throughout his ministry. Some people were angered by him, some people were puzzled by him, and some people just dismissed him. But others saw him for who he truly was, and their entire perspective changed. They were transformed by their encounter with the living Lord.

The devotions, one for each of the forty days in Lent plus Sundays, include an inspiring message based on a Gospel reading, a suggested Scripture reading, a Bible verse, and a prayer. This Lenten season, allow *The Sanctuary for Lent 2014* to transform you and lead you in a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

SUE MINK creates artwork that explores the intersection between art and theology. She is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary and Carnegie-Mellon University, where she earned her design degree. She is the author of *Preparing the Way: An Advent Study Based on the Revised Common Lectionary* (Abingdon Press). She has traveled the world with her husband, Allan, a retired Air Force pilot. They now live in Leesburg, Virginia.

As you may remember from last month's newsletter, I am currently traveling in Southeast Asia, meeting a number of ABC's mission partners in Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand. The purpose of this trip is to learn of the health care resources already available in these countries, to discover needs, and to begin to think and dream with others about how American Baptists can be of assistance for healing ministries in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thanks to my MPT (Missionary Partnership Team) for taking care of this month's newsletter: Soozie Whitten Ford (Indiana); Michelle Thompson (Florida); Josh Powers (Connecticut); and Nancy Cooley (Massachusetts).

In Christ,
Kristy Engel

Mission Team Serves With Kristy in Bolivia



Rebecca Cooper writes...

In November I had the opportunity to accompany Kristy and a medical team to Cochabamba, Bolivia, to work with the House of Hope and IM missionary **Mario Morales**. The House of Hope served as the platform for God to use our mission partners, our missionaries (such as Mario), and volunteers (such as our team) to be the hands and the feet of Christ. Because we were all willing to come together and share our gifts and resources, we were privileged to provide much-needed care and treatment to the Quechua Indians.

Kristy always emphasizes the importance of relationships in missions. I saw this happen every day, over and over, as the medical personnel provided gentle, loving care to many patients. It also happened within our team, all of whom are medical professionals who had never met prior to this trip.

My role on the team (as the only non-medical person!) was to capture the sensitive moments between doctors, nurses, and patients - all with my camera.

Kristy's compassion for those who are hurting, and her love for serving God, is inspiring. Thank you for your continued prayer and the financial support you provide that enables her to be the hands and feet of Christ.

To God be the Glory,
Rebecca Cooper

Staying in Touch...

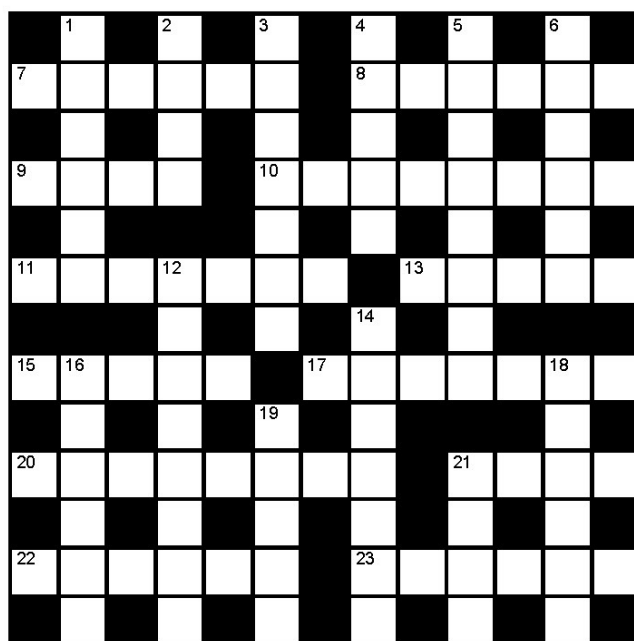
This newsletter provides me the opportunity to connect with you once a month, but I'd love to share little bits and pieces of my travels and projects more frequently. You can always head over to [my website](#) to read in depth about what's going on with the mission work. The best way to stay connected even while I'm traveling is by connecting with me on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). Through Facebook, I'm able to write short posts and upload pictures frequently so I can share my experiences, oftentimes, the same day. (I tweet, but not always while traveling internationally due to hacking issues.) I look forward to going on this journey alongside you.



In Christ,
Kristy Engel
Healthcare Relief Resource Regional Missionary
International Ministries ABC/USA

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Galatians



Across

- 7 Paul's calling was to _____ Christ among the heathen. Gal 1:16 (6)
- 8 "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the _____ of God." Gal 6:16 (6)
- 9 "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not _____ the truth ..." Gal 3:1 (4)
- 10 The amount of years Paul waited before returning again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus. Gal 2:1 (8)
- 11 Jesus taught with this type of lesson. (7)
- 13 "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the _____?" Gal 4:16 (5)
- 15 King who killed John the Baptist. (5)
- 17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found _____, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid." Gal 2:17 (7)

- 20 Feeling or showing sorrow or remorse for sin (8)
- 21 "I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and _____ himself for me." Gal 2:20 (4)
- 22 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ _____ in me." Gal 2:20 (6)
- 23 One of the 12 disciples. (6)

Down

- 1 "Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into _____, and returned again unto Damascus." Gal 1:17 (6)
- 2 "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of _____; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Gal 3:16 (4)
- 3 What Ruth did when Boaz told her she could glean from his field in Ruth 2:10. (3,4)

- 4 A Greek companion of Paul. Gal 2:3 (5)
- 5 "Now we, _____, as Isaac was, are the children of promise." Gal 4:28 (8)
- 6 To turn away from sin. (6)
- 12 Plural form of the word that Paul uses to describe himself in Gal 1:1. (8)
- 14 We are not to use this word, meaning freedom, as an excuse to sin. Gal 5:13 (7)
- 16 The Hebrew name for the Lord. (6)
- 18 "But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be _____ed." Gal 3:23 (6)
- 19 "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I _____ live unto God." Gal 2:19 (5)
- 21 What we should do to all men, especially to those in the household of faith. Gal 6:10 (4)

From the Moderator...

AT OUR LAST DIACONATE MEETING, information on Celebrate Recovery was discussed. The program is a twelve step approach to Bible Study and bad habits, hang-ups, and other destructive elements encountered in life. There is no other program like it in Niagara Falls, but there is one in Ransomville. Jeannette Heasley has brought it to our attention as a possible good use of our gym and downstairs regions that is in line with our mission. We will be exploring costs, logistics, and outcomes in the following days. It seems to be a good outreach to the community based on study of scriptures and helping those in need of a change of habits that are destructive or harmful. The program will be discussed with interested persons after church on a Sunday to be arranged.

Laity Sunday, led by Joe and Jeanette Heasley and Kathleen Ordiway will be Sunday, March 30th. We haven't had a Laity Sunday in quite a while and it's always uplifting to be led by the spirit shining through other eyes.

Our Mission for March will be our beautiful colored glass window restoration campaign. We have windows in need of a major repair and our contractors from Syracuse will be starting sometime in April removing the areas that need the work. Those sections will be taken to the repair shop in Syracuse and returned for reinstallation when completed. Notice the line of open space above the sections that open in good weather. That will be the first section and the second will be at the base where the windows bulge outward. It's an interesting process that is more completely described in another article.

It's almost time to start thinking of summer camp at Camp Vick. Check your calendars and look on the bulletin board as well as in the next Tower for complete information about dates and costs. Also remember that First Baptist provides "camperships". Do you know of a child or teen that could benefit from a week at camp? Early bird specials are quite a savings, so think Spring!

Donna Flood

**2014
CONFERENCES
RETREATS
FAMILY CAMPING**

CAMP VICK

**11165 Sandbank Rd.
Sandusky, NY 14133
716 492-4494**

Vick and Pathfinder Camp and
Conference Ministries
5865 E. Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville, NY 13078
Phone: 315 314-7460
Fax: 315 492-2369
Kathie@vpccministries.org

Information, registration forms, and Camp dates are available 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.

Two Items From Kath Ordiway

Scavenger Hunt

This year we will be having a Scavenger Hunt rather than a Basket Auction for one of our fundraisers. It will be held on Saturday, April 5th, beginning at 12 p.m. It is sure to be a very fun social event, bringing in a substantial amount for our budget expenses, as well as a chance to invite our friends and family, and I encourage everyone to participate. For most of you, it will mean less of a financial investment than the Basket Auction required.

This is how it will operate:

Cost to participate: \$100 per team or \$25 per person.

Teams of 4 or 5 people will go out on a scavenger hunt, bringing back their treasures to the church at the end of the prescribed time.

Items hunted may be informational and/or actual objects.

When you register, you will receive your first item to find.

It will be easy for any age level to participate.

Those who do not wish to participate in the actual hunt, can pay the participation fee and come to the party for great refreshments and a chance at the prizes.

There will be a wonderful prize for the first place team.

Everyone who participates (auction or just attendance), will get tickets to put in baskets for the additional prizes. (No additional tickets will be sold – it is not a basket auction.)

There will be refreshments for everyone participating at the end of the hunt.

Team suggestions: invite your children and grandchildren to participate, encourage your neighbors and friends, your cousins, your nieces and nephews – especially those who normally participate in the annual auction. Think about how much you normally spend on the basket auctions (creating multiple baskets, buying tickets, making baked goods, buying dinner). This will definitely be a savings, more chance of leaving with a prize, AND a lot more fun and less work!

For those of you who have already started collecting items for the basket auction – consider donating those items as prizes for the scavenger hunt.

Get in on the fun: have your team wear matching clothing or hats, tie matching ribbons around your wrists, or wear matching pins to signify your team alliance and give yourselves a name!

Our goal is to raise at least \$1500, which means we need 15 teams. I'm committing to 3 of them... Can you help with the additional 12? No one is too old or too young!

It is important that each team (including its team members' names) register no later than Sunday, March 30th. Please see Kathleen Ordiway.

Laity Sunday

On Sunday, March 30th we will be holding the first Laity Sunday that we've had in a long time.

Members will be planning and participating in the service, choosing Scripture, hymns and prayers. This will be an ideal Sunday to invite friends and family - children included. If you would like to participate on any level (usher, acolyte, Bible reader, Children's message, etc.), please speak to Kathleen Ordiway as soon as possible.

Plans will be quickly underway and we want you!



AMERICAN BAPTIST IDENTITY STATEMENT***We Are American Baptists***

**An Expression of Christian Faith Representative of American Baptists adopted by the
General Board, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.,
November 2005**

American Baptists worship the triune God of the Bible, who is eternally one God in three persons. This one, true God is most clearly revealed to us in the incarnate Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

American Baptists proclaim the Good News of the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, knowing that salvation (forgiveness of sins, release from guilt and condemnation, reconciliation with God) and eternal life are granted in grace to all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This Gospel is the central message of the Bible.

American Baptists believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the divinely inspired Word of God, the final written authority and trustworthy for faith and practice. It is to be interpreted responsibly under the guidance of the Holy Spirit within the community of faith. The primary purpose of the Bible is to point to Jesus Christ, the living Lord of the Church.

Although Baptists have produced numerous confessions to express our common understandings of Christian faith, we hold the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, as our final authority. We accept no humanly devised confession or creed as binding.

American Baptists affirm that God is sovereign over all and that this sovereignty is expressed and realized through Jesus Christ. Therefore, we affirm the Lordship of Christ over the world and the church. We joyously confess that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. We are called in loyalty to Jesus Christ to proclaim the power of the Holy Spirit, the Good News of God's reconciling grace, and to declare the saving power of the Gospel to every human being and to every human institution. We celebrate Christ's charge to "make disciples of all nations" and to bear witness to God's redeeming reign in human affairs.

American Baptists are summoned to this mission in common with all Christians. With the whole body of Christ, we also believe that God has been revealed in Jesus Christ as in no other, and that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:18). We anticipate the day when every creature and all creation, on earth and beyond, will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

God has given this particular community of believers called Baptists a distinctive history and experience. As we share in common with Christians everywhere, so Baptists everywhere celebrate a common heritage.