



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

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FEBRUARY 2012

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p> There will be a lot of good things happening at First Baptist in the month of February. Keep your eyes open!</p> <p> Plan to invite a friend or neighbor to a service, especially during the Lenten, a period of meditation pointing toward the glory of Easter Sunday which is the high point of our faith.</p>			<p>1</p> <p>12:15 Inasmuch Luncheon</p>	<p>2</p> 	3	4
<p>5 FIFTH SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship with Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting</p>	9	10	11
<p>12 SIXTH SUN. AFTER EPIPHANY</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch</p>  <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	13	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>2:00 ABW</p>	16	17	18
<p>19 TRANSFIGURATION</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i></p>	<p>20</p>  <p>President's Day</p>	21	<p>22</p> 	23	24	25
<p>26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</p> <p>10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 10:00 Breakfast for Everyone 11:00 Divine Worship</p>	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>Leap Day</p>	<p>✝ Lent begins February 22 with Ash Wednesday. We will have a special service with the Imposition of the Ashes at 7:00. Plan to attend this important service beginning our observance of Lent.</p>		



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FEBRUARY 2012

SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH

Wednesday	2/01	12:15 Insmuch Luncheon
Sunday	2/05	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E.
Wednesday	2/08	7:00 Diaconate/Trustees Mtg
Sunday	2/12	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch
Wednesday	2/15	2:00 ABW Meeting
Sunday	2/19	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
Wednesday	2/22	7:00 Ash Wednesday Serv.
Sunday	2/26	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service

February Birthdays

4	Paul Einstein
20	Carole Buchalski
28	Patricia Dibble

Please continue to pray for: Carole Buchalski, Marge Blakely; Ron Blakely; Mark Clark; Paul Einstein; Paul Ordiway; Margaret Payne; Dawn Schutz; Mike Gunther; Tara Clifton; Judy Einstein, Jack Mercer; Bertha and Harold Bissell, our church Family; our country and all those who serve our Country. Also remember in prayer the Families of those dear friends who passed a few days ago: David Kenyon, who died January 11; and Mary Saul, who died on January 14. Both are remembered lovingly as long time members of First Baptist.

ABW will meet at Betty Richardson's for the monthly meeting on Wednesday, 2/15/12 at 2:00.

L.I.F.E.

"RED IS EVERYWHERE"

February 5, 2012

5:00 P.M.

Pot Luck

Bring a dish to pass

Wear something Red!

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

Church World Service is again collecting Gifts of the Heart. We will be assembling School Kits. Please bring the **exact** item on the designated Sunday. Place the school supply in the basket in the Friendship Room.

Feb. 5: 1 Blunt Scissors

Feb. 12: 1 12 inch Ruler

Feb. 19: 1 Hand Held Pencil Sharpener

Feb. 26: 1 Eraser

Mar. 4: 12 New Pencils with Eraser

Mar. 11: 1 Box of 24 Crayons

Betty Richardson

Gladys Lewis is taking orders for **Daffodils** again this year. They are at \$10.00 a bunch and orders should be in by February 17th. The sale is a benefit for the Cancer Society.

From the Moderator...

Our December Mission Tree items have been delivered to Community Mission and those in need are being warmed and comforted. The January mission, M & M (retired missionaries and ministers) fund donations are collected and being sent on to CWS (Christian World Services). February 19th has been designated as "Blanket Sunday" for our next effort. The blankets function as blankets, stretchers, suitcases, food bags, and much more for those who have been struck by disaster both here and abroad. Your donation supports emergency aid. If you wish to support Cancer research consider buying daffodils from Gladys Lewis this month.

February 22 is Ash Wednesday and The Rev. Wes Bourdette will be officiating at our service and the imposition of ashes. Check the attached calendar for time. The First Presbyterian Church will be holding is Lenten Lunch series on Thursdays with a nice meal and a brief message. Consider both the “giving up” and the “doing extra” to observe Lent. Christ spent 40 days and nights in the desert and we spend 40 days without a favorite something or doing an extra chore as our response to his suffering and death.

Flowers for Sunday service will increase slightly in cost to \$20. If you wish to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone, fill out the flower slip found in the Friendship Room and write your check labeled for flowers and put it in the offering plant or take or send it to the office. The flowers usually last two weeks and you may take them home after the service or give them to a shut in.

There are a few boxes of candy and bags of nuts available for purchase from Marge on the porch on Sunday mornings. Both generate income to support our church activities.

Calendar items for the spring, summer, and fall are being added to the list of activities. If there is an event you wish to have in our church, make sure Peggy, our Church secretary has the dates on the master calendar. We will be having a spring Rummage Sale on June 1 & 2. When you have items to donate, bring them in and if you need a pickup, call Peggy at the office or Donna at home, 759-6442.

From Kristy Engel:

From throwing rocks to blowing kisses! “Tuesday, you will be working in batey Magdalena”. Oh no. This is the one batey that we work in that almost always gives us problems. It seems to be an angry place with lots of delinquent youth, parents who stand by and watch their children create havoc and there is nothing they can do. We have had things stole, works thrown at the church multiple times as we worked, children and youth pulling our hair, pushing us and generally making our visit pretty miserable. (Sigh) Do we really have to go there?, I thought. Maybe I will take that day off and work in the office. or maybe I’ll wake up sick and not able to

go. I know you must be thinking, “What kind of missionary is Kristi to complain about those she serves and try to find a way to get out of it?” Honestly, I agree with you! I feel terrible thinking these thoughts. I mean I was called to La Romana to serve the poor and there was nothing that said only to serve the ones that were nice to me! But, still, it is such a struggle for me to think of going to Magdalena and having to defend myself and the American medical team all day. (Sigh, again..)

And so I began praying. “Lord, please help my attitude. Help me to be loving, even to those who don’t love me back. Help me to bring light and not add to the darkness with my attitude. Help me to see the good in those in front of me and to see them as you do. Lord, simply help!”

I began praying that on Sunday when I heard we were working in Magdalena. The odds were against us, no doubt. We had a medical team with one American Doctor and no nurses. Myself and two other Dominican doctors would help with the consults and despite no nurses, we had a large number of lay folks that were eager to help and had good attitudes. We were unorganized to say the least but again, we had no eager team to go out that, I thought...we dan do this...maybe.

I prayed all the way to the batey that day – about 45 minutes- and listened to a Joyce Meyer’s podcast on forgiveness. I don’t think that was a coincidence! As we were driving, my attitude started changing and I could feel the change. Instead of dwelling on all the problems we had in the past, I tried to imagine what life must be like for those kids who were causing so much trouble. I started wondering what it must be like to grow up without access to proper education, food clothing and medical care. What if I had to receive the anger of my parents and older siblings that resulted in beatings and condemnation on almost a daily basis? What if no one ever told me I was valuable or loved? What if I couldn’t see a way out of the angry, unloving and brutal life I was in? What if?

That did it for me. In an instant, I no longer thought about the previous situations that made my job difficult, I only thought about the children and WHY they must be acting the way they were acting. I had a loving family, plenty of food, medical care and a great education. I didn’t have to protect myself from beatings or hear horrible things said about me by my parents. I

didn't have to EVER experience that. I have always known love in my life and the care of those around me and I can't imagine what I would have turned out to be if that wasn't the case.

And you know what happened that day? Nothing! No rocks being thrown, nothing stolen, no angry shouts from the windows at the clinic and no one poking us or pulling our hair. It was a quiet, organized and wonderfully appreciative clinic that day! I was stunned. in awe, really. How could it be so different than the last 12 years? Then I realized what the change was...ME! I was different. I had changed my attitude and went into the clinic with joy and peace and an expectation that God had everything in control. That was the difference. And oh, what a difference it was.

As we were leaving the clinic that day, I threw my medical bags in my truck, got in and started the engine. Right then two or three children ran up to my window and began knocking on it. In the past, they always have said something rude or asked for something more...something that just caps off a really bad day. What did they do today?? As I turned to look at them, they began to blow me kisses! Kisses! Oh, how great is our God! He has turned the same hands that used to throw rocks into hands that are now blowing kisses! Amen! Amen!

Lord, help me to be your instrument, your hands and your feet, so that I may go to serve the least of these. Give me an attitude of thankfulness and hope that brings light to the dark areas of this world and never let me forget that you are in charge and can handle anything. Help me to do all that I can and remember that you will do all that I can NOT. You are my help in times of need, my comforter when the world is crashing around me and you offer a grace and hope that do not disappoint. I love you, Lord and pray that my actions today and every day may honor You! Amen
