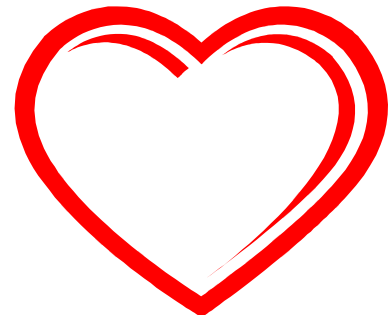


***Open your heart and let  
your love out and share  
it with others.***

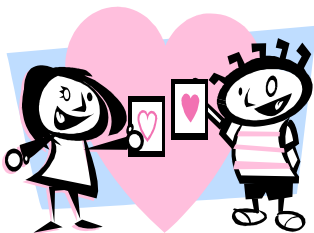


***Love one another everyday  
not just on Valentine's  
Day! Spread your love  
everywhere you go.***

First Baptist Church  
701 N. Main Street  
PO Box 476  
Central Square, NY  
[www.fbc-cs.com](http://www.fbc-cs.com)  
fbc.central.square@juno.com  
(315) 668- 2138

**February  
2013  
Love One Another**

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



# **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](http://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; Delores Olin; Ray Olin; Arlene LeBeau; Helen Webb; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

## **Verse of the Month**



“I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies”.

**Psalm 18:1-3**

## **PRAYERS FOR JANUARY**

Dear Lord, Please be with us in this new year and reminds us that your love and strength will always be there to help us out all through the year. Remind us to turn to you and that you will be there always. Amen.



## **MEETING NIGHT**

Trustees	Sunday	after church
Deacon’s	February 12th	6:30
Executive	February 17th	after church
Christian Ed	February 3rd	11:15



## **WITNESS ARTICLES**

All articles for the February **Witness** are due in the church office by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please write an article and submit it! Thank You

## ***Birthdays***

For February

Dick Thorton - 2

Ray Burchfield - 4

Alice Burt - 7

Victor Vrooman - 14

Robert Chamberlin

## ***From the Funny Side***



From the files. Here are a few examples of people who have not made the transition from chronos to kairos:

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed that I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched!

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administration office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: Too many deer were being hit by cars, and he no longer wanted them to cross there.

My daughter went to a local fast food chain and ordered a sandwich. She asked the person behind the counter for minimal lettuce. He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

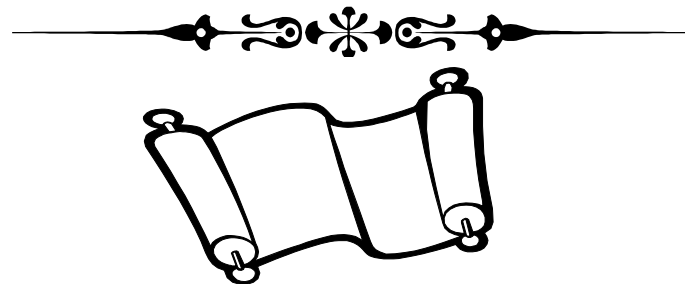
Finally, police in Radnor, Pennsylvania, interrogated a suspect by placing a metal colander on his head and connecting it with wires to a photocopy machine. The message, He's lying was placed in the copier, and police pressed the copy button each time they thought the suspect was telling a lie. Believing the lie detector was working, the suspect confessed.

## **HEALTH TIPS!**



Here we are another month has past. Are we doing well with our diets? The answer should be yes. Last month I heard about another diet pill that's suppose to help you lose weight. Wow! Aren't you tired of that? Unfortunately, exercise is the only way to go. It can be as easy or hard as you want it to be. Do what you can handle. Remember to at least move a lot. Remember clean your house that helps accomplish two things for yourself. Good work out and good health. Don't give up! It's mind over matter. You can do it!

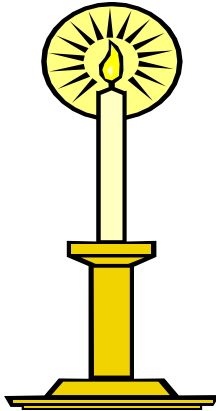
\*\*\*Till Next Time \*\*\*



## ***A Letter from the Editor***

Every month I put out a witness on time as I am asked. It would be nice if each board could submit an article. If I do the rest of it that's the least you all could do. This is supposed to be our church newsletter not something that I find in books on the internet or I make it up! So, please join in an make this witness better by submitting articles or something for the back of it. Anything will do! Editor is tired of having to run and ask and re-ask please help!!!! Thank You!

## *Acolytes*



We are planning to give our younger children the opportunity to serve at Sunday morning worship services by becoming acolytes. An acolyte is part of the worship service, lighting candles before the beginning of the service, and, after the Benediction, extinguishing the candles and taking the flame down the aisle and 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. There will be a training session announced once we have a sufficient number of volunteers. If your child is interested, please contact any of the deacons as soon as possible.

Rich Mizerski

Board of Deacons

## **Movie Night**



Our first movie night will be **January 27<sup>TH</sup>** at 7:00pm at the church. The title of the movie is **“Facing the Giants”** We have a schedule of movie nights listed below.

February 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>“Fly Wheel”</b>	at church 7pm
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>“Fireproof”</b>	at church 7pm
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>“Courageous”</b>	at church 7pm

(Please bring a snack to share with others!)

## ***SOMETHING OLD***



Most of us saw at least one of the highlight replays of the Presidential Inauguration. It was a day replete with old and new. The 44<sup>th</sup> President took his oath of office with his hand on the Bible used by the 16<sup>th</sup> President. With all the signs of newness and change, the ancient foundations were clearly evident. "...to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, to the best of my ability, so help me God" With these words, Barack Obama stepped into the stream of history. Each man, who has stood where he stands, feels the presence of those who have gone before him. Washington, DC is filled with monuments and statues of the men and women of valor who hold up a high standard before the new president. The White House is filled with pictures and names of heroes and gallantry. Yet it is on the next page of history that he must write his story.

One of my seminary professors told us about a church that had learned to handle change. Each year this church held an "Old Home Day". People came from all over to be a part of the festivities – pie baking contests, dramas about how it was done 100 years ago, honoring the eldest members, pictures from way back when, and so forth. It was fun and a lot of people looked forward to it each year. At the end of the day, during the close of the evening worship, the announcement would be made for what new and exciting plans the church had for the coming year. The people, who had spent all day remembering, were now ready to take on a new adventure.

## ***Something New***



Our history is a gift to us and we cannot do the "new thing" without it. On the other hand, our history is dead unless it produces the "new thing". If we look at the words of our Lord, we find that he often cited the words of the former people of faith ("You have heard it said of old...but I say unto you."). Those words became the launching pad for the new that Jesus was and the new which he wants us to experience. Jesus expects us to use "that which has been" to fashion a better "yet to be".

I often walk my dogs about sunrise out in a country place. Each day the Lord creates a new "sunrise experience". Some of the days start in great multicolored beauty; others are grey and forbidding. Yet each one has the content of a living promise: "I will be with you always, even unto the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

When Jesus talks about the new, it is always rich with the presence of the Holy Spirit. And our moving out into the world in the footsteps of Jesus is the path we are called to take. And we will have to give an account for how many steps we have taken. Trusting in the Spirit of Christ is the new that springs from the foundation of what has been toward the goal of what will be.

Pastor John

## ***Weeping For Our Children***

We all know that the world can surprise us with unexpected beauty and healing warmth. We also know that the world can shock us with unimaginable cruelty and savage indifference.

This week we are acutely aware of the latter. Twenty precious young children, six caring educators, and a mother are dead. Suddenly there is the sound of gunfire where there should be the sound of laughter. In little more than a moment there are lifeless bodies where there should be wiggling arms and legs full of surplus youthful energy. In the place of Christmas parties and Sunday school pageants, there are funerals and weeping that seems as if it will have no end. How do we make sense of this? What do we do?

First, we don't try to make sense of it. We simply look it in the face and say: This happened not far from us, to people like us. It is not that these could have been our children or this could have been our community. As Christians we believe that we are our brother's and our sister's keeper. These are our children; this is our community. Although none of us pulled the trigger, none of us ever wanted this, it has happened in the society that we have built. We cannot distance ourselves from what has happened.

We can ask what caused this. We can devise a plan to reduce the likelihood of future schoolhouse slaughters. We can start blaming one another and line up along our well-rehearsed social and political divisions. What we cannot do is make sense of this. There is no neat lesson to be learned here except that there are powers loose in our world that want to destroy what God has so lovingly made. Christian faith does not minimize human suffering; it does not deny loss; it does not whitewash tragedy. Rather, faith looks something in the face and gives it the proper name. Faith gives us the courage to tell the truth about what has happened. The cross is what the Gospel provides in times like this. All the loss, all the suffering, all the death, all the ugliness, all the savagery is taken up in the cross of Jesus, absorbed into the heart of God. God has taken to himself all the pain. And God goes on absorbing it all, until the end of time.

Elie Wiesel stood in a crowd of prisoners in a concentration camp and watched as some prisoners were hung for stealing a piece of bread. One of the culprits was a young boy who did not weigh very much; it took him a while to die. He struggled as he hung there. Someone in the crowd of prisoners asked: "Where is God now?" Another answered: "Hanging at the end of a rope." This is the answer of the Gospel to the ongoing presence of evil in our world. Should we have a sober conversation about guns and ammo clips? Should we talk about how we care for the troubled among us, how we support parents who face enormous challenges in child rearing? Should we ask what this tragedy reveals to us about the broader community that we have built? Yes, we must; but don't expect any of this to make sense of what happened. Just know that, in a way, God died anew hiding under a desk in a first grade classroom in Newtown, Connecticut. "A voice was heard I Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." (Matthew 2:18) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more for the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)

James Kelsey  
Executive Minister  
American Baptist Churches of New York State