



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

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>🔔 December is Advent season. This is a good time to invite friends or neighbors to a church service. Advent begins the church year with the coming of the birth of Jesus. Perhaps you know someone who doesn't come to church presently. A personal invitation goes a long way to make someone feel welcome. If each person brought someone to services with them imagine how our congregation would grow!</p>						1
2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.	3	4	5 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	6	7	8
9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 Gift of Music: Christmas Organ Music  HANUKKAH	10	11	12 7:00 Diaconate / trustees meeting	13	14	15
16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 3:00 Christmas Tea	17	18	19	20	21 Winter begins	22
23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00 Breakfast for Everyone 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	24 5:30 Music 6:00 Lessons and carols	25 	26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29
30 1ST SUN. AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	31 	<p>🔔 If you have not had the opportunity to send in your pledge, please do so soon.</p> <p>🔔 Look around the sanctuary this December. Enjoy the beauty of our wonderful worship space.</p> <p>🔔 See Kathleen Ordiway concerning our Baptism/Membership classes and Bible study.</p> <p>🔔 Remember the family we sponsor at Christmastide. There are still a few "gift cards" that can be picked up and returned with the indicated gift by December 9th.</p>				



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DECEMBER SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday	12/02	11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E. Program
Wednesday	12/05	12:00 Inasmuch Luncheon
Sunday	12/09	11:00 Worship Sunday 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch 2:00 Gift of Music
Wednesday	12/12	7:00 Trustees/Diaconate Mtg
Sunday	12/16	11:00 Worship Service 3:00 ABW Christmas Tea
Sunday	12/23	10:00 Breakfast for All 11:00 Worship Service
Monday	12/24	5:00 Christmas Eve Service
Sunday	12/30	11:00 Worship Service

December Birthdays

2 Gladys Lewis	21 Mark Clark Jr.
10 Kathleen Buckley	21 Mark Clark Sr.
17 Donna Flood	27 Jason Clark
17 Arline Whetham	28 Bonnie Cook

Please continue to pray for David Compton, Neal Jacobs, Celia Krasinski, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Margaret Payne, Dawn Schutz, Mike Gunther, Robert Hogan, Tara Clifton, Judy Einstein, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our Country and all those who serve our Country.

L.I.F.E

“Christmas in December”
December 2, 2012

5:00 P.M.

Pot Luck

Bring a dish to pass

Bring a \$1.00 Gift for Exchange

Sign up in the Friendship Room

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

A message to the ladies of First Baptist! Save Sunday, December 16, for the annual Christmas Tea hosted by AB Women. This long tradition gives us a chance to relax from the usual activities of Christmas, enjoy a Christmas program with a cup of tea and chat. We will meet in the Friendship Room at 3 PM and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Please invite a friend to come with you. Ladies of all ages are invited.

IM Sends Additional Tuition Assistance to College Students in Haiti

Financial aftershocks from the massive January 2010 earthquake in Haiti are still being felt by students whose education was interrupted when their colleges in the Port au Prince area were destroyed or severely damaged in the aftermath of the quake. American Baptist Churches and individuals continue to provide much needed assistance to these students as they study to become Haiti's future leaders.

In April 2010, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) sent an initial grant of \$70,500 which made it possible for 94 Haitian college students to continue their studies at the Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haiti (Christian University of North Haiti) for the spring 2010 semester. An additional \$70,500 provided tuition assistance for the fall 2010 semester. In 2011, a total of \$88,125 was provided. This tuition assistance was made possible by Haiti relief funds raised by churches and individuals through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and approved by American Baptist International Ministries (IM).

In October 2012, IM approved tuition grants totaling \$122,880 to provide tuition assistance for 49 college students over the

Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday — Friday
716-282-4666 — nfb@niagarafallsbaptist.org — www.niagarafallsbaptist.org

next two academic years. While colleges and universities in Haiti are attempting to rebuild, progress has been slow. As a result, students continue to be displaced. The initial grant of \$30,720 was sent for the first semester in October 2012. The remaining grants of \$30,720 each will be sent at the beginning of the subsequent three semesters.

The grants will assist 49 students to pay tuition at the University. The students, now mostly college juniors and seniors, are the future leaders of Haiti. The completion of their studies in theology, business administration, agriculture and agronomy is critical for Haiti's long-term recovery and sustainability.

American Baptist Churches (ABC) has been a partner with Haitian Christians for 89 years. The Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haiti (UCNH) was founded in 1947 as the Haitian Baptist Theological Seminary by ABC missionaries, Harold and Ivah Heneise. In 1993, the seminary became an interdenominational Christian university, integrating the seminary into a new school of theology and offering an affordable baccalaureate education with four majors.

Scholarship recipients express relief and gratitude for the scholarships:

"My goal is to help agriculture progress in Haiti then create my own enterprise. I'm from Cap-Haitian. I'm a victim of the earthquake on January 12, 2010 when 200,000 people lost. In this tragedy, I've lost an aunt and a cousin." Whisly De Laleu

"I am studying Agriculture at UCNH and then after studying, I would like to get a master in Ecology. I thank you for everything. May God bless you...." Wenda Noldie Jean-Claude

"I really appreciate your support because I felt hopeless after the earthquake. I pray that God will continue to bless you so that you can continue to bless us. My dream is to help my country reduce hunger rate." Luceidito Preval
As of October 2012, churches and individuals

have given \$2.9 million for Haiti Relief through IM and One Great Hour of Sharing. \$1.6 million has been provided for relief and rebuilding. An additional \$1.3 million has been committed for multi-year projects related to Haiti rebuilding. Christian brothers and sisters in Haiti are grateful for the prayers and financial support given through the American Baptist Churches.

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries. The Committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work, and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Once again we will be adopting a family for Christmas through Community Missions. It's a time when we can give to those less fortunate than ourselves, as both following God's directive to care for the needy and as a thank you to God for blessings received throughout the year.

Cards can be found in church, representing each of these gifts, but if you would like to purchase something, but can not pick up a card from church, just let Kathleen Ordiway know. Donations must be received at the church by 9th (or brought to Kathleen during that week) so that they can be brought to the Mission no later than December 14th.

"Family #35" must be written on each gift, along with the child's name. We are told that these are the only gifts this family will receive this year. Thank you for the time and love you put into this "adoption" each year.

Shya (age 8) (likes arts and crafts)

Gift 1: Shirt, Girl's size Medium

Gift 2: Pants, Girl's size 10

Wish 1: Shoes, size 3 1/2

Wish 2: Costume Jewelry

Wish 3: Board Game

Wish 4: Child's Make Up Set

Deja (age 6) (likes arts and crafts)

Gift 1: Shirt, Girl's size 6x

Gift 2: Pants, Girl's size 6

Wish 1: Shoes, size 1

Wish 2: Baby Alive

Wish 3: Barbie's
Wish 4: Lego set for Girls

Dyson (age 4 1/2 months)
Gift 1: Outfit, size 6-9 months
Gift 2: Baby shoes, size 5
Wish 1: Diapers, size 3
Wish 2: Bouncing Tigger
Wish 3: Fisher Price Light Show
Wish 4: Cars Potty Seat

Mom: Rochelle
Gift 1: \$25 Aldi's, Sav-A-Lot or Tops Gift Certificate
Gift 2: Something we think "mom" would appreciate

From the Moderator...

The church is full of the smell of wonderful butter walnut crunch candy and there is plenty of time to order your one pound box of the taste of Christmas. See Carole Buchalski or Hazel Baxter to place your order. The cost is \$10 per box this year and it is a full pound of deliciousness.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Tea by the ABW and details are elsewhere in this issue. The ladies report that another gathering of friends, old and new will take place Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 pm. All are welcome.

The Second Sunday and Gift of Music will take place on December 11, with Jim Flood playing an organ concert entitled, "Christmas on both sides of the Atlantic". The Gift of Music series will continue on second Sundays through April, excluding January.

The Mitten Tree, found in the Friendship Room is ready for hats, gloves, mittens and scarves which are purchased or made by our members. They will be sent to a group home in Oneonta, NY. See Hazel's article in this issue.

The Christmas offering envelopes are included in this edition of Tower Topics and/or are available in your Sunday bulletin.

First Baptist has long supported Community Missions with finance and volunteer assistance. During this Advent, we are collecting gifts for a family who are down on their luck. See the display in the Friendship

Room, choose a gift, and help make the season brighter for a child or young adult whose parents are having a difficult season. Those of us who have jobs or financial means are blessed and this is a small project to undertake to pass it on.

The Candy Makers have done it again; they've finished 475 pounds of the taste of the season, the butter walnut crunch candy. This year's stirring, measuring, weighing, and selling team was; Hazel Baxter, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Connie Davis, Marge Bozigar, Dave and Michele Martin and Olivia, Kay Buckley, Chuck Compton, Mark Clark, Donna Flood and Ron Bowser. Many hands have a lot of fun and make light work.

Home for the Holiday-Christmas Eve is the perfect time to attend an inspirational service and visit with your First Baptist Family. The Candle Light service of Lessons and Carols will start with pre-service music at 5:30 p.m. and the service at 6:00. Plan on singing carols, hearing the story of Christmas through scripture and song, and seeing friends old and new. Invite friends and neighbors to attend with you for there is room for all.

Please note the gorgeous new altar cloth donated as a memorial gift for the Advent Season. Plans are being made to replace the sanctuary carpet. Will it be done by Christmas? Come and see.
