



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

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AUGUST 2011

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 There will be a Membership/Baptism class starting this fall. Do you know someone who might be interested?	1	2	3 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	4	5	6
7 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion	8	9	10 7:00 Diaconate/Trustees	11	12	13
14 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Church Picnic	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 11:00 Divine Worship	29	30	31	 Remember to bring in your items for the rummage sale.		



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AUGUST 2011 SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH

Wednesday	8/3	12:15 Inasmuch Luncheon
Sunday	8/7	10:00 Sunday School will Resume in September 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E Program
Wednesday	8/10	7:00 Trustees/Diaconate Mtg
Sunday	8/14	10:00 Sunday School will Resume in September 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 2 nd Sunday Luncheon
Sunday	8/21	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
Sunday	8/28	9:45 Breakfast for All 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship School

August Birthdays

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

Please continue to pray for: Carole Buchalski, Marge Blakely, Hal Faba, Margaret Payne, Dawn Lynn, 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.

Beatrice Hunt, 99, died on Tuesday, June 28, 2011. She was a former member of the First Baptist Church in Niagara for sixty years.. Services were held in Plattsburgh, Pa.

L.I.F.E

Patriotic Picnic
August 7, 2011
5:00 P.M.
at Celene's Cottage

Pot Luck
Bring a Dish to Pass

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Thank you to everyone who has contributed "L" Dollars to Love Gift. Our missionary giving has increased a great deal because of this project. See Betty Richardson if you wish to contribute.

An update from Kristy Engel:

Thank you for your patience in getting this very delayed newsletter to you! This winter and spring have been very busy in LaRomana and I have also been taking some tie off in the U.S. for much needed rest and relaxation. By the end of April, the Good Samaritan Hospital had hosted around 30 teams since January and the summer season is already in full swing. We have had surgical teams, medical teams, eye clinics, universities, construction teams, children's ministry teams and many volunteers to help with the work. Many of our teams try to do several projects at once and by the end of the week we are all amazed at how everything that was supposed to get done actually did get done!

THANK YOU! Please continue to keep the work in LaRomana in your prayers.

CHANGE: As much as we dislike the idea that change is always occurring, significant changes are happening in the America Baptist Churches of New York State, the Executive Minister is an interim, the Regional Staff has all changed. Instead of one single

person having the responsibility, it is now a shared responsibility. The past Associate Executive/Area Minister was the Reverend Dr. Robert P. Shoesmith (who also was an “interim”) is no longer holding this position. Instead, the Regional Enhancement Team for the Niagara Area is: The Reverend Ivan Crossano, Pastor of the Cheektowaga Community Baptist Church (home telephone: 894-0309), Ms Sally Davis of East Aurora (652-5840), and the Reverend Walter P. Hargrove, Pastor of the Messiah Baptist Church of Buffalo (361-9366).

The letter from the state office has been posted on the main bulletin board. It explains the situation and the role of the enhancement team(s).

From Rev. Wes Bourdette

From the Moderator...

First Baptist had its Open House on Saturday, July 16 and a dozen of the Garden Walk patrons came to visit to take our Architectural Tour. The flier was written by Jim and Donna Flood and also distributed at the following Sunday service. It will also be available on our brochure rack. Many thanks to our “tour guides”, **Marge Bozigar, Connie Davis, Chuck Compton, Jim and Donna Flood, Joe and Jeanette Heasley, and Carolyn Culbreth.** Many interesting historical events were discussed by the guides as well as showing people around the church. Do you know who are our architects were? How many stained and colored glass windows are in the church? What year was the church bombed? Why and when was the wing built? Check out that architectural brochure for some of that information!

A “New Members’ Class” will start in the fall and we plan to welcome three new members, maybe more if you know someone who is looking to find a church and follow the path of Christ. Christian mission is more than just coming to church yourself. Spreading the Christian message is a job for everyone and blessings come to those who can find their way in that message. I think of it as sowing seeds, seeds of thought for folks to consider there’s a better way in the light of understanding the love for Jesus and his for us. **Kathleen Ordiway and Jim Flood** have again volunteered to run the membership class which will be knowledgeable, spiritual, and an exciting exploration of what makes Baptists, Baptists.

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES FOR THE PARK PLACE HISTORICAL DISTRICT’S GARDEN WALK HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 23.

An Architecturally Significant House of Worship

The First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, New York, 554 Main at Fourth Street, was built in 1900 with the opening service on January 13, 1901. The new building replaced the original church on First Street. The architect was James Robert White of Niagara Falls who designed the ecclesiastical space in the Victorian Gothic Revival style, popular in the 19th century with such architects as H. H. Richardson. Architect White was born in 1869 in Canada, educated in Toronto, and eventually moved to Niagara Falls, New York, in 1895 where he enjoyed a successful practice. In 1900 he planned a house for Mrs. Andrew Murray at 324 Buffalo Avenue, which was sold to Dr. William H. Hodge. He also designed other houses built on Fourth Street, numbers 725 and 731. Other residences designed by James R. White are at 531 and 720 Buffalo Avenue and 683 and 702 Orchard Parkway. These houses were designed and built between 1900 and 1912.

The Victorian Gothic design of First Baptist Church is unique for the way the building develops from its irregular lot and defines an important intersection of Main and Fourth Streets and Walnut Ave. The church is part of the Park Place Historic District which includes 44 residential properties and one element, a section of stone wall from the Schoellkopf residence. The church property was purchased 1899 from the original owners, the Schoellkopf family. The church received its local historic designation in 2007 as part of the Park Place Historic District which is located between Main Street, Cedar Avenue, and Fourth Street. James R. White combined his talents with another Canadian architect, W. W. LaChance in the 1920’s. In 1925 an educational wing was added to the church, designed by W. H. Barnes, who had his office on Whitney Avenue. Both sections of the church are brick with a variety of Victorian Gothic details on the older section, primarily in the tower section. The exterior

brick of the church is in Roman style, which was popular with architects of the day, including Frank Lloyd Wright. Exterior brick restoration and masonry pointing will be done in 2011-14 by Ajax-Smith, Inc., of Tonawanda, New York. A Capital Campaign, led by Trustee Chairman, James D. Flood, and treasurer Paul Einstein, is matching a grant from the Sacred Sites program of the New York State Landmark Conservancy. Work is planned to continue over the next two or three years on the church where the congregation has worshipped since January 13, 1901. This is the second major external repair the church has completed in its history.

The large stained glass window on the left side of the sanctuary was given in memory of Mrs. Lucy Philpott by her sister Margaret in 1900. On the right in the sanctuary the stained glass window was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shaffer on September 28, 1900. A more accurate technical description would be American Victorian opalescent leaded glass windows. These large windows were made in Cincinnati, Ohio, and are triple lancet windows (a triptych arrangement with flattened Gothic arch panels) made from both colored and stained glass.

Additionally, there are three colored glass windows in the Friendship Room, immediately to the rear of the sanctuary, and one each in the kitchenette and pastor's study. One of the most architecturally significant features of the building is the stairway ascending to the sanctuary balcony off the narthex. Of special note are the panels of oak wainscoting placed at 45 degree angles. At the top of the stairs is a wainscoted vestibule leading to the balcony itself. At the top of the stairs there is another stained glass window and two more in the classroom to the rear of the balcony and one in the History Room. Before the educational wing was added in 1925, there were three circular windows of significance at the back of the altar, now removed.

Of great interest at First Baptist Church is the pipe organ. The console is in the choir loft, on the left. The pipe chambers are located behind the grilles on the left, the right, and on the second floor above the baptistery. Originally installed in 1939 by the

Hall Organ Company of West Haven, Connecticut, it was designed by Stanley E. Saxton, professor of organ at Skidmore College. Between 1988 and 1996 the organ was restored, rebuilt, and significantly enlarged to one of the largest in the county. Regular concerts are held in the Church's *Gift of Music* concert series.

Famous visitors in the early part of the 20th century included John D. Rockefeller, an American Baptist, who when visiting the Falls worship here
