

# The Visitor



When I wrote my January letter for The Visitor, I knew that unless we had a terrible winter storm, TBC's children and youth would give us another extraordinary Christmas gift in the form of a Christmas Eve program. Karen Dunne's writing and direction of "The Light in the Cradle" set the stage for a multitude of young people to sing, dance, and share in word. They drew our eyes to Jesus, the Light of the World. We thought it would go that way, but it seemed better to wait and write about it after the fact! Congratulations and thanks to Karen and other adults who assisted!

When I wrote my January letter, I knew Christmas and the days after would be special. I thought I would bask in the afterglow of Christmas and enjoying a few more days of our youngest son's visit. I would get my 2020 calendar filled in with things I knew were already planned. I thought my father would be home from the hospital and listening to the country-music CD we bought him for Christmas.

When I wrote my January letter, I didn't know that the last days of December, 2019, would be special because they were the last days I shared with my sweet father. A minor fall in early November seemed to have plunged him into advanced congestive heart failure. I flew to Georgia on Thursday, Dec. 26, and found him very weak but still his usual good-natured self. He cracked jokes with everyone who came in the room on Friday. The therapists helped him sit up for a little while and even stand for a moment. We went to bed Friday knowing that things looked promising for rehab. But, during the next night, I began to notice that my father wasn't cracking jokes with people anymore. His sleep was restless and there was some disorientation. On Sunday he grew lethargic, and tests eventually showed that problems that caused his first ICU stay had returned with a vengeance. Back into ICU we went. Doctors confirmed that treatments were decreasingly effective and, even with drastic measures, we would only have my father with us for a few days.

Because my father had written a letter—not a January letter—but a letter telling us what he wanted if he faced an incurable illness, we knew that the time had come to ask for only comfort measures. Use of a bi-pap machine in the ICU lowered his CO2 level to the point where he was lucid again. That gave us time to be sure he agreed with the plan for just keeping him comfortable. All of us had opportunities to tell him again how much we loved him, and he was able to tell us he loved us and was proud of us all, too. We moved him to the hospice New Years Eve and my mother stayed with him overnight. The staff was excellent, and we were thankful for their expertise in keeping him comfortable and for the beautiful surroundings that were a comfort to us all after days in the hospital. New Years Day at 7:20 a.m., he died.

When I wrote my January letter, I knew God would have new things for us in 2020. I quoted Isaiah 43:19-21: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth...to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. " I didn't know that that for me and my family, there would be a huge change: We would be learning to live with my father only in our memory. I knew my father had written down what he wanted in his funeral, but I didn't remember that it was for me to do most of the funeral. I knew God is faithful, but I didn't know if I had the strength to give my father this final gift. I wrote everything out so that if I broke down and couldn't pull it back together during the service, Jim could read what I had written.

When I wrote my January letter, I knew TBC is a great congregation. Now, I know what your strong

support means in a difficult time! I made it through the funeral service, and I know it was because of your prayers and support and that of other family and friends. My mother and brother and I have been united throughout the whole process with common goals. I SO appreciate your understanding of my absence. Staying in Georgia until mid-January helped me get past the numbness that followed the first intense grief. I also was able to help my mother, who is quite capable, get started on the many details that must be handled.

When I'm writing this February letter, I know the new things I wrote about in the January letter are already in the making. We had great Annual Meetings on Sunday. Thank you to all those who stayed to the happy adjournment! We have a great set of servant-leaders, and I am happy to be back in the daily swing. I know that I am in a new phase of life. Having lost a parent, I recognize in a new way my own mortality. I know, as I knew when I wrote for January "Each year presents many precious moments." My exhortation is the same: "Let us not waste a single one!"

Please remember Pastor Daniel and Khinsoe Moe and I in prayer while we travel to Burma Feb. 21–March 6. On Feb. 23, Dr. Jim Kelsey will preach, and, on March 1, his Associate, Rev. Jerrod Huguenot will preach and lead in Communion.

Until the next letter,



Debbie

### Stewardship Update

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a completed pledge card. As of January 19, 2020, 97% of Current Expense, 99% of Missions and 94% of Restoration and Preservation has been pledged.

### The Caring Corner

The Caring Corner will be open this **Saturday, January 11, at 10:00 a.m.** There will be clothing and household items available. For more information, please see Lah Hser.

### English 2nd-Hour Sunday School

In February, Pastor Debbie will present ideas about relationships. The ideas will be practical and useful whether you are in a marriage relationship, a friendship, or just want to be able to foster relationship with a neighbor.



## Phase II



1. Davison Tower of Refuge

2. 2020-2021 Sanctuary  
A) Roof



B) Water-Runoff  
(Gutters)



C) Masonry

Total estimate = \$885,320

Awaiting instructions from NY State and then will get designs approved and bidding opening advertised.

Thanks to Scott Davison for another generous gift in support of Phase 2 Restoration and Preservation!

*Thank  
you*

Did you know that Houghton College-Utica is NOT just for refugees? Yes, their small class size and tutoring program makes their Associates Degree program ideal for young people whose families are not first-language English speakers. **BUT, HC-Utica takes students from any background. HC-Utica provides tutoring for students in Houghton's online Bachelor's program, as well.** Applicants submitting their applications by March 13 have the essay requirement waived. HC-Utica is on the 3rd floor of the old Teamsters building on Rutger St. Stop by or call (315)922-2190.



The following individuals are giving leadership in a variety of roles to our congregation in 2020. They are your resource persons for questions, concerns and suggestions. They can also help you find a place of service and ministry within our congregation.

**Officers**

Moderator	Khinsoe Moe
Vice Moderator	December Htoo
Church Clerk	Gwen Deragon
Treasurer	Bradford Gould
Financial Secretary	Robert Mandry
Historians	Ardelle Tuckerman and Joan Baum

**Stewardship Ministry Team**

David Tomidy, Chair  
 Tom Deragon  
 Mike Dunne

Tet Net  
 John Marvel  
 Olive San

**Worship & Witness Ministry Team**

True Lay Paw	Aung Tin
Ah Mu	Gran Ju Aye
Susan Beal	Dechris

**Faith Nurturing Ministry Team**

Thara Lay Ler Htoo	Joanne Gould
Dreaming Park	Elizabeth Nyein
Lay Lay Mar	Htee Mu

**Church-Staff Relations Committee**

Susan Beal  
 Joanne Gould  
 Naw Htoo



Many, many thanks to Gwen Deragon, who completed her term as Worship & Witness Ministry Team chairperson, and to Kler Eh Soe, who completed his term as Stewardship Ministry Team chairperson in 2019! Both of these excellent servant leaders are rolling off Teams for 2020, as Bylaws require. Their spirit of cooperation and leadership has been a blessing and made so many things at TBC go so smoothly!

Blessings to you both!  
 From ALL of Us at TBC

**Services, Meetings, Special Events and Deadlines ~ January 2019**

<i>Women's Worship Service</i>	<i>Wednesdays, 4:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen School</i>	<i>Saturdays, 1:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Karen Choir Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 4:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Adult and Youth Praise &amp; Worship, Bible Study and Song Practice</i>	<i>Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.</i>
<i>English Worship Service and Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Karen Worship Service and English Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Second Hour Sunday School</i>	<i>Sundays, 11:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Sunday School Teachers' and Assistants' Communion Service</i>	<i>February 2, 9:15 a.m.</i>
<i>Communion Sunday</i>	<i>February 2</i>
<i>Worship and Witness Ministry Team</i>	<i>Sunday, February 2, 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Caring Corner</i>	<i>Saturday, February 8, 10:00 a.m.</i>
<i>Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday, February 9, 12:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Office Closed for Presidents' Day</i>	<i>Monday, February 17</i>
<i>March Visitor Article Submission Deadline</i>	<i>Sunday, February 16</i>

**The Church Office will be closed  
on Monday, February 17,  
For Presidents' Day**



**The Deadline to submit an  
article for the  
March Visitor is  
Sunday, February 16.**

Eh Ta	2/1	Thin Win	2/17
Moo Day Ket	2/3	Kwe Ka Baw	2/18
Joshua Htoo	2/4	Eh Ahah Kyi	2/18
Eh Kaw Thaw	2/5	John Eh Mi	2/18
Rayhtoo Kyet	2/5	Dee Noe	2/18
Elvis Lay	2/5	Ta Dah	2/19
Hser Lay Moo	2/5	Hei Ku Moo	2/20
Ler Say	2/7	Dee Dee Htoo	2/22
Gran Ju Aye	2/7	Tammy Daly	2/23
Hser Doh Paw	2/10	Kay Klo	2/25
Robert Hagues	2/11	Janet Pickard	2/25
Ta Wah Wah	2/12	Da Lay	2/26
Kmler Paw Pyu	2/13	Eh Nay Paw	2/26
Alexander Htoo	2/14	Eh Ta Baw	2/27
Christ Hay Than Htoo	2/14	Paw De Say	2/27
Mary Elizabeth Thomas	2/17	Mu Twae	2/28







**Tabernacle Baptist Church**  
 13 Clark Place  
 Utica, New York 13501

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**Tabernacle Baptist Church  
 Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m. English Service  
 11:15 a.m. Karen Worship

**Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
*Closed on Fridays*

**In Case of  
 Emergency,  
 please contact:**

**Church Office**  
 315-735-7534  
**Pastor Debbie**  
 315-491-6464  
**Pastor Daniel**  
 315-790-4449

**TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH**

Rev. Debbie Kelsey	Pastor
Rev. Daniel Calvin San	Pastor
Rev. Dr. James V. Davison	Pastor Emeritus
Karen Dunne	Minister of Christian Ed.
Say Wah Htoo	Christian Ed. Associate
Gee Lar See	Administrative Secretary
Melody Gay	Organist
Lewis Olivadese	Sexton
Michael Dunne	Asst. Sexton
Tet Net	Asst. Sexton

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