



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ➔ From the Moderator page 3
- ➔ From Kristy Engel, Missionary page 4
- ➔ New Executive Minister Page 5

VOLUME 64

NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2012

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

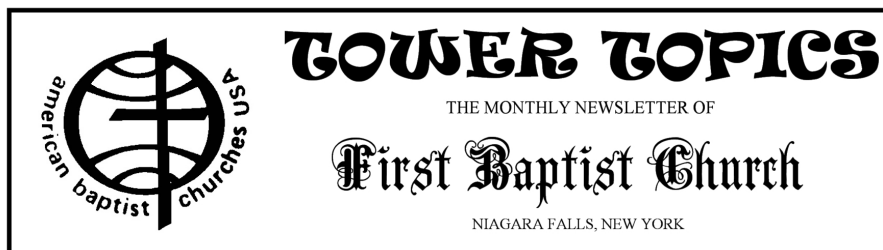
554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>☞ Take a moment to look at the pictures of our Church restoration on display on the piano in the Friendship Room.</p> <p>☞ It's not too early to bring in items for the rummage sale in October.</p> <p>☞ Be thinking about baskets you can make for this fall's Basket Auction.</p>			1 12:15: Inasmuch at Donna Flood's: 759-6442	2	3	4
5 10 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.	6	7	8 7:00 Trustees/Diaconate	9	10	11
12 11 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 12 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 13 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Breakfast for Everyone 11:00 Worship	27	28	29	30	31	



AUGUST 2012 **SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH**

Wednesday	8/01	12:15 Inasmuch Luncheon Patio picnic at Donna Flood's 5010 Salt Road, Clarence
Sunday	8/05	11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E.
Wednesday	8/08	7:00 Diaconate/Trustees Mtg
Sunday	8/12	11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch
Sunday	8/19	11:00 Worship Service
Sunday	8/26	10:00 Breakfast for All 11:00 Worship Service

August Birthdays

7	David Ward
11	Michael Baxter
12	Katie Kundl Canterbury
13	Andrew N. Baxter
14	Debbie Boeskin
15	Judy Ward
17	Herb Lewis
19	Thomas Culbreth
30	Chris Kundl

Please continue to pray for Gladys Lewis, Ron Blakely, Mark Clark, Paul Ordiway, Margaret Payne, Dawn Schutz, Mike Gunther, Robert Hogan, Tara Clifton, Judy Einstein, Jack Mercer, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church Family, our Country and all those who serve our Country. If you have a prayer request, please let us know.

L.I.F.E.

"It's Picnic Time"

August 5, 2012

5:00 P.M.

at Celene's Cottage

Bring a dish to pass.

Keeping church records is a shared responsibility. The church secretary needs updates when your contact information changes whether it is addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses. If you have changes please give Peggy a call M-F 9-12 noon with current numbers. If you are moving and wish to have your church membership changed, let us know and we'll take care of it. Inactive members can still receive Tower Topics via e-mail or regular mail.

It's been delightful to chat with visitors from around the world this summer and learn that the Baptist congregations globally are thriving. Bring your company to church and let us all renew our friendships.

A new members/Baptism class is forming and will be meeting this fall. It's a great joy to welcome new members to our congregation so if you know a family member, neighbor, or friend who's looking for a renewal of faith and a church to join, talk to Kathy Ordiway or myself.

Flowers for services in memory or in honor of friends or family members are available for the fall and winter months. Submit your form from the piano in the Friendship Room with your check in the collection plate or the office.

August 1 is the beginning of a new phase of Kristy Engel's missionary work. She has ended her time in the Dominican Republic and moving back to the United States. She will be reassigned soon to another part of the world to bring her healing hands and God's work through them. We wish her well and will keep her in our prayers.

Have you had the opportunity to read anything inspirational this summer? While it's fun to read a good mystery, sci-fi novel or technical manual if you're so inclined, think about finding a Bible chapter that speaks to you. Stories that uplift and reaffirm your faith or stories about ordinary humans overcoming their trials and tribulations can help give a perspective that gives you peace and ability to help you cope with life's changes. ***Donna Flood***

We have received the following from our missionary, Kristy Engel:

July/2012

Greetings!

I have an important announcement to make so please read below to find out what is about to happen...!!

New Beginnings

God's presence in the midst of change

For the last twelve years, I have been serving in La Romana, Dominican Republic, working alongside many volunteers and co-workers from the Good Samaritan Hospital and the Maranatha Baptist Church. Many of you may remember that I originally came to La Romana on an evaluation trip of only two months but soon heard God calling me to stay and work with my brothers and sisters here in this beautiful, yet needy country. The work here has been filled with challenges, joys, tears and long hours working tirelessly but it has mostly been filled with a deep sense of God's calling to ministry in La Romana. The improvements to the health of so many people living in the sugar cane villages is apparent today and I believe that my role here has been part of these changes.

About four weeks ago, during the World Missions Conference, I heard Pastor Ken Fong preaching about the challenges in our life and asking us about our comfort level in life. He spoke about when we are very comfortable we learn to rely on ourselves and not on God. When I thought about both of those questions in regards to my work here in La Romana, I quickly began to feel God tugging at my heart and quietly speaking to me about a change. It was surprising and a bit overwhelming to think about, but when I agreed that yes, it was time for a change, an overwhelming peace settled in my heart.

And so, I'm writing to let you know that I will be leaving La Romana and the ministry here on August 1, 2012...just a few short weeks away. It's a sad and yet an exciting time in my life. Sad, because I will be leaving friends and family, during what is a wonderfully blessed time in ministry. I want to be clear that I am leaving on very good terms and in fact, I am probably at one of the most respected and productive times in my career here and my friendships are dearer to me than ever. It has been a shock to the

community here but I truly believe that God is calling me to other ministry it is also an exciting time in my life! Over the next several months, I will be discussing with International Ministries the options I have in re-assignment as well as the needs I am planning. Already it is overwhelming to think about all of the possibilities and I will certainly have prayers during this time of discernment.

On August 1st I will move to Columbia, Missouri where my sister and her family live and find an apartment or house to rent very quickly. A week after I move there, my two dogs will need me and I'll need to have a place for them to stay. Only a week after they get there, I return to Africa for three weeks and have to board the dogs or find a home willing to watch them for a time. Upon returning from Africa, I dive right into deputation and traveling throughout Missouri and the Northeast until November 1st. Hopefully, I will have found a car by then. I continue to ask for your prayers regarding re-assignment, finding a home to live in and a home for my dogs, potentially finding new homes for them if re-assignment prevents me from taking them with me!, a car to drive and safety in all of my travels. I believe that following God's directions will bring blessings and so I am confident in this decision, even if I can't see the outcome, I will remain faithful to His leading and am committed to following the path He opens for me.

Oh how far we've come!

I thought it would be nice to make a timeline of all of the major events that I have taken part in or experienced since my arrival to La Romana twelve years ago. The hardest part is narrowing it down to a list that can be placed into a newsletter!!

*May 2000, arrived in La Romana to begin working with the Good Samaritan Hospital and its ministries for two months

*August 2000, moved to La Romana where we had 15 teams scheduled to work with us in the upcoming year

*January 2001, started the social service program with a staff of one! We have our first HUGE concert to raise funds to support the program.

*November 2001, Jean Luc Phanord (pastor and visionary for ministry here in La Romana) died in the American Airlines crash in New York, just two months after 9-11.

January 2005, I returned to LaRomana following an invitation to return. We now have a full year. The social service program is now a department in the Hospital. 2005-2009, the numbers of teams continue to grow while serving the following are areas in surgery, construction, outreach medical clinics, evangelism, leadership training, children's food distribution, sports ministries and health promoter training. January 2010, a devastating earthquake strikes Haiti and I begin working in medical with the Good Samaritan Hospital, taking new teams over every week of the next four weeks to bring hundreds of thousands of dollars of medicine, food and supplies to Haiti through helping volunteers while still hosting over 50 teams a year in LaRomana. November 2010, I take a medical team to Haiti amidst riots to serve in northern Haiti, Missionaries Steve and Nancy James as they battle the cholera outbreak. January 2012, we have 68 teams scheduled for the year! May 2012, we now have 72 teams scheduled for the year! June 2012, for the first time, one of our work teams decides to throw an all-day party with bat eyes, feeding all of the residents with a catered meal and the Maranatha band giving a concert (way to go Wallingford, CT FBC!!)

It has been an honor to work with so many dedicated and gifted people in La Romana. It is my hope to continue to glorify God in all that I do as He leads me in new directions, assuredly with new challenges, but always with His grace and strength through it all.

Sincerely,

Kristy Engel

**HAVE YOU SEEN OUR
NEW SPIRES?**

IM Missionary Jim Kelsey Accepts Call as Executive Minister of ABC-NYS

The Rev. Dr. James Kelsey, American Baptist International Ministries (IM) missionary in Italy, has been called as the executive minister of American Baptist Churches of New York State (ABC-NYS). This announcement was made by the Region Board on Wednesday, July 11. Kelsey will begin serving in this position on August 16, 2012.

Jim's wife Debbie, also an ordained American Baptist minister, will continue to serve as a missionary with IM. "We are in conversation with the European Baptist Federation and Italian Baptists about the scope of her ministry," commented Charles Jones, IM area director for Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Debbie is currently on U.S./Puerto Rico assignment.

The Kelsey's have served as IM missionaries in Belgium and Italy. Most recently they partnered with the Italian Baptist Union to work with African immigrants. Kelsey established a program that focuses on theological formation for African pastors and has worked with their churches, providing training, pastoral care and preaching.

"I have enjoyed my years of service with IM," commented Kelsey, "and have been honored to serve in an organization with such a storied history and vigorous ongoing ministry. The staff and missionaries at IM have enriched my life and demonstrated daily faithfulness, patience, and giftedness."

"I look forward to ongoing and increasing collaboration between the American Baptist Churches of New York State and IM," Kelsey added.

Reid Tulsan, IM executive director expresses his admiration for Kelsey's service to IM and IM's partners. "The quality of Jim's multi-cultural ministry in Europe led to invitations in recent years for him to also help train pastors in Vietnam. This, along with his own experience in pastoral ministry, has equipped him well for his work as Executive Minister in New York State," Trulson commented."

The Kelsey's are proud parents of Luke, who will be attending Denison University in Granville, Ohio, in the fall, and Ben, who will be entering his junior year of high school.

"As well as a deep commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and a strong sense of call, Jim brings a broad spectrum of experience and gifts for ministry. Jim's gifts for administration, his passion for local churches

and their leaders, and his rich experience as an American Baptist make him an excellent fit for us," said Rev. Lynn Sullivan, president of ABC-NYS.

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) was organized in 1814 as the first Baptist international mission agency in America. It began its pioneer mission work in Burma and today works in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas serving more than 1,800 long-term and short-term missionaries. Its central mission is to help people **come** to faith in Jesus, **grow** in their relationship with God, and **change** their worlds through the power of the Spirit. It works with respected partners in over 70 countries in ministries that meet human need.

A New, Revised "Save the Date"

I know we announced that the next Ladies' Retreat would be on the 22nd of September... but who would know that my dear Eileen would decide to get married on Labor Day Weekend. Although we are thrilled beyond belief, there is just no way I can spread myself that thin - planning a Destination Wedding that does Eileen justice, as well as a retreat that everyone will enjoy.

That being said, please revise your calendars - Our next Ladies' Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 13, 2012. The Theme... "God Is Not Asleep" - Inspired by a sermon given by Rev. Wes Bourdette.

Basket Auction!

Our Annual Basket Auction will be held on Friday, November 2nd at the Elks Lodge, behind the Outlet Mall.

Have you started making baskets to be included in the auction. Looking for ideas? Think about the things you might like to win. Here are some ideas:

- Welcome New Baby Basket - Apartment Warming Basket
- Decorate the Tree Basket - Sports Basket
- Boys' Toys Basket - Movie Night Basket

- Tool Basket – Christmas Baking Basket
- Scrapbooking Basket - Stationary Basket
- Night on the Town – Nail Care Basket

Be creative. Make something for the kids. Make something that the men will love.. See last month's Tower for more ideas.

Complete baskets will be much appreciated. You can start bringing them in whenever you are ready.

We will be having a committee meeting soon. Let Kathleen Ordiway know if you are able to help out in any way! Not available the night of the auction? That's okay, there's plenty to be done before hand. Make sure to ask all your friends for help and invite them to attend.

As our church grows and works together, fundraising events make us better able to reach out to our community and serve Christ.

FREE GARDENS OF COMPASSION WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, July 25th at 6:30 P.M., Community Missions will be offering a Mid-summer Garden Care Workshop, including mid-summer Garden and Care and Garden Fresh Recipe ideas. The workshop is free and open to the public. All gardeners are welcome. The location for this event is the Community Mission at 1570 Buffalo Avenue. The meeting will be held in the Community room.

For more information and to register, phone Mark Breese at 716-285-3404, ext 2259, by email mbreese@communitymissions.org

Included in this month's Tower is one of our new Memorial Gift envelopes. If you do not need it immediately, save it for the future. There are always Memorial Gift envelopes available in the Friendship Room.