



# FBC Witness

The Monthly Newsletter for the First Baptist Church of Central Square New York

**A member of the American Baptist Churches USA**

Church office hours Tuesday thru Friday 9 am till 4:00

For appointments call 315-668-2138

Visit our website [www.fbc-cs.com](http://www.fbc-cs.com)

April 2016

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**The Body of Christ Prays For:**

Ken Bird, Smith Family, Jacob House  
Roxanne Spink, Donnie O'Neil,  
Frank VanBuskirk , Michelle Heitmann,  
Richard Alberry, Sean Borayi, Scott Heer  
Pat Harrington, Ken Leamon, Melody Clark,  
Libby Abbott. Our Service Men and Women

Christ is risen!!! It is so great to think that we have had another Easter together. We all enjoyed the Easter season. The services were great. We now look forward to spring with warming weather and many new flowers starting.

If you have information or an article to contribute to the newsletter, please send it to me at [markheitmann@glo9@yahoo.com](mailto:markheitmann@glo9@yahoo.com). I need to have all information by the 20th of each month. I will send out email once I get all of the names of the chairpersons. Each month we will highlight a board or committee so everyone will know what they do for our church.

Thank you,  
Mark Heitmann



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES  
April

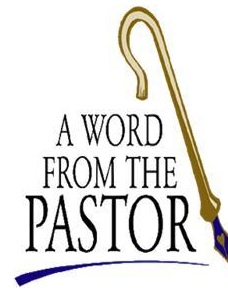
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nancy Flower
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rich Mizerski
- 24<sup>th</sup> Stewart Smith
- 29<sup>th</sup> Atreyu DeFalco



Our free monthly luncheon will be held April 26, 11:30 till 1pm. On the menu this month- homemade mac and cheese and hot dogs. Consider asking someone who might need a ride to join you. If you have any questions, contact Cheryl Backman or Maggie Heitmann.



Spring has sprung and it is time to clean out those closets. The AB women's' will be hosting their semi-annual spring rummage sale on April 29 and 30. We are looking for help for the week before starting on Tuesday after 1pm. We will be having a meeting after church on Sunday, April 10th. For more information or questions, please contact Lynda Heer or Diana Baxter.



A few years ago, I attended a lecture given by Marty Shea, who serves as Senior Pastor of Village View Community Church in Florida. The purpose of the church was to provide a place for the local senior citizens to worship. What happened was beyond anything they ever hoped, wished, or prayed for.

The church grew. It grew so much that they now have three services on Sundays. They also had to build a nursery, something a church geared toward senior citizens never imagined they would need. When Pastor Shea explained to us why the church worked so well he said, "We just love everyone. And when people learn that they are loved unconditionally, they want to be a part of that love. Even better, they want to share that love with others."

Love is nothing new. Love is what the cross is all about. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friend," (Jn. 15:13, ESV). Marty Shea said something that I hope I will remember for the rest of my life, "It is absolutely incredible what God can do when you get out of the way and let him work."

I think that often times, we get in the way of the incredible things God wants to do. Our intentions may be great, but we miss what we are really called to- LOVE EVERYONE. Please know that no matter who you are, what your life circumstances are, you are loved, you are needed, you are wanted, and everyone is welcome.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Meg



**Constitution Review Committee Report**

The Constitution Review Committee has been making good progress in updating and amending the current constitution. As you know, we are making revisions that will include the Pastor, Chair and Vice-Chair (formerly the Moderator), Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant, three (3) Christen Education Facilitators, three (3) Trustee Facilitators, and three (3) Diaconate Facilitators.

The last time that the constitution was amended was 2007. You are already seeing some different terms used. We have had Saturday meetings in order to have this completed before our Church Council meeting April 13, 2016. Once we have brought this to the members of the Boards and the Committee members, we will be happy to discuss this and answer questions. If all of this meets with everyone's approval, we will discuss further with all the members of the church.

It has been our intention to have this implemented for 2017.

Thank you for your patience with us.  
Randi Driesen



The immediate family of Kenneth House would like to invite the members and friends of the First Baptist Church of Central Square to help Ken Celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 12 pm till 3pm The Family would ask that no one bring gifts or food. No Help is necessary. We would like people to come and enjoy fellowship with a man that has given to his Family, his friends and his community. Finally, we would ask that if you would like to attend, please respond by Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> to let us know you are coming at 668-1400. This is to help us know how many for food and refreshments

**Church Board News**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- Diaconate Meeting [6:30]

April 13<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting -all are welcome [7:00 pm]



**Board of Christian Education News**

The Board of Christian Education held its monthly meeting on February 28, 2016.

**Missions:**

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering fell short of its goal. Additional contributions will be gratefully accepted if anyone forgot and still wishes to make a donation to this offering. The America for Christ offering will be held during March. A goal of \$416 has been set for this offering.

**Camping:**

Preparations for the camping season are underway. Fund raisers to help defer the cost of camping are being planned to include a "No Bake / Bake sale and possibly a car wash.

**Senior Appreciation Day:**

Will be held during the spring this year and is scheduled on May 16, 2016. We thought that this change would allow our senior "Snow Birds" to be home for the summer and available to participate in the day. The menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, along with macaroni and cheese which will be provided by the Board of Christian Education. Other side dishes and desserts will be supplied by non-senior members of the congregation.

## Children's Day and VBS

Misty and Rebekah are working on the programs for Children's Day in June and VBS in August.

## Future Events

The "Blessing of the Bags" will once again be held in the fall but The Board of Christian Education is also exploring ways to support youth in our community. A school supply donation box will be started to allow members of the congregation to bring in pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, notebooks, etc. that can be distributed to schools throughout our school district.

The next meeting of The Board of Christian Education meeting for March and April will be held after church on Sunday April 10, 2016.

Roxanne L. Spink

There have been many changes to the church over the years mostly to improve on what we built. It still is a good looking building in the town.

I still wonder how many descendants are from the original group still attends and how many have we helped to find the way to God through our doors?

This is the first part with many more to come over the next few months.



The 2016 First Baptist True Beauty Project will be held in April. I am looking for adult volunteers to partner with the youth two Sundays in a row. You will get to know each other, discover something beautiful about your partner, and make T-Shirts together. The second Sunday you will be photographed in your T-Shirts and present your discoveries to the church during Children's Time. It's a great way to share God's Love for us just the way he created us! It's also a way to gain a mutual respect between the generations in the church! If you are interested please contact me by either email: [mistydefalco@crouse.org](mailto:mistydefalco@crouse.org) or phone/text: 315-935-6267. As of right now I need 6-8 adults!! ☺



Senior Appreciation Day will be celebrated May 15<sup>th</sup>!! Mark your calendars and plan on staying after services to honor our seniors, enjoy a fellowship meal, and cake!!

## Knitters Needed!

### **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The women of our church have recently begun to meet weekly for the purpose of knitting prayer shawls. Prayer shawls are specially knit with the intention of the knitter to infuse healing, comfort, caring, and prayers of protection into the shawl. Prayer shawls are typically prayed over through their process of creation and are also blessed when they are finished before being given to the recipient. We invite anyone interested in joining us in this ministry to join us in any capacity: either knitting, supporting us with yarn donations, or just for the fellowship. We have great teachers so even if you don't know how to knit, don't let that discourage you, come give it a try! We also invite you to inform us of anyone that you may know who would benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl. Please contact Cheryl @ 668-2230 for any further questions or information regarding our Prayer Shawl Ministry. We look forward to you joining us in this special mission

### **BAPTISM AND NEW ATTENDERS CLASS COMING SOON!**

If you want to learn more about our denomination. You may call the office, speak with Pastor Meg on Sunday or drop her an e-mail at [Meg@fbc-cs.com](mailto:Meg@fbc-cs.com).