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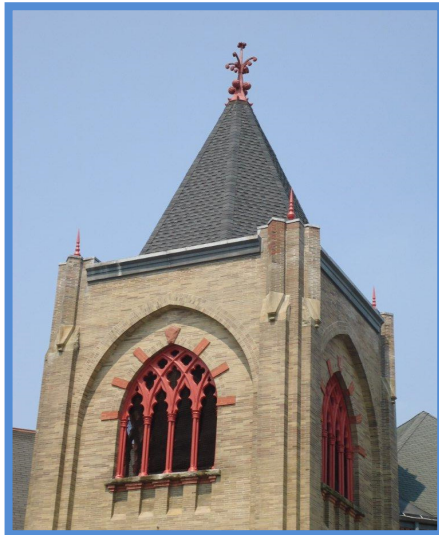
TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2014



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2014

First Baptist Church

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

May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> Make a note to yourself: Annual Church meeting on May 18th.</p> <p> Rummage sale is coming up June 6 & 7. Bring your “stuff” in any time.</p> <p> Would you like to volunteer to be a docent for the Sacred Sites Open House? There are brochures you can use as you walk people through the church.</p> <p> Remember to turn in any annual reports to the Church office by May 7th.</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>May Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>3</p>
<p>4 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Pastor Wes in office</p> <p>Annual Reports due.</p> <p>12:15 Inasmuch lunch</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>10</p>
<p>11 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Continental Breakfast to honor all mothers 11:00 Divine Worship</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Pastor Wes in office</p> <p>7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>Armed Forces Day 10-00 – 3:00 Sacred Sites Open House</p>
<p>18 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Annual Meeting 12:45 Second Sunday lunch (on the third Sunday!) 1:00 – 3:00 Open House Sacred Sites</p>	<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Pastor Wes in office</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>24</p>
<p>25 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Pastor Wes in office</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>31</p>



MAY BIRTHDAYS

12	Toby Ordiway
13	Mary Metke
15	Janet Kundl
18	Cindy Ward Duke
19	Jon Baxter
23	Hazel Baxter
29	Betty Einstein
30	Tyler Ordiway



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for 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.



LOOKING AT THIS MONTH

May 4 – Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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. “Garden Party”

May 7 – Wednesday

12:15 PM	Inasmuch luncheon
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May 11 – Sunday (Mother’s Day)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 AM	Pre-service Family Continental Breakfast for everyone honoring all Mothers.
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

May 14 - Wednesday

7:00 PM	Trustees/Diaconate Meeting
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May 17 - Saturday

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Open House Weekend for Sacred Sites
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May 18 – Sunday

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00 AM	Pre-service Fellowship
11:00 AM	Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
12:15 PM	Annual Church Meeting
12:45 PM	Second Sunday lunch on the third Sunday
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Open House for Sacred Sites

May 25 - Sunday

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Sunday, May 4, 2014**5:00 PM****“Garden Party”**

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.

The Corner

NOAH IS A MOVIE that members of our congregation might like to see, and they can even take their grandchildren. It presents a story in the tradition of the biblical prophets, with striking relevance for our own times, particularly in environmental issues. We always wondered what “sins” had displeased God so much that He sent a flood, and now we know if we accept the judgment of Jewish director, Darren Aronofsky, who is sure it was human abuse of nature. The flood is “climate change.” Many will enjoy Jennifer Connelly, playing the wife opposite a very believable Russell Crowe as Noah, the pair joining forces again after their collaboration in *A Beautiful Mind*.

Two bits of Bible trivia might be helpful before you get to the theatre. First, in the Bible Adam and Eve have three sons (and many daughters). Able gets murdered by Cain, who goes off to Afghanistan where he propagates his violent descendants who do rape the earth. Brother Seth stays home in the Middle East and our Biblical ancestors (including Noah, Jesus and everybody you ever met in Sunday School) are all descended from Seth. The movie is largely about the difference between the lifestyle of Cain's descendants who exploit the earth and the descendants of Seth who replenish the earth.

Noah's story reminds us that the line between Cain's way of life and the way of Seth runs

through our own hearts and bodies. Even when we are seeking the better way, the way of Seth, the way of Jesus, we are very much prone to act in the way of the dominant culture.

The way of Seth that Noah sought to follow, is one that was attentive to and at peace with the rest of creation. This sort of ecological attentiveness is perhaps most strongly seen in contrast to the monologue of Tubal Cain (a descendent of Cain) spoken to Noah's son, Ham, aboard the ark, in which Tubal Cain emphasizes that creation was made to serve humanity and humans were ordered to dominate the creation. Noah and his family lived within the ecology of the created order and I was struck by this family's trust in the abundant economy of God.

The second bit of biblical information you might like to be clear about before seeing the movie is the appearance of Nephilim, who appear in Genesis 6 (pre-flood) and Numbers 13 (post flood) as giant descendants of “the sons of God and the daughters of humans.” Their name means “rejects” in Hebrew, and they appear in the movie as stone figures who try to redeem themselves from a previous association with fallen angels. This device is a little harder to explain theologically, but these “Watchers” as they are called in the movie, help move the plot along in a style reminiscent of the *Lord of the Rings*. Your grandchildren will be able to explain this part to you better than I can, but it does have biblical roots sufficient for a movie which needs extras to extend the twenty eight verses of the Noah story in the Bible to a typical two hour cinematic production.

Brian Brown

*You are cordially invited to a
Pre-service Continental Breakfast
on Sunday, May 11, 2014, at 10:00 A.M.
This is for all families to honor all mothers.*

Address Update:

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



last month's answers

Ephesians



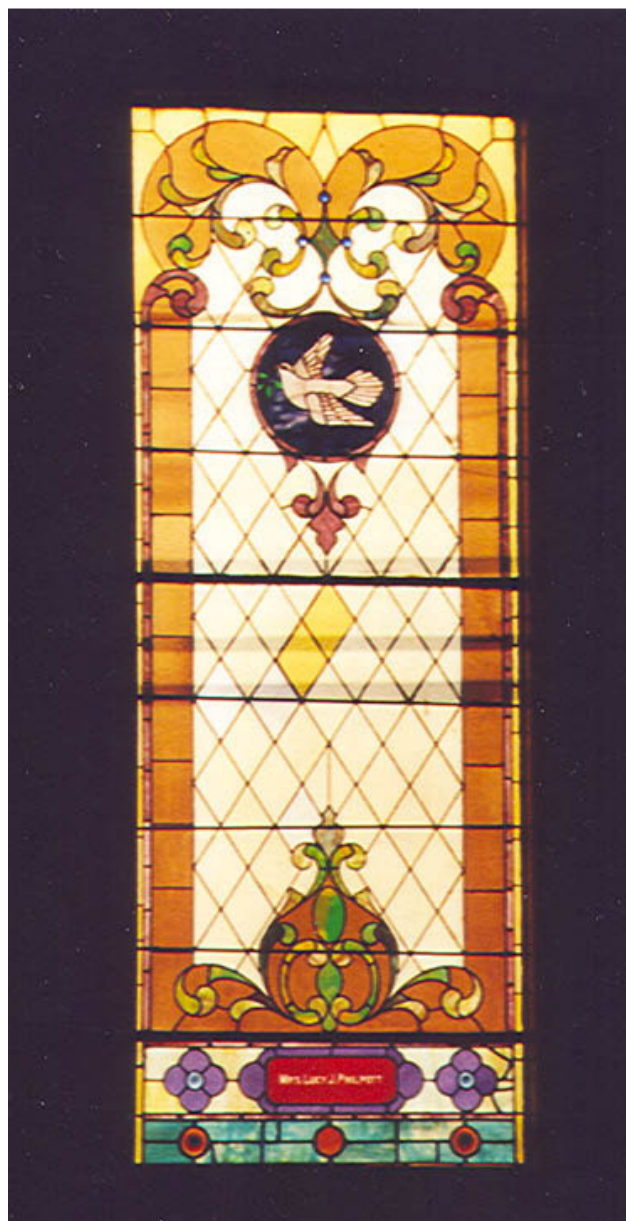
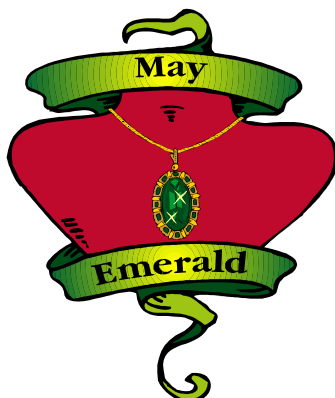
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

After church on May 18th.

If you write a report for the Annual Booklet, please make sure it gets into the office no later than Wednesday, May 7th.

Every year there is an article in Tower Topics about how important our Annual Meeting is. You know it's important; everyone else knows it's important. It's only a very short meeting. So, no article this year. Just

Be there!



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. We are about two-thirds of the way there. Envelopes for contributions are still available on the table in the Friendship room.

Kathleen Ordiway:

Women's Retreat Leader

Niagara Falls native Kathleen Ordiway wears many hats, so to speak, including working full time as a bookkeeper/secretary as her day job. However, this mother of three adult children and grandmother of three does so much more. During the summer season she plays the role of Annie Edison Taylor, the first person to go over the falls in a barrel in 1901, for Encounter Niagara. She is a licensed lay minister, preaching every other weekend at Niagara Falls First Baptist Church. Ordiway also finds the time to lead a number of Christian women's retreats each year.

"In May 2001, the ladies at our church decided to have a faith-based retreat that fall," Ordiway said. "We thought it would be a great idea to go someplace and to hire someone to lead the retreat, inviting women from the community." However, they found it hard to guarantee enough women to make it affordable to hire someone or use an outside facility, so several of the women encouraged Ordiway to lead. "I was not so sure I'd be good at it, but I figured with their confidence in me, I'd give it a try."

Their first retreat was scheduled for Sept. 15, 2001. Given the events of a few days before, the retreat turned into one of giving comfort and security.

"Who would have ever believed that something as horrible as 9/11 would happen in our country? We needed each other's encouragement and comfort that week and for weeks to follow," Ordiway recalled. "No one felt confident that we were safe and we needed each other's companionship and that feeling of security we gave each other. We also needed to know that God had not abandoned us, that He instead was there for us during our country's darkest moments."

While the retreats are Christian-based, they are open to women of any religious affiliation. Ordiway currently plans two full-day retreats a year, along with a

two-hour women's tea in the fall, which makes it perfect for those who can't commit to a full-day event.

"I often add some other type of an event during the year, too. I've held several 'Scrapbooking Your Faith' events — where we scrapbook all day together, with encouragement to include God and our faith on our pages."

On average about 20 to 25 women attend each retreat, ranging in age from 16 to 90, although attendees tend to fall into three age brackets: 30s, 50s and 70s. Ordiway has a group of women that have been to every retreat; there are also some participants who attend once in a while as well as some new faces. "The women who attend on a fairly regular basis are always bringing new friends with them, and we often get groups of women that will come together from other churches as an addition to their women's fellowships."

Participants seem to get a lot out of her retreats. "More than anything, women will tell me how good it is to leave the 'crazies' behind to enjoy a day of relaxation together," Ordiway said. "I can't begin to count the times I've heard someone say that they were planning to stay home, there was just too much to do around the house — but they were so glad that they changed their mind. Women love to know there are likeminded ladies out there who enjoy socializing and having times of Christian fellowship." ☐



BY CHRISTINE A. SMYCZYNSKI



Kathleen Ordiway; photo supplied by the author.

We received a nice note. . .

from Cindy Lin the other day. Her Mom, Marjorie Arthur, had been living in Florida. However, Marjorie fell in December and had to go into the hospital and then to rehab. She is now living in Friendship Village in Columbus, Ohio, and is near family and friends.

If you would like to contact her, she can be reached by writing to Cindy Lin, 5022 Deer Forest Place, Westerville, OH 43081. Cindy will see that her Mother gets all our correspondence.

First Baptist is truly grateful for friends far and wide!

Since Kath Ordiway is our roving reporter,

we knew she would be too modest to put in this article about herself, so just in case you haven't read it on the bulletin board, your friendly editor is doing it for her!

Not only is there a nice "plug" for First Baptist in the opening paragraph, but it does make one stop to realize what an impact we have on the Niagara Falls area (and beyond). As a church we may not be that large, but with leadership like Kath, we are mighty!





Colorado/CWS

Colorado, U.S.

When heavy rains brought deadly flooding to Colorado in fall 2013, thousands of families were evacuated, their homes damaged or destroyed, their roads and bridges torn up. CWS sent blankets and other emergency supplies to several Colorado communities, to help survivors deal with the disaster and begin the task of recovery. Among them are Lourdes and Carmen Romero, who received blankets from CWS partner Adventist Community Services' disaster relief center in Loveland.

Reaching out to flood survivors



U.S., Adventist Community Services

Last year, 5,360 CWS Blankets were provided for people in need in the United States.

CWS Blanket Sunday consistently is our largest mission effort. It's good to note that CWS aid is active in the United States as well as around the world. Hurricane Sandy was another example of aid provided immediately by CWS.

Welcome to the new Tower Topics feature! The 'Toon Topics Corner. ➤

Pastor Wes likes to think of it as Godly humor. All we know is that a good laugh keeps the Devil away!





Our world travelers, Joe and Jeanette Heasley, living the good life, while we get snow on April 16th!

The advertisement features a large, vibrant mural of a religious figure, likely the Virgin Mary, in a blue and gold robe, set within a stone archway. Two people are seen from behind, looking at the mural. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

SAVE THE DATE

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

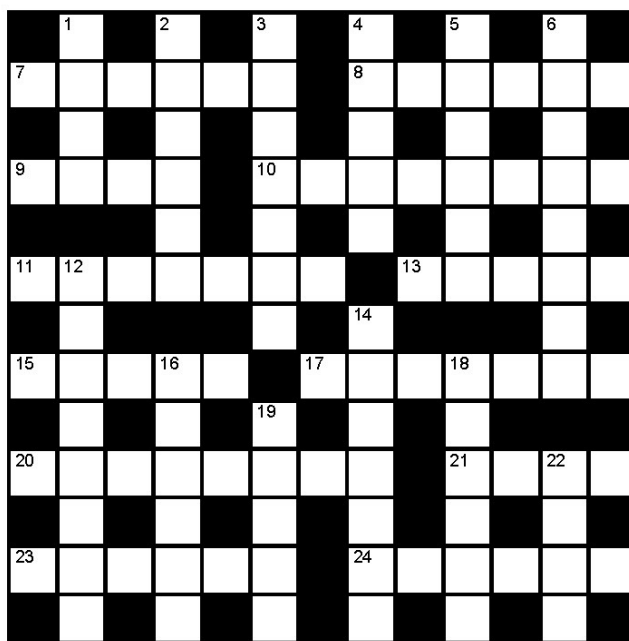
SACRED SITES
MAY 17-18, 2014

THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY
www.nylandmarks.org

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
JAMES HENRY PARRIS

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Philippians



Across

- 7 Synonym for greet. Phil 4:21 (6)
- 8 "If by any means I might _____ unto the resurrection of the dead." Phil 3:11 (6)
- 9 Paul asked that the Philippians be of one _____. Phil 2:2 (4)
- 10 Paul lists out his qualifications and describes himself as a member of this Jewish group. Phil 3:5 (8)
- 11 "... But now much more in my _____, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil 2:12 (7)
- 13 Paul wrote Philippians. This is another New Testament writer. (5)
- 15 "For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your _____." Phil 2:20 (5)
- 17 The word that Paul uses to describe his expectation and hope. Phil 1:20 (7)

- 20 "So that my bonds in Christ are _____ in all the palace." Phil 1:13 (8)
- 21 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark _____ which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." Phil 3:17 (4)
- 23 The baby Jesus was laid in this. (6)
- 24 The Hebrew name for God. (6)

Down

- 1 Who was the son of Shamer in 1 Chron 6:46? (4)
- 2 Jesus is able to "_____ all things unto himself." Phil 3:21 (6)
- 3 "Not that I speak in _____ of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Phil 4:11 (7)
- 4 "And _____ stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel." 1 Chron 21:1 (5)

- 5 "Let nothing be done through _____ or vainglory." Phil 2:3 (6)
- 6 Christ was made "in the _____ of men." Phil 2:7 (8)
- 12 Judas' act of _____ led to the capturing of Christ. (8)
- 14 One of the gospel writers. (7)
- 16 "Do all _____ without murmurings and disputings." Phil 2:14 (6)
- 18 Paul instructed on being blameless "in the midst of a crooked and perverse _____." Phil 2:15 (6)
- 19 Paul asks the Philippians to imitate what they have "learned, and received, and _____, and seen" in him. Phil 4:9 (5)
- 22 Beware of this. Phil 3:2 (4)

From the Moderator...

APRIL WAS A BUSY MONTH and many thanks are given to Ron Bowser and Kathleen Buckley who delivered communion with Pastor Wes to the homebound. The mission of caring for those with limited mobility is strong within our church. If you or a family member need home communion or a visitation, call the office.

Our Lenten series with Dr. Brown was informative and we thank him for opening our minds with his sermons and study guides. Christ indeed travelled to spread his ministry and made contact with many people in many places. Do we take God's message on our daily trips? The Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday celebrated the Scripture in music and message. Seven pastors, seven words, seven musical interludes, seven solos, and seven hymns brought Good Friday alive. It was wonderful to see congregation members from all over the area attending the service and to hear seven styles of preaching. Easter Sunday was the culmination of the Lenten season which was a joyous celebration with spring flowers, Easter music, and many families celebrating God's word together. Last but not least, Kath Ordiway's Women's Retreat, "These are a Few of My Favorite Things" capped the month of April on the final Saturday.

In May we look forward to Mother's Day and family fellowship, on May 11, the Architectural Open House on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 18 from Noon to 3:00 PM. Tours and brochures will be available so tell your neighbors and friends about our Open House. Tour guides (docents) are needed, so sign up with Donna if you wish to help with tours. Please note that our Second Sunday lunch will be on the third Sunday, May 18. Yes, the Open House and the Luncheon are on the same Sunday, a double event. May 18 will also be the date for our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers which will take place immediately at the end of the service.

Keep in prayer our team studying "Celebrate Recovery" as they work through their readings and viewings of materials. The recovery mission ministers to those with habits, hurts, and hang-ups that keep them from families,

service, and God, and points them toward better relationships, more productive enterprises, and a firm commitment to our Lord. The study group will decide soon if this mission is within our reach and your prayers are needed that we be guided to make the right decision.

See you in church!

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

Coming Together for New Jersey



Rebuild. Renew. Restore.

Join us in New Jersey for a week of service as we rebuild, renew and restore those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Two 2014 work weeks from which to choose:

July 12-19 | August 9-16



HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- hands-on efforts to rebuild homes, communities and lives;
- encouraging and supporting those in need;
- worshiping with local American Baptist congregations; and
- enjoying the New Jersey shore.

\$250 cost includes housing and food; volunteers are responsible for transportation.

Scholarships are available.

Contact Victoria Goff | vgoff@abhms.org | 610-768-2449

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.