

A Prayer in Spring

By Robert Frost

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And makes us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for god above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

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This is your copy of *The Witness*
We wish God's blessings



April Showers Bring
May Flowers!



THE WITNESS

The Monthly Newsletter of the first Baptist Church of Central Square

Church Office hours: Mondays & Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00

Phone Number 315-668-2138

www.fbc-cs.com

“Our mission as a church is to share and respond to God’s love for each person by welcoming all. Together, we can return God’s love by becoming witnesses and followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout our daily lives. We allow these things to help us become new people in Christ.”

Lynn Bort, Moderator

Lynda Heer, Church Clerk
Cindy Cuny, Church Secretary

Victor Vrooman, Organist
Cindy Cuny, Witness Editor

News and Upcoming Events about our Community of Faith
Notices Concerning Our Affiliated Denomination – The American Baptist Churches in the USA
Information to Help Live a More Fulfilled Life

PRAYER CONCERNS



Please keep these members and friends in your prayer; Bob Abel; Mavis Cooter; Stewart Smith; Phyllis Smith; Ray Olin; Helen Webb; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

Verse of the Month



You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

Pslam 65: 5

PRAYERS FOR MARCH

Dear Lord, We turn to you with open hearts to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Give us courage to accept new things in to our lives. To experience you in a new light.

Amen

MEETING NIGHT

Christian Ed	April	7 th	11:15
Trustees	April	14 th	11:00
Deacon's	April	9 th	6:30
Executive	April	21 th	12:00

WITNESS ARTICLES

All articles for the May Witness are due in the church office by April 20th. Please write an article and submit it! Thank You

Birthdays

For April



Kathleen DeFeudis - 9

Barb Bailey – 11 Larry Boyce - 17

Rich Mizerski – 20 Art Brooks - 20

Ida Youmans – 23 Stewart Smith – 24

Dakota Gillette - 27

Anniversaries



Don & Nancy Flower - 2

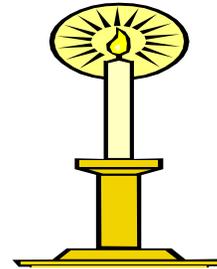
HEALTH TIPS!



Look! Spring is almost here. Have you been working out and watching what you eat? Well, if not you should consider starting. Especially, if you want to look good in your skinny tight jeans or your short shorts maybe even your bathing suit! Go for the sit ups and squat thrust and the walking or running activities. Slow down on the sweets. Jumping jacks always works. Remember we no longer do reps of **(10 or 15 we do 25)**. Keep going don't lose faith put a smile on your face and keep going. Don't quit now! Enjoy the beautiful weather. See you next time. (no pain no gain)

***Till Next Time ***

New Acolytes



We now have four children interested in serving as acolytes. An acolyte is part of the worship 'team' lighting candles at the beginning of the service, and at the end of the service, extinguishing the candles and taking the flame down the aisle into the vestibule. Acolytes must be 8 years of age or older and will serve on a rotating schedule just like worship and youth leaders. We're planning to have training sessions in March, which will be announced ahead of time.

Rich Mizerski

Prayer Ideas!



Life is a Gift Unwrap the Present!

No, life isn't always what you want, but it's what you've got; so, with God's help - choose to be happy!

Laughter is the invisible armor to protect us from the stresses of life.

Whatever problems we're going through, they didn't come to stay; they "Come to pass."

New Organ



Wow! Good News!

We have purchased a new digital piano that looks like a piano and plays both organ and piano music. Yeah! But, we took the funds from savings. So, we would like to take donations to replenish our savings for other things that may come up. So, prayerfully think about giving to this cause. These are things we need for worship service. Give graciously. Thank you and Praise God!

Spring Clean Up



Has Changed Please Make a Note!

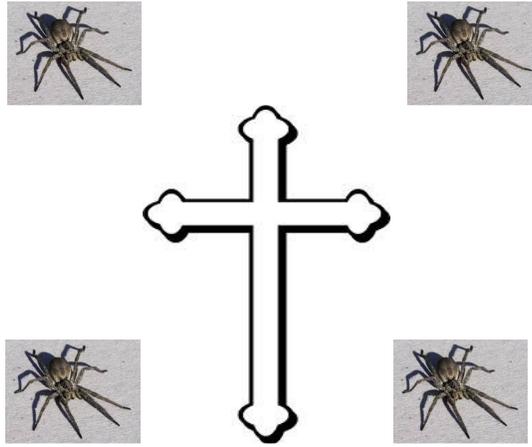
The spring clean up will be May 11th at 9am. We will be done by noon. We will feed you if you help. As God said, many hands make the job easier and faster, so help us make his home ready for the summer.

A Huge Thank You to Zumba



Our Zumba instructor Jessica has been collecting tissues and hand sanitizer to help us out with supplies that we use regularly. She has also volunteered to paint the fellowship hall in the spring. We are lucky to have such wonderful and dedicated friends to help us out!

Praise God for Jessica!



OF SPIDERS AND CROSSES

Probably every one of us, at least in our childhood, sang the song “Itsy-bitsy Spider”. You know how it goes: this deranged, obsessive, arachnid tries to climb up the water spout. However, at the pinnacle of success, a rain storm comes and washes the little beastie down the tube. Notwithstanding, the spider is back at it again until another storm arrives with the exact same result. We even learned the hand motions to go with it – you know, index finger on the thumb, other index finger on the other thumb, move finger to other thumb over and over; it is literally the song that never ends. This song is meant to introduce our children to the pointless futility of our existence and have fun doing it.

It is on par with that other terrorist song for children, “Rock a Bye Baby”. If you wonder why the kid won’t go to sleep just listen to the words: “When the bough breaks, the cradle will fall, and down will come baby cradle and all”. If he drops off to sleep, he is a goner for sure.

In the Gospel of John, the fourth evangelist tells the story of Jesus on trial before Pilate. Pilate wonders why Jesus has become the focus of so much fuss. “Are you the king of the Jews?” “What have you done?”

“Are you a king?” “What is truth?” According to John’s record, these were the central questions to Pilate’s examination.

The last of his questions -- “What is truth?” -- shows the vast chasm between the itsy-bitsy spider world of Pilate and Jesus’ accusers and the world of truth that Jesus sought to give. For Pilate this was just one more trip up the water spout, one more radical to dispose of, one day closer to getting out of this mad house called Israel, one day closer to a cushy job in Rome. In spite of his wife’s warnings about this man, Pilate missed “Truth” by the width of an accommodating spirit. He was more anxious to soothe the situation than to discover the gift that was in Jesus the Messiah.

In spite of the power of the fickle mob, truth was not in the frenzied crowd.

In spite of the pomp and ceremony of the Roman court, truth was ignored before Pilate’s seat of justice.

In spite of the theatrics of releasing Barabbas, truth was lost in this empty gesture.

In spite of the mockery of robes and a crown made by the soldiers, truth was ridden over rough shod by the soldiers.

Finally, on the cross, in the anguish of those three hours, Jesus showed the world what Truth really looked like. One soldier understood, “Truly this was the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:54)

Jesus knew that we were not meant for the itsy-bitsy life. God intended that we live in the truth and that our lives accomplish something worthy of the sacrifice Jesus made for us. It is not just one-darn-thing-after-another, day by day until we die. Our lives are meant to be “in Christ”; it is there that we find real meaning. At the cross we discover real truth.

Pastor John

Women's Society



Thank you to all who helped in any way to make our “Soup-n-Sunday” a success, those who made soup, made sure everything else was available, those who made, and , especially those who donated so generously. Our women’s Society is not as active as once was, but, we are still working to accomplish our goals. The theme this year is “In the Potter’s Hands” and though this year has been difficult due to illnesses and others we have not met as usual, but, thanks to those who “stepped up” the White Cross requests got done and other projects and programs were done.

Coming up: Rummage sale, first week-end of May and “Blanket Sunday” on Mother’s Day

Sunday School Update



We will be beginning a series of lessons beginning the Sunday after Easter on preparation for Baptism. This class is open to those students who think that they are mature enough to make the decision for Christ. We will be discovering what it means to be a Christian, what the ordinance of Baptism is all about, what it means to be a member of a church (and that does not mean just attending regularly), and how to share the good news with those around you. The study is four weeks long and requires the students to work in their workbook at least 4 days a week. The homework is very simple and reinforces the theme of the week. Consequently, the parents will need to be involved and will also gain from this study. Please speak to Genie Rotundo if you think you would like to have your child participate in this life changing study.

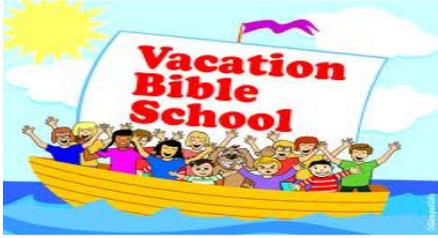
Looking Ahead!



May 3rd and 4th will be our annual rummage sale. Please put the dates on your calendars. We will need lots of helping hands. On Friday from 1:00 to 7:00 and Saturday from 9:00 to 2:00. Don't forget our bake sale we can use a lot of baked goods.



VBS UPDATE



Please mark your calendars and set aside Saturday, August 10th as our annual Vacation Bible School Day. The Board of Christian Education has selected the Kingdom Chronicles as the material that we will be using this year.

The Kingdom Chronicles will help the children stand strong in the battle for truth between God's good kingdom and the Enemy's bad kingdom. The program will equip the students with the armor of God. As they learn about the God's armor as Paul writes in Ephesians 6. It includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit. They will learn how to become mighty warriors of the Creator, the King of Kings.

Of course, the most important reason to show kids they can trust the absolute truth of the Bible is so that they will give their lives to Christ! They will see that they are each born as sinners-citizens of the enemy's kingdom-and they need to be saved into God's good eternal kingdom through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior King.

Several of the area churches have been contacted, and an invitation has been extended to join us in this fun-filled day of Bible study, drama, games, arts & crafts.

Please consider joining the planning team and volunteering for the day. Let one of the members of the Christian Education know of your desire to help!!!

Junior Church Update



We will be spending the four weeks in April looking at the events that took place in the life of Jesus and his disciples after his death and resurrection.

We have just completed a session on the Fruits of the Spirit and will be sharing our children's songs with you on Sunday, April 14th during praise chorus. Be prepared to be for a fun-filled uplifting moment of children's Christian songs.

Children's Day Program



The children will begin working on a children's puppet show to be presented on Sunday, June 2nd during the regular church service. The show centers around two important Bible teachings from Mark 12:30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" and I Corinthians 13: 4-8 & 13, "Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous: love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. We will be looking at these verses in depth and begin to see what that means for your children in their everyday life. Practice for the play will begin on April 28th. All children will be involved and have a part to play. So parents it is up to you to bring the children faithfully to church for learning and growing on these important teaching from the Bible.