

the

LINK

Our purpose is to bring people to Jesus
Christ as we love, learn and live the
word of God.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Contact Us!

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FBC Food Collection:

September—Canned Tomatoes

October—Soup

November—Canned Ravioli

In This Issue: September 2023

- ⇒ Another Engagement!
- ⇒ Akwaab!!
- ⇒ Get Your Sewing Machines Out!!
- ⇒ Trunk or Treat!!
- ⇒ Summer's Over— Get Back to Church!!!

In Case you Missed It...

- After months of attempted repairs to our church dishwasher, we got a new one! And Dale was like a kid in a candy store when it arrived! This means we can have our ham and other big dinners without having to handwash 400 pieces of silverware.
- St. Luke's Anglican Chapel celebrated their twentieth year of worshipping in our church. Congratulations, and our wishes for you to grow and flourish.
- More congratulations are due Dan Novick and Jacqueline Daigler on their recent engagement! Prayers and wishes for happiness from all of your church family.



Celebration of Life



Richard A. Bove, aka, Rich Passed into the hands of the Lord, Aug. 21, 202. Rich was 95 years young. He is predeceased by his wife, Mary Lou, his daughter Lori, his big brother Joe and most recently his son Jaime. He left behind his daughter Becky, and her husband Ed, daughter in law Teresa, grandchildren Sara, Matthew (Andrea) and Francesca.

And he was smitten by his great grand daughter Ellia. Also, sister in law Winnie, longtime companion Marg, nieces, nephews and a plethora of relatives and friends.

Rich was active in the Boys and Girls Club of EA for years. He was a teacher, a gardener, a mentor and a friend to many. His life was compared to a garden. For years, he planted "seeds" with students and kids in the Boys and Girls Club and watched them grow. (And decades later, he is still fondly remembered by those children.) He shared the fruits of his labor with the produce and flowers from his garden. Many benefited from his gardening skills, dedication and generosity.

Rich was a member of the First Baptist Church of East Aurora for 80 years. WOW!! He participated in many aspects of the church, his favorite, the property committee. Mowing lawns, gardening, beautifying his church and keeping it running in good condition. For years you'd see him at the stove in the church kitchen stirring the gravy for the ham dinner. "Don't want it to get lumpy or stick to the pan... just keep on stirring." When he and Clayt Bailey donated an automatic dishwasher to the church, he was promoted (or maybe "demoted") to dishwasher. And, for a while he was the only one who knew it's quirks and how to run it!! Luckily, he shared his knowledge!

Irish Prayer

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand

So, as you pass into the arms of your Lord, you pass on your wooden stirring spoon and dishwasher duties (and so much more). Those are huge shoes to fill, Rich. But to honor you and your memory, those shoes will get filled. Your legacy will live on.

You will be missed.

Pastor's Thoughts

The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many.... September is dressing herself in showy dahlias and splendid marigolds and starry zinnias. October, the extravagant sister, has ordered an immense amount of the most gorgeous forest tapestry for her grand reception.
~Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809–1894),
"Autumn," *The Atlantic Almanac*, 1868

As has been the case since Creation, the seasons revolve. For some, that is news well received as we move from the heat of summer into the cool of autumn and, eventually, surely, into the holiday season. For others, those who lament the passage of what is, for many, the favorite season of the year, there is a tinge of sadness as we observe that which Oliver Wendell Holmes described.

Most conversation heard during this time of year will include the question, "Where did the summer go?" Where indeed. Like most folks I did not accomplish nearly what I had hoped to this summer. Not to say it was not enjoyable (hot at times, rainy at other times), just not as productive as I would have liked. Fortunately we have the early part, at least, of autumn to finish up!

The fact that the summer is ending rather quickly does not mean that activity comes to an end, that accomplishment ceases. As a popular song from days gone by noted, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginnings end". So, as the summer ends let's look forward to some new beginnings in the next season. As autumn begins we have a few things to look forward to at First Baptist.

Greif Share and Divorce Care have already started the fall sessions. Planning for our newest annual tradition, Trunk or Treat is in process. Additionally, the Social Committee is busy making plans for fun events that will be taking place soon. Notably, we will be attending a Buffalo Bisons baseball game in September.

And we have begun the early planning for a November music night. This will be a song filled evening dedicated to giving thanks for the many good gifts we have received from our Heavenly Father. Ivan Docenko, Heather and Jared Majewski, and Kathryn Smith will be putting the program together for a yet to be determined date. If you have any suggestions for music, songs, would like to be part of a choir, let Kathryn know.

I am excited for the season we are about to enter. Generally speaking autumn is my favorite season. But very specifically I am excited for what God has in store for us, His body, in the seasons ahead!

Enjoy your last long holiday of summer, and get ready to participate in a new season of ministry as it unfolds. Happy Labor Day.

Let's Get Sewing for Haitians

Several month ago we opened our doors to Good Shepherd Church to store materials and provide a location to make "birthing bags". Now they and we are ready to go to start making bags to ship to Haiti. The following is a letter from Sue Allen and an invitation to us to give hands on help.

"That program which we refer to as HELPING HANDS for HAITI, is still growing strong. My guess is that we have shipped over 2000 clean delivery kits during the past five years!! AMAZING!! And so very much appreciated. As Dr Raymond Ford often reminds me "these clean delivery kits SAVE LIVES!"

SORT & SEW has been scheduled for Saturday, September 23, 2023, 9am-2pm. (***) please note this is a change from the original date of the 16th) This is a time where we will become familiar with our new setting, sort through some fabric, do a bit of cutting fabric as well as sewing. As well as making sure our donated machines are ready to go to our BIG event! Both sewers and non-sewers are invited. However, WE WILL NOT BE ASSEMBLING BAGS THIS DATE.

Please bring a bag, lunch and a beverage. Coffee/ tea will be on hand as well as lite snacks. Invite friends.

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 9am-2pm we will be gathering for our usual, typical, FULL-BLOWN HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI, sewing event. Everyone is welcomed and needed! Lunch will be made available. Please let me know you are coming. There will be much to do. We will have a great time fellowship."

Put SEPTEMBER 23 on your calendar and get involved in this worthwhile project!

Trunk or Treat

It's that time of year again! Trunk or Treat will be October 21st from 4-6pm. There are all kinds of sign ups at the back of the church; planning meeting, Sept. 10th 4-6, directly to follow Worship, Skit participation- practices will be determined based on those who sign up schedules, Car dress up, and if you don't like any of those options you can sign up to donate candy!



Akwaaba means Welcome

I traveled from Buffalo to Accra, Ghana on August 20th with my brother, Preston; sister-in-law, Lynda; nephew, Nii Kwei; and their godson, Devin. This is Lynda's homeland and we were going to spend time with her family and explored a portion of the country. Lynda is Ga which one of the ethnic groups in Ghana.

From the moment you come into the country everyone greets you with Akwaaba. We were greeted by Lynda's cousin's husband, Paa Kwesi, whom we stayed at his home. He is an architect and has a beautiful home. We were very blessed while staying with him.

Every day was filled with blessings, a place to visit, a meal to try for the first time like red, red and waakye, two bean dishes that I truly enjoyed and of course jollof rice.

Our first week we went to the Christianborg castle. Lynda's friend and colleague, Rachel Engmann met at Hampshire college where they were professors. She found her surname in a slave castle in Accra, Ghana, and decided to do some digging at the castle. We toured the OSU community outside to walled castle where she has a community center for children in this underserved neighborhood. There are art classes and a library for the children to access. She has also organized local artists to create murals throughout the community to highlight the history of the region.

Next, we toured the WEB Dubois Museum which was also his home. It houses his extensive library. We then went to the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park. It consists of a welcome center, museum and library. Kwame Nkrumah led his country to independence from British rule in 1957. He was the first prime minister and president of Ghana. We also viewed Independence Arch where the Founder's Day Festival took place. Then we went to several market places where I bought fabric. I love the vibrant colors and designs. Lots of businesses along the street and women carrying all sorts of ware on their heads. They would weave in and out of traffic. We finished this week by taking a day trip to Safari Village with Lynda's cousins. It is funny because the animals that were there were brought into the area, Zebra, Sable Antelopes, West African Crown Cranes, Helmeted Guinea Fowls. The cottages to rent were beautiful, like what you would see in a travel magazine and the prices were comparable. It was lovely to be in nature and away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

The next week we hired a driver and went to Cape Coast. Our first stop was Fort William. It was built in 1753 by the British after they thwarted a French attempt to establish a fort at the same place. Two earlier forts had been established at the same site, one in 1640 by the Dutch, another in 1674 (Fort Charles) by the English. Fort Charles was abandoned in 1730 and destroyed. It was used to house slaves before they were sent to the Americas and Caribbean. The slaves were kept in unimaginable quarters with two holes in the ceiling for light and ventilation for three to four weeks. Then they were led out through the "Door of No Return" never to see their homeland again. I am still processing this. It brought about complex feelings. We then went to Cape Coast castle. Throughout the 18th century, the Castle served as a "grand emporium" of the British slave trade. Thousands of enslaved Africans, sometimes from hundreds of miles away, were brought to Cape Coast Castle to be sold to British slave ships. Again, a lot to process and very exhausting emotionally.

After viewing the two castles we decided not to go to Elmina castle because it was too much. We went on to our resort Ko-Sa right on the Atlantic Ocean where we rested for three days. It was lovely and restful. I woke the next morning to the local fisherman singing as they were coming back with their catch. Tuesday is a no fish day so the fishermen come back early in the morning. We relaxed and the resort had a bead workshop by a local artist Kwadjo Gomando. He taught us how to string beads and I made several bracelets.



Back to Accra, we had more market time and visited a college that Paa Kwesi designed and is building an extension. It was beautiful and it was also amazing to see his vision come alive. On our way to see the college we pass by a monkey reserve. There were monkeys on the side of the road waiting to cross traffic. After viewing the college, he took us to the Volta Dam but we couldn't see it for national security reasons. We passed by mango tree orchards and crossed the GMT timeline.

Our last week we were invited to a barbeque at Rachel's home. It is on 7 acres of land and is beautiful. It felt like you were in a tropical rainforest. She had mangoes, guava, sugar cane and a huge garden. We dined with people that we met while in Ghana and it was a lovely evening.

The gospel has truly been presented in Ghana. I think I saw every Christian denomination, the Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses. There are businesses named "God is Able" store fronts, products and on the back of buses. Heavenly beauty products, and our waiters' name is God Bless. I didn't get a chance to go to a church but I will say they are as diverse as they are here, small, large, and mega churches. There are Muslim communities too but I am told that the north is more Muslim than Christian.

We visited Lynda's brother's home. A lot of the homes in Ghana are family homes and can house multiple members of an extended family like cousins, aunts and uncles. They are designed with that in mind so there are multiple kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms in each section. We had a family reunion. We visited with them before we left. They truly embodied Akwaaba. I felt so welcomed and loved by them all.



Fall Back to Church

Labor Day traditionally marks the end of summer and the beginning of a new routine. Make that routine, whether new or a regular routine, coming to worship on Sunday morning.

There will be our usual beautiful music and meaningful message each Sunday. There will be a fellowship hour the second Sunday of each month with refreshments after the service starting on September 10th. Children's Sunday school is the same time as adult worship, 11 Am. Adult Sunday school will begin September 17 at 10 Am, and Bible study will resume on Monday September 18 at 7 PM. Everyone welcome.

The First Baptist Church of East Aurora
591 Porterville Rd/ East Aurora NY 14052

Please Pray for :

Vigo Meyer*
Tom Heineman*
John Kenny*
Harvey Underhill
Tim Lowrey*
Brett Begley*
Scott Rickettson*
Dave B*
Elaine Rickettson*
Greg Docenko*
Dave Clark*
Geoff Begley*
Greg Stump*
Joan Reif*
Kara*
Eric Miller*
Heidi Brown*

Christie Carson*
Brian
Rose Gassman*
Joel & Brenda Nuckerson
Sue Mertzlof
Linda
Matt Roberts
Melissa Schenck
Zachary Gallson
Allison N
Robert Heinemen
Sandy K
Darleen*
Heidi Teton*
Cindy K
Nancy Say
The Family of Rich Bove
The Rasp Family
The Family of Joy Herrick

Randy Smith*
The Sullivan Family
Sue Stolzenberg