

TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ➔ Kristy Engle, Missionary
- ➔ Moderator's Article

VOLUME 65

NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2013





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

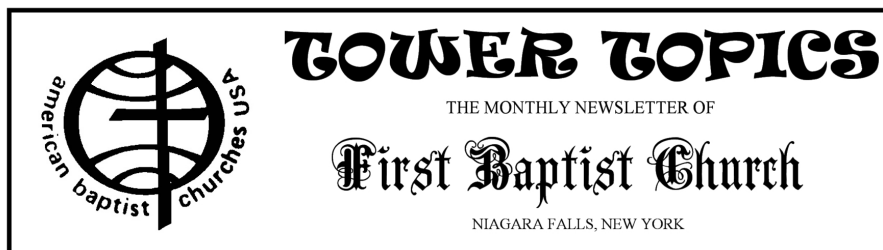
554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Easter is very early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 13. Do you know of someone who would like to join our membership classes to join the church on Easter?		1 	2 12:15 Inasmuch luncheon	3	4	5
6 Epiphany 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Holy Communion 5:00 L.I.F.E.	7	8	9 7:00 Diaconate/ Trustees meeting	10	11	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Second Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i> 12:15 Church Budget Meeting	21  Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 Third Sunday after Epiphany 10:00 Adult Study and Fellowship 11:00 Worship	28	29	30	31	 Plan to stay for a few moments after service on January 20 to vote on the 2013 budget. It will be a short meeting.	



JANUARY SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH

Wednesday	1/02	12:00 Inasmuch Luncheon
Sunday	1/06	11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E Program
Wednesday	1/09	7:00 Trustees/Diaconate Mtg
Sunday	1/13	11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch
Sunday	1/20	11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Church Budget Mtg
Sunday	1/27	11:00 Worship Service

January Birthdays

5	Ken Bowser
13	Sara Gromniak
14	James Flood
22	Betty Richardson
22	Gisela Scott

Please continue to pray for: David Compton, Celia Kraskinski, Neal Jacobs, 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.

January 6, 2013
"Winter in January"

5:00 P.M.

Pot Luck

Bring a dish to pass

Sign up in the Friendship Room

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

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

It has been a busy year with a lot of work in La Romana, the World Missions Conference in May, a visit to colleagues throughout Africa in August, traveling around the US for Home Assignment as well as saying good-bye to La Romana, Dominican Republic after 12 years of ministry. As many of you know, I moved around for most of my life and was quite happy to stay in La Romana for years! I never dreamed that God had more for me to do than the immense work that was available in La Romana. But earlier this summer, I clearly understood that God not only had a new journey for me, but one that would allow me to continue to marvel at how connections are made and needs are met. As you'll read below, I hope you will share in my excitement and anticipation for all of the great adventures awaiting this new chapter in my life.

Thankfulness

It is official...my new assignment has been approved and supported by International Ministries. I will now be the Health Care Resource Missionary for all of Ibero-America (South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal). So what does that mean exactly? It means that I will be acting as a health care resource for our missionaries and partners in Ibero-America in several capacities:

- Emergency medical relief (natural disasters, crisis, etc)
- Health care program development (especially with a nutrition or child health focus)
- Connecting project needs with available resources (people, grants, universities, funding, equipment, medicines, etc.)
- Educating churches and organizations about the health care work available through International Ministries and the opportunities for partnership

- Maintaining contact with volunteers who have health care specialties needed for specific projects
- Participating in conferences focused on International Health Care
- Encouraging other missionaries through partnerships, assistance, filling in and working on projects together.

Whew! As big as this sounds I have to admit that I am thrilled that International Ministries supports this new role for me. My area director, Jose Norat-Rodriguez, and I will be evaluating the projects presented to us by our partners and colleagues to decide together where I need to serve throughout the year. There is also the possibility of working within other regions (outside of Ibero-America) on special projects or in emergency situations as the need would arise but these situations would be decided on as we go along. The focus right now is Ibero-America and the health care issues that this area of the world faces. This can encompass medical clinics, feeding programs, health care relief, special projects, assessments and much more!

I appreciate your patience in waiting with me and keeping me in your prayers through this discernment process. If you could see me right now, you'd see a HUGE smile on my face and an energy to become involved in the needs facing this region. I can hardly wait to connect people with the requests for help and educate folks on how much more we can do. Are you ready to join me? If you are interested in having your name placed on a list for future work with me, please click on the following link, fill out the form, and return it to me. I will not distribute your information to anyone without your consent first and your information will be used only for my database to match needs with resources. There are many needs that do not require you to be a doctor or a nurse so please make sure you fill out the form if you would like to work with me in the future!

I want to sincerely thank each of you for your years of support, prayers and encouragement. As this journey continues together, it is my prayer that each of you may find the wonder and joy that I do, as I continue to serve others in need.

Sincerely,

Kristy Engel, International Ministries

From the Moderator...

Our hearts go out to the citizens of Newtown, Conn. and we pray they receive the comfort of God's presence as they mourn. This tragedy does bring to mind safety procedures should something go amiss at church. Do you know where the exits are?

If you are in the sanctuary and need to exit the building, there is the front door and the side door off the porch. If that direction is blocked, exit through the sanctuary to the left of the altar, behind the organ. Proceed down the steps to the alley door in the basement. If you are in the kitchen downstairs, one may exit through that same door or out the dining room door. If you are in the office, you may exit through the parking lot door through the gym. If you are in the education wing, there are two exits off the third floor to the fire escape and the same on the second floor where there is a door and a window to the fire escape. The balcony over the sanctuary has only one exit and that is down the same stairs you went up, then out the front door or the side door. If you are unsure about the sanctuary exit behind the altar, see me after a Sunday service and I'll show you the way. I hope and pray we never need an emergency exit. There are many fire extinguishers around the building. In a future article, I'll list their locations. You get a prize if you give me the list, first!!

Our mission for January is the Retired Ministers and Missionary Fund for those people and their spouses. The M & M Fund assists our pastoral servants with funding for health care, housing and other expenses faced in retirement. The envelopes are included in this issue, if it is mailed to you, and available in the Sunday bulletins.

The budget vote for our next fiscal year is on Sunday, January 20th. The finance committee of Jim Flood, Marge and Ron Blakely, Carole Buchalski, Connie Davis and yours truly, met in December and reviewed all the expenses and income from 2011 and 2012 and formed a budget with that information. Copies will be handed out at the end of the service and will be available from the church office if you'd like one mailed to you.

Normally I'd write, "Call Peggy at the office for a copy", but no longer. Peggy Tompkins our church secretary has retired as of December 31st. She has worked for 12 ½ years as our secretary and has served with Pastors Jim and Margie Ogden, Pastor Mark Breese, and now co-pastors, Kathleen Ordiway and Wes Bourdette. We and particularly, I thank her for her patience, kindness, honesty and service to our whole congregation during that time and hope she has a fulfilling and fun filled retirement in years ahead. She's kept me on schedule, made many calls on our behalf and has been a sounding board for ideas and projects, always encouraging and pushing us on. Thank you for your years of service to First Baptist Church.

So what's next you may ask? Jim Flood was approved at our last Diaconate/Trustees meeting as our first part time Church Administrator. On top of his musical and treasurer duties, he will be the person in the office, answering phones and performing other duties of an administrative-treasurer-organist nature.

If you've ever watched Dr. Oz, you've learned many things. One of his programs spent time on What Are the Blocks to Your Happiness? The guest listed only three things: perfectionism, materialism, and entitlement. If you're a perfectionist, nothing is ever perfect, so you set yourself up for unhappiness at every turn. If materialism is the "problem" sights are set on happiness if only you had whatever the person, place or thing might be. The last problem is the entitlement syndrome. It's the "I deserve this" mindset that leads one to continued disappointment and unhappiness.

The solutions presented were suitable for everyone. The first was "Declutter". Clean up a small untidy mess and it will give you strength to do more. The second was "Listen to your favorite music" which I highly recommend, as a way to sing and play away the blues. The third thing was "Stick to a Routine" and as we used to say at school, "Life is one simple procedure after another". Rid yourself of frustration and if you need help, ask for it. The final suggestion was "Be grateful for the blessings in your life." Be conscious of the good things in your life and recharge your body by stepping into the sunlight. Just ten minutes of bright light will brighten your mood. Eat

good mood foods and watch out for or skip those fatty foods that weigh you down. The final thing is yawning. It improves your circulation, alertness, mood, and attentiveness. Go ahead, give somebody a hug, pet the cats or dogs, and smile whether you feel like it or not. Take charge of your health and mood. Forgive yourself for past things and pray every day, being thankful for what you have. Have a blessed and happy New Year.

Donna Flood

We, members of First Baptist Church extend our thanks to Glenn Richardson who donated the funds for the sanctuary carpet in memory of his mother and father, departed members of our First Baptist Family. The Richardson family have been members of our congregation for generations and we are grateful for this gift.

The envelope in this issue to help us to remember our retired ministers that served us in so many ways and to say 'Thank you' for all you have done.

Words from a beautiful old hymn

Good Christian Men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Now you need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all, to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!