

1842



TOWER TOPICS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

First Baptist Church

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

2013



IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE:

- ➔ p. 3 — Looking at This Month
- ➔ p. 4 — New in the Church Library
- ➔ p. 4 — Dr. Brown's Book at the Vatican!
- ➔ p. 5 — The Adoniram Judson Story
- ➔ p. 7 — Nativity Festival
- ➔ p. 7 — Asian American Caucus Deepens Its Role
- ➔ p. 8 — One Great Hour of Sharing
- ➔ p. 9 — Bible Crossword: Mark
- ➔ p. 11 — Learn About Our Bricks
- ➔ p. 12 — Answers!

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First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion NO L. I. F. E. this month	2 OFFICE CLOSED  Labor Day	3	4 Rev. Wes in Office 12:15 Inasmuch lunch  Rosh Hashanah	5	6 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	7
8 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rally Day/Bring a Friend to First Baptist Church Sunday 12:15 Second Sunday lunch	9	10	11 Rev. Wes in Office 7:00 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting	12	13 10:00 Men's Coffee Time  Yom Kippur	14
15 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship <i>Third Sunday Food Collection</i>	16	17	18 Rev. Wes Communion Visitation <i>Call the Church Office if you or someone you know would like home Communion</i>	19	20 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	21
22 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship  Autumn Begins	23	24	25 Rev. Wes in Office	26	27 10:00 Men's Coffee Time	28
29 19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship	30	 The Nativity Festival is something <u>new</u> . It promises to be rewarding, meaningful, inspiring - and some other things for which words are lacking. You'll want to participate!  <u>Bring a Friend to Church Sunday: Rally Day</u> This is a specific Sunday for you to invite and <u>bring</u> someone to a service for a specific reason. We can double attendance!				



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

19 Jesse McGee
 21 Paulette Gromniak
 29 Alisa Boeskin Salas



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Dorothy Jackson, Joseph “Trey” Hoopsick, Lucas Standish, Mark Boesken, Sr., Janet Keebler, Dominic Ligamarri, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gisela Scott, Gladys Lewis, Robert Hogan, Margaret Payne, Dawn (Schutz) Lynn, Bertha and Harold Bissell, our Church family, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



LOOKING AT THIS MONTH

September 1 - Sunday

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship - Holy Communion
 Mrs. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching

September 4 - Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

September 8 - Sunday

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching
 RALLY DAY AND BRING A
 FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY
 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch

September 11 - Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

September 15 - Sunday

SEVENTEENTH SUN. AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
 Third Sunday Food Collection

September 22 - Sunday

EIGHTEENTH SUN. AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Wesley R. Bourdette, preaching

September 29 - Sunday

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

L. I. F. E.

Lively Interesting Fellowship for Everyone

There is no L.I.F.E. program
in September due to the Labor Day
Weekend.

Stay tuned for October.

Do We Have your birthday?

If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, please call the office to let us know your special date so we can include it.

BOOKSHELF CORNER

First Baptist has a nice library. It is fairly extensive and has books and materials covering a large variety of subjects. Everything is available for loan to members of our congregation. All you have to do is fill out a library loan card and drop it in the basket. (Remember to take the card out of the basket and toss it away when you bring the item back.) The library is open to suggestions in case there is something you'd like to see on our shelves.



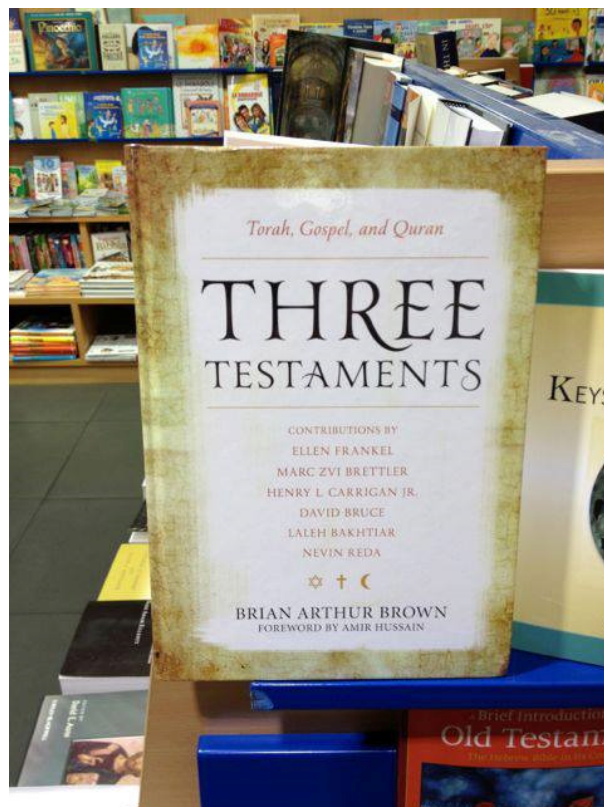
This month's focus is on Harold Kushner's book *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*. Rabbi Kushner wrote the world-wide acclaimed book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. With his signature warmth, Kushner turns to the experience of Moses to find lessons of strength and faith — fundamental lessons that teach us how to overcome the disappointments and frustrations that

life inherently brings. From the examples of remarkable resilience and humanity that Moses provides, we can learn how to weather the disillusionment of dreams unfulfilled, the pain of a lost job or promotion, a child's failures, divorce or abandonment, and illness. We learn how to meet disappointments with faith and how to be our best selves even when things don't turn out as we had hoped.

This is a book well worth reading.



THE PICTURE BELOW was taken at the Vatican Bookstore beside St. Peter's in Rome. On prominent display is Rev. Dr. Brian Brown's most recent book. What an honor for our Scholar-in-Residence!



☞ **Mark Sunday, September 8, on
your calendar.** ☞

**It's RALLY DAY and also
BRING A FRIEND TO
CHURCH SUNDAY**

Do you know any children to invite?



The Adoniram Judson Story

In celebration of its 200th anniversary, American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has produced a new DVD that provides a vivid historical account of the drama of mission in Burma (now called Myanmar) through the life of Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson and his three wives, Ann, Sarah and Emily.

The DVD entitled *Adoniram Judson: The Man and the Mission* is a compilation of six informal sessions, plus a short overview and a personal reflection by Dr. Jerry Cain, chancellor of Judson University. The DVD also contains a comprehensive study guide prepared by Rev. Ron Schlosser, IM special assistant, and Dr. Reid Trulson, IM executive director. The DVD was produced by IM in collaboration with the America Baptist Historical Society and Judson University.

Adoniram and Ann Judson left Salem, Massachusetts bound for India in 1812. A year later they settled in Burma where they began sharing their Christian faith.

Cain reflected on his passion for the study Judson's ministry: "I grew up in a Baptist church that loved missions and taught about missionaries, including Adoniram Judson. He was a cultural hero as revered in my childhood as the Beatles, Willie

Mays or John F. Kennedy.

"During my 14 years as president of Judson University, I often traced events in the life of this great missionary as inspirational or motivational messages to our students, faculty and outside constituents. His story is worth telling again 200 years after he sailed to Asia," Cain continued.

The first segment reviews the political, theological and cultural scene at the beginning of the 19th century when Judson grew up. Sections two and three cover the birth of the modern mission movement from America and the early beginnings in Burma (1809-1821).

The struggles facing the Judsons in the 1820's are outlined in session four followed by a report of their eventual successes as reported in the fifth section covering up to 1847. The final segment (1847-1850) is an evaluation of the modern mission movement and the impact of the Judson influence.

The accompanying study guide provides practical discussion material and next-step ideas for use in local churches or home study groups.

The Judson story is presented in a popular fashion to a group of Judson University students and consists of vignettes and stories gleaned from four biographies written about Judson over the past 150 years.

"The ground-breaking work of Adoniram Judson in Burma during the first half of the 19th century set the standard for international and intercultural engagement for the modern mission movement," Cain summarized. "After 200 years we can do little to improve on his academic depth, personal integrity, indigenous acumen and theological focus. The modern mission movement, with Adoniram Judson as one of its founders, is the most significant movement among Protestants since the Reformation."



Outline of Burma (Myanmar)

AND FROM THE TRUSTEES . . . THE BUILDING FUND

IT'S GETTING WARMER and so the Trustees have turned their attention to the east side (the porch side) of the church.

We haven't forgotten the inside of our beautiful building, either. There have been and are going on several projects, inside and out that need funding. Here's the list:

✚ Finial on top of the steeple, repaired & repainted to original color (first time in 113 years!) \$950.00.

✚ Friendship Room wall and ceiling repair and paint - \$500.00.

✚ First floor handicap accessible bathroom wall and ceiling repair and paint - \$600.00.

✚ Upper narthex & balcony hallway ceiling repair and paint - \$350.00.

✚ Every light, fixture, ballast, & fluorescent tube in church inspected and repaired or replaced - \$1025.00.

✚ Roof repair - \$650.00.

✚ First floor east & north side windows and woodwork: reglaze as necessary, scrape, caulk, prime, & paint - \$1850.00.

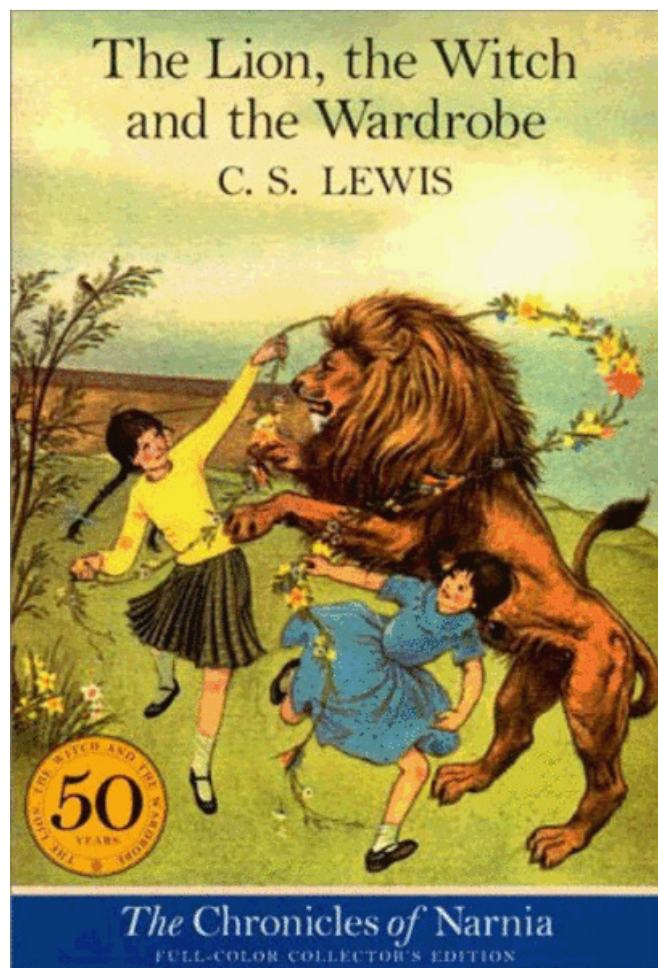
✚ Rear elevation (north) all second and third floor windows: scrape, reglaze as necessary, caulk, prime & paint - \$975.00.

✚ East side: replace damaged bricks, point open mortar joints, repair concrete steps to basement entrance and replace steel lintel, scrape, reglaze as necessary, caulk, prime and paint second and third floor windows - \$6875.00.

It's a long list, isn't it? Much of this is necessary because of "deferred maintenance" in past years. Some work has already been accomplished. Next year we are eligible to apply again for a Sacred Sites grant to help with the west (alley) side of the building, which will complete our major exterior restoration project.

Can you help with one of these items? Funds can be pledged over time. Call the Church Office.

And as always: **THANK-YOU!**



"All shall be done, but it may be harder than you think."

StEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL AND UNITED MISSION

Rev. Dr. Ron Vallet, Ambassador for American Baptist United Mission June 2013

WHEN WE ARE UNITED IN GOD'S MISSION, Our United Mission will grow.

A story out of the Jewish tradition has taken on great significance for me as I have considered my life as a journey of a Christian steward.

A poor Jewish man, Eizik, son of Yekel, lived in the city of Krakow. One night he dreamed that, in the far city of Prague, buried at the foot of the bridge that went across the Vltava River, was a great treasure.

Cont. "Eizik" p. 10 →

Nativity Festival

I'm excited about a new upcoming event for our Christmas season! On Saturday, December 7, 2013, we will be having a Nativity Festival. During the day we will open our church to the public to look at our nativity displays, read about the history for each one, have refreshments and listen to Christmas music. This is going to be a wonderful, relaxing day early enough in the Christmas season to be enjoyed by all!

What do we need from you?

First: Choose which of your nativity sets (multiple are fine), you would like to put on display for the that one day in December.

Second: Write up a story about your set. Where did you get? Is it a collection you bought over the years? Was it a gift? Was it a wedding gift? A birthday gift? How old is it? Has it been passed down through your family? Is it handcrafted?

Did your children make it? Did you piece-meal it together to create what you have? Did you buy it at an estate sale, wondering about its history?

Include anything interesting (or mundane) you'd like to mention about your nativity set!

Cont. on page 11 "Nativity" →



ASIAN AMERICAN CAUCUS DEEPENS its ROLE IN MISSION

MOVING INTENTIONALLY INTO A DEEPER ROLE IN MISSION, the Asian American Baptist Caucus (now called the Alliance) has voted to officially endorse International Ministries (IM) mission personnel who are of Asian descent. The action by the entire Alliance followed the Caucus steering committee's endorsement earlier this year of Emerson and Ivy Wu. The Wus have recently been appointed by IM for service in Macau.

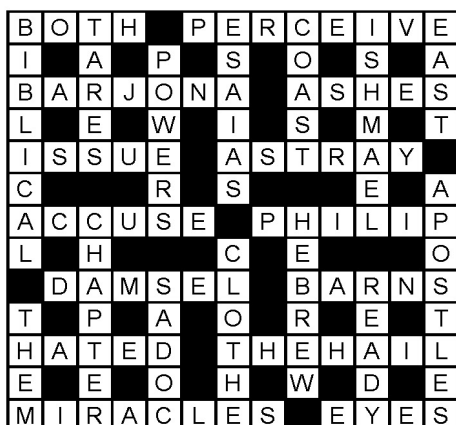
This historic announcement along with the change in designation from a Caucus to an Alliance, signal the group's intent to more fully participate in the ministries of IM and of the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA). The announcement was made to a gathering of over 100 at the Asian American Baptist Convocation at the ABC Mission Summit/Biennial in Overland Park, Kansas on June 21, 2013.

"Since our first connection with the Asian American Baptist Caucus in 2010," commented the Wus, "the spirit of unity in Christ in worship and serving among the American Baptist congregations inspired us to pray for and step into global service. We greatly appreciate the Alliance's confirmation and support and pray the Lord will raise up more servants from Asian American believers to utilize their cross-cultural training and Christian experienced to serve globally for the sake of and glory of His Kingdom."

"Asian Americans are very active in the
cont. on page 10 "Mission" →

AS PROMISED, HERE'S THE KEY TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE:

Matthew





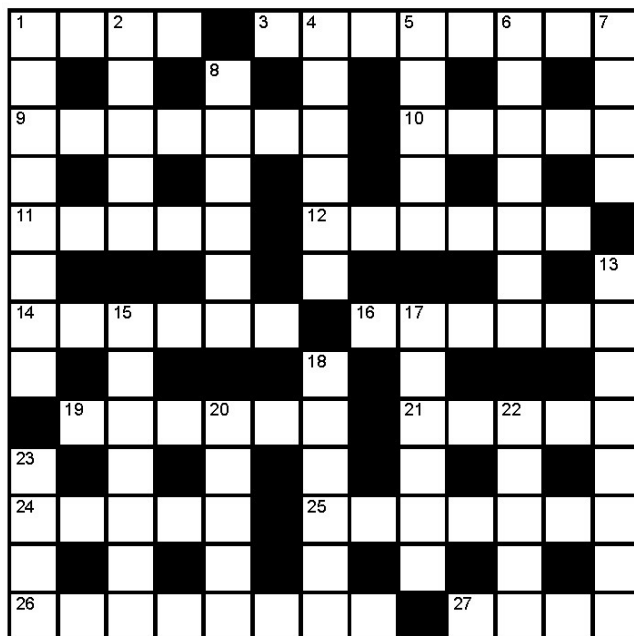
SHARING
BRINGS JOY
TO US. TO OTHERS. TO GOD.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING — SEPTEMBER 2013

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

Mark



Across

- 1 No one could do this to the man with the unclean spirit in Mark 5:3. (4)
- 3 Betrayed Jesus. Mark 3:19 (8)
- 9 Jesus did this to try and explain the kingdom of God. Mark 4:30 (7)
- 10 "They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the _____ on thy left hand, in thy glory." Mark 10:37 (5)
- 11 "And he took a child, and set him in the _____ of them ..." Mark 9:36 (5)
- 12 "Render to _____ the things that are _____'s, and to God the things that are God's." Mark 12:17 (6)
- 14 "And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion _____ them." Mark 6:34 (6)
- 16 One of the twelve disciples. Mark 3:18 (6)
- 19 "And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a _____ of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey." Mark 1:6 (6)
- 21 People struck Christ with this. Mark 14:65 (5)
- 24 "It is better for thee to _____ into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be

cast into hell fire." Mark 9:47 (5)

- 25 "For I perceive that thou art in _____ of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." Acts 8:23 (3,4)
- 26 Synonym for repentant. (8)
- 27 Pilate asked if Jesus was king of these people. Mark 15:2 (4)

Down

- 1 "And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it _____ unfruitful." Mark 4:19 (8)
- 2 "And they came to a place which was _____ Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray." Mark 14:32 (5)
- 4 When Jesus was on trial, Peter was recognized as a disciple by this. Mark 14:70 (6)
- 5 "And when he was _____, they that were about him with the

twelve asked of him the parable." Mark 4:10 (5)

6 The son of Abraham that isn't in Christ's family line. (7)

7 "And when the unclean spirit had _____ him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him." Mark 1:26 (4)

8 This holiday celebrates the events in Mark 16. (6)

13 "And the _____ gathered themselves together unto Jesus." Mark 6:30 (8)

15 "All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is _____, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." Mark 14:27 (7)

17 "And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should _____ unto him." Mark 10:32 (6)

18 Jesus tells his disciples that they will be _____ for his sake. 13:9 (6)

20 "And no man after that _____ ask him any question." Mark 12:34 (5)

22 A man shall do this and cleave to his wife. Mark 10:7 (5)

23 "Lord, I believe; _____ thou mine unbelief." 9:24 (4)

“Mission” from page 7

American Baptist life,” reflected Benjamin Chan, IM’s area director for East Asia. “The transition from the Caucus to the Alliance has better positioned us to serve the members and the denomination. The decision to sponsor IM personnel is a meaningful beginning. IM is in full support of partnering with Asian American Baptists, especially the young generation, in global missions.”

In addition to voting to support the Wus, the Alliance voted to expand its support to include 12 more mission personnel serving with IM: Dan and Sarah Chetti (serving in Lebanon), Scott and Tan Coats (serving in Thailand), Lee Ann and Gordon Hwang (serving in Japan), Katie and Taku Longkumer (serving in India), Mike and Becky Mann (serving in Thailand), and Jonathan and Thelma Nambu (serving in the Philippines).

At the same meeting, the formal decision was made to make a transition from a “Caucus” to an “Alliance.” The Alliance will continue to be an American Baptist entity. IM’s Executive Director Reid Trulson applauded the decision. I think this will strengthen the role of Asian Americans in mission and will add to the vitality of American Baptist life.”

“The Caucus has traditionally provided a voice for Asian American churches and individuals within our denominational life,” continued Trulson. “As an Alliance with a missional purpose, the Asian Baptist community will have new opportunities to participate in planning for mission and supporting Asian Americans working in a variety of mission settings.”



“Eizik” from page 6

When he awoke the next morning, he remembered his dream but did not think too much about it because it is not that unusual to have such dreams. However, that night he had the same dream again. This continued night after night, the same dream, until ten days and nights had gone by. Finally, Eizik concluded that he had no choice but to make a journey to the far city of Prague to see if a great treasure really was buried where he had seen it in his dream.

He set out on the journey to Prague, a journey that took many days and was very difficult. As he approached the city of Prague, he saw the Vltava River, just as he had seen it in his dream. Crossing the river was a bridge, just as in his dream. He hurried to the foot of the bridge, where in his dream the treasure.

As he bent over and started to dig, he felt a hand grasp his shoulder and heard a voice say to him, “What do you think you’re doing here?” It was the hand and the voice of a soldier. Poor Eizik was so startled that he could think of nothing to do except to stammer out the truth. He told the soldier of his dream and of his long journey to Prague to seek the buried treasure.

On hearing the story, the soldier laughed, gave Eizik a kick, and said, “You stupid Jew, don’t you know that we all have dreams like that? But it makes no sense to pay attention to them. I myself had such a dream. I dreamed that in the far city of Krakow, in the house of a poor Jew named Eizik, son of Yekel, a great treasure was buried beneath the stove. Now, wouldn’t I be stupid if I left my post and made a long journey to Krakow and went searching through the city looking for the house of a poor Jew named Eizik? Why, there are probably many Jews with that name.” With that, he gave Eizik another kick and said, “Now, go on home!”

Eizik made the long journey back to Krakow, went to his home, moved aside the stove, and dug. There he found a great treasure of gold!

In Isaiah 55:1-2, an Old Testament poet issued an invitation to persons of faith: *Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!*

As Eizik learned, the treasure is not at some distant location. It is very near us—within our reach.

Our Bricks

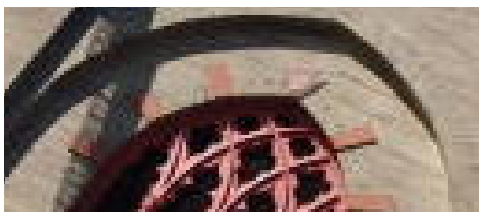
As promised last month here's a little something about the bricks with which our church (the original, older part) was built. If you've ever looked a little bit closely at them, you may have noticed that they are not like other bricks. They are "Roman" bricks, which were very popular for constructing better buildings around the time our church was built at the turn of the 20th century. First of all, they are not a standard size. Roman bricks are eleven and a half inches long, one and a half inches high, and the standard four inches in width. They were fired with random yellowish coloring and sometimes made larger and then cut in two.

Our records show that our builder purchased the bricks from a company in Rochester, probably a distributor, not the maker. There was more than one technique used in laying the bricks. Our church was built using a standard technique where the mortar comes out to the edge of the face of the brick. Frank Lloyd Wright used Roman brick in the Darwin Martin House in Buffalo, and he had the bricklayers remove mortar from between the bricks at the outside edge to give the appearance of the bricks "standing out" from the wall. This is an attractive method, but it weakens the wall.

Of course, Roman bricks are no longer made (except on a very special order) and we were fortunate that our restoration company, Ajax-Smith of Tonawanda, was able to find almost two hundred of them left over from the restoration of the Darwin Martin House, as we needed to replace that many when the Tower was restored last year.

This is just another fascinating item discovered when learning about the quality of construction and original architectural details of our wonderful building.

Next month we'll talk about glass.



"Nativity" from page 7

Third: Does your daughter, neighbor, uncle, friend... have a set they would love to display for the day? Tell them about our Nativity Festival - get them excited and **invite your friends to share their sets!**

Fourth: **Submit your story** (stories). I will type them up so that everything is uniform, easy to read and attractive. **Fifth:** The week before the Nativity Festival, carefully **bring in your display**. You may choose to set up your display yourself, or you can allow me the pleasure of setting it up. **Sixth:**

Consider if you would like to **join a group to sing carols** during the day or maybe even consider a solo, a duet or a trio. Maybe you would like to "donate" a song, an hour, a day of singing. There will be rehearsals for those who are joining a group.

Seventh: Consider what groups, "non-groups" or individuals you know who would like to **sing carols** on December 7th. Either **invite** them yourself and let me know what they say, or give me the contact information and I'll reach out to them. **Eighth:**

Consider what **refreshments** you can provide. Cookies, cakes, sweet breads, pies, brownies... And of course we will be having punch, coffee and tea, too. **Ninth:** Help with the **advertising** in any way you can (flyers, word of mouth, etc.).

All nativity sets will be packed up that evening so that they can be safely returned to your homes in time for your Christmas display!

If you have suggestions on what you would like to add to our Nativity Festival, please let me know. Maybe you think we should have tables available for "rent" so that you or your friends can display your wares for sale (Cards, Paintings, Jewelry, Photographs, Gifts, Decorations, Party "Chains") - these would be set up in the dining room if we go this route. I think this would be a nice idea, but I would want someone to help with this if we include tables. Maybe you would like to have a children's story time, reading Christmas stories to our guests. Who knows what wonderful ideas you might have - we're open to them all!

It's never too early to let me know how you will be participating. Talk to me on Sunday or call me at home!

Kathleen Ordiway

Health and Safety Corner QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

FROM TIME TO TIME we will look at health and safety issues around the Every year we have all the fire extinguishers inspected and replaced or refilled as necessary by a professional fire extinguisher company. The Niagara Falls Fire Department inspected on Monday, August 12, 2013, to make sure this had been done.

We have ten (10) fire extinguishers in the church. There is a sign above each one. Do you know where they are?

1. Dining Room by hall door _____
2. Kitchen by stove _____
3. Kitchen by cabinet _____
4. Outside Boiler Room _____
5. 1st Floor Education Wing Stairs _____
6. 2nd Floor Education Wing Stairs _____
7. 3rd Floor Education Wing Stairs _____
8. Narthex by Sanctuary Doors _____
9. Upper Narthex in hallway to Balcony _____
10. Sanctuary by Memorial Case _____



☞ Mark Sunday, September 8, on
your calendar. ☞

It's RALLY DAY and also
INVITE A FRIEND TO
CHURCH SUNDAY

Do you know any children to invite?

Do you Like QUIZZES ? THE ANSWERS

Have you noted the new picture of the tower on the front of *Tower Topics*?



Outside of the repair to the brickwork can you name three reasons why the picture was changed?

1. Repair and repaint steeple finial ornament ____
2. Added spires _____
3. Repair and repaint Tower tracery _____

And the significance? The paint now matches the original color which matched the Medina red sandstone.

Next month's question: What do you think the ornamental finial at the top of the steeple is made out of?