

TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

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JULY 2011



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
☺ Bible study is held two Sunday evenings month. Contact Kathleen Ordiway for details. ☺ There will be no ABW in the months of July and August. ☺ There will be no Trustees/Diaconate meeting in July. ☺ Very shortly you will see the pointing of the brickwork of the Church, starting on the north wall. Are you contributing regularly to the Restoration Fund?					1 	2
3 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion	4 Fourth of July 	5	6 12:15 Inasmuch lunch	7	8	9
10 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship 12:15 Second Sunday lunch	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Sunday School and Adult Class 11:00 Divine Worship	☺ On July 3 and July 17 we welcome Rev. Fred Jensen to our pulpit. Let's make a special effort to attend these services to hear him as he preaches the Word to us. ☺ Rev. Bourdette will be preaching July 10 and July 31. Kathleen Ordiway will preach on July 24 th . ☺ Would you like Rev. Bourdette and members of the Diaconate to come to you to serve Communion this summer? Do you know of another who would like the Ordinance of Communion brought to them? If so, call the Church office, 282-4666.					

JULY 2011 SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH

Sunday	7/3	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 5:00 L.I.F.E Program
Wednesday	7/6	12:15 Inasmuch Luncheon
Sunday	7/10	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch
Sunday	7/17	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
Wednesday	7/20	2:00 ABW Meeting
Sunday	7/24	9:45 Breakfast for All 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service
Sunday	7/31	10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service

July Birthdays

6	David Martin, Jr.
19	Robert Culbreth
22	Ronald Blakely
25	Florence Bowser
28	Kimberly Hutchinson
28	Mark Boeskin Jr.

Please continue to pray for: Carole Buchalski, Marge Blakely, Hal Faba, Margaret Payne, Dawn Schutz Lynn, Mike Gunther, Robert Hogan, Tara Clifton, Judy Einstein, Jack Mercer, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our Country and all those serve our Country.

If you have a prayer request, please use one of the pew cards and place it in the collection plate or call it in to the office.

The ABW will not be meeting during July and August. However, September 21, we will resume meeting at Betty Richardson's, 2 PM to 4 PM. The new theme for the coming year is "In the Potter's Hands". Gisela Scott is the program leader. All

interested women are invited to attend.

SUNNY SUMMER was June's theme for L.I.F.E. Everyone enjoyed the Summer activities. Julia took home a basket filled with Summer things. A jar full of candy watermelon was won by James.

L.I.F.E. is Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone.

Thoughts from Wes

Humor and the church—Those who drop by the study, will note that on the door is a poster board on which I place several comics. The poster board is called "Godly Humor". And do I have a favorite? Pickles, written and drawn by a person all of 65. Then, of course, there is Zits who reminds me of our three teen age grandsons.

What place does humor have in the life of the church? I would like to quote from an article which appears in the monthly publication: "The Joyful Noiseletter". It was written by a MS Betty C. Hatcher, the editor of the church newsletter called: "Calvin Calling". The title of the article is "Did the disciples laugh? Did they ever have fun? Those solemn scribes who wrote down the Gospels in the New Testament left out something. I'm wondering did the Disciples laugh.

It was 12 mostly young men who walked with Jesus down those dust roads together. I cannot believe that they walked with solemn strides, heads down, arms folded and lips pursed. These disciples were like interns learning about the holy task for which they were chosen. All but two were eventually martyred. But they were still young those first three years with Jesus. It was like a buddy system. Wouldn't there have been mischief and teasing sometimes as they walked? If Peter tripped on a stone and fell in the dust, wouldn't they have lifted him up, dusted him off, and teased him for "falling from grace?"

Did they have foot races sometimes, with the winner's award an extra glass of wine at supper?

Did they sing Psalms as they walked? Law of averages suggests that at least one of them would have been teased for being off key. On some dark night did one play "Hide-the-Sandals"? Did any of them snore and is that why Jesus "drew apart" some nights? More likely he would have healed the snorer.

Did someone slip a small frog under Andrews beard when he overslept? Did they snatch the money-bag and play keep-away, tossing it around while Judas grabbed furiously at it? Did Jesus himself grin, changing their wine back to water? (I have at home, a drawing of a laughing Jesus. Rather nice). Did they play hide-and-seek in the woods?

The Bible clearly says we are made in the image of God. Seeing some of God's creations, I'm sure the laughter we are born with is His also. I can relate to them and see the disciples more clearly, more human, if I know they laughed. If I make it to Heaven, I'll ask them: "What happened that was funny when you were with Jesus and did all of you laugh?"

From the Moderator..

For our pastor Jonathan Lawrence, Sunday June 19th was his farewell Sunday service and reception. Our thanks for his many Sundays of inspired preaching and excellent articles for Tower Topics go to Jonathan. His plans for the fall include teaching out the country so many adventures await and our blessings go with him and his family. Thank you to **Kathleen Ordiway, Hazel Baxter, and Betty Einstein** for the lovely reception following the Father's Day Service.

The basket auction held on June 10th was a success. Over \$1,000 was raised for our general budget by the many volunteers who donated baskets and ran the event. Our special thanks go to **Kathleen Ordiway, Eileen Palmer, Connie Davis, Marge Bozigar, Hazel Baxter, Donna Flood and Chuck Compton** for all sorts of baking, registering participants, setting up, making the baskets and delivering baskets. I know a few names were missed and my apologies for any omissions.

Our next fund raiser will be the Rummage and Chowder sale on September 9-10 with a bag sale on the 10th. Our thanks are extended to Wilson Baptist Church for donating their left over sale items to us and to **Jean Potter, Margaret Payne, Donna Flood, and Jeanette and Joe Heasley for hauling the**

contributions. Tis the season of the garage and basement cleanouts and if you've found items that you haven't used in a year or two that need a new home as well as being gently used and in working order, consider donating them to the church. All items are accepted except out of date electronics. If clothing items are soiled give them a quick wash as torn, stained, or smelly items are not reusable.

After our annual meeting in May, a review of our by laws regarding numbers of members on certain committees will be reviewed. Our current committee system is being filled with members of the congregation, so if you have a talent for publicity, shepherding, or education please see Donna Flood. Your service in these areas is necessary for our church to run and prosper. Donna Flood

Rev. Frederick Jensen to Preach

This summer we will have the opportunity to hear Rev. Frederick Jensen preach on July 3 and 17, and again on August 7 and 21. Rev. Jensen grew up in Texas close to the gulf coast. He attended two years of seminary at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA, and two years at Brite Divinity. He was ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 2002 and moved to Buffalo in 2003. He now has a wife, Sherry Chemler, and two children, Jordan and Jacob. In addition to supply preaching, he is a stay-at-home Dad, a playwright, and a peace activist.

For the remaining Sundays in July and August, Rev. Wes Bourdette will preach July 10 and July 31, August 14 and 28. Kathleen Ordiway will preach on July 24. Jim and Donna Flood will be away on July 31 and August 7 and we welcome Dr. Robert Bailey again to the organ console for these two Sundays.

Dear Friends at First Baptist,

Thank you for your kind words and gift at the reception you held for me on June 19th. I wish you all the best in the coming years
Peace, in Christ,

Jonathan Lawrence
