

Happy Valentine's Day!



God

You

Loves

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**February 2014**  
**Happy Valentine's Day!**  
This is your copy of *The Witness*  
We wish God's blessings on



# **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

Linda Heer, Church Clerk

Victor Vrooman, Organist

Cindy Cuny, Church Secretary

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**



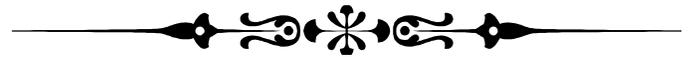
Please keep these members and friends in your prayer; Mavis Cooter, Ken House, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Helen Webb, our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

## **PRAYERS FOR JANUARY**

Dear Lord,

Keep us mindful of your love each day. You never let us fall. Touch our hearts with your love so we can in turn love others the same.

Amen



## **MEETING NIGHTS**

Deacon's                      February 11th                      6:30

Trustees                      February                      To Be Announced



## **Verse of the Month**



Give Thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever.

Psalm:118:1

## **WITNESS ARTICLES**

All articles for the March Witness are due in the church office by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please write an article and submit it! If you need an idea, just ask.

## ***Birthdays for February***



Victor Vrooman – 14    Madi Alridge – 24

Bob Chamberlin – 28

## ***Fellowship Hour***



Below is a list of which month each board  
Is responsible for snacks and coffee after church:

January	Deacons
February	Executive
March	Trustees
April	Board of Christian Ed
May	Deacons
June	Executive
July	Trustees
August	Board of Christian Ed
September	Deacons
October	Executive
November	Trustees
December	Board of Christian Ed

## ***Junior Church Leader's For February***



February	2	Mark Heitmann & Alex Springer
	9	Misty DeFalco & Courtney Cuny
	16	Misty DeFalco & Courtney Cuny
	23	Bonnie Woolson-Smith & Aaliyah Ripley

## **10 Facts You Should Know About American Baptist**

The 1.3 –million members and over 5,200 congregations of American Baptist Churches USA share with more than 42 million Baptists around the world a common tradition begun in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. That tradition has emphasized the Lordship and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, believers' baptism, the competency of all believers to be in direct relationship with God and to interpret Scripture, the importance of the local church, the assurance of freedom in worship and opinion, and the need to be Christ's witnesses within society.

The following facts are representative of the tradition and practice of American Baptists.

### **1 American Baptists believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, and that the bible is the divinely inspired word of God that serves as the final written authority for lining out the Christian faith.**

American Baptists celebrate the fact that belief in Jesus Christ assures salvation and eternal fellowship with a loving God. The events of the first Easter week are the cornerstones of our faith: the death of Christ, in which He took upon himself the sin of the world, and the Resurrection, which gave proof of his triumph over sin and death. Holy Scripture always has been for American Baptists the authoritative and trustworthy guide for knowing and serving the God who is revealed as Creator, Savior and Advocate.

### **2 For American Baptists the local church is the fundamental unit of mission in denominational life.**

Baptist roots date back four centuries to a people seeking the opportunity to worship God as individual members of freely organized and freely functioning local churches. Baptists always have maintained the need for autonomous congregations, responsible for articulating their own doctrine, style of worship and mission.

### **3 American Baptists partake of two ordinances: believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper.**

Baptism, an act of full immersion following Christ's example, is undertaken by those spiritually mature enough to understand its profound, symbolic significance: resurrection to new life in Christ. Through The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, the bread and cup that symbolize the broken body and the blood offered by Christ recall God's great love for us—just as they did for the disciples on the eve of Christ's crucifixion.

### **4 American Baptists believe that the committed individual Christian can and should approach God directly, and that individual gifts of ministry should be shared.**

American Baptists hold that all who truly seek God are both competent and called to develop in that relationship. They have rejected creeds or other statements that might compromise each believer's obligation to interpret Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and within the community of faith. American Baptists also celebrate the special gifts of all believers, testifying that God can use each of us in ministry.

### **5 American Baptists take seriously the call to evangelism and missionary work.**

Baptist worldwide mission work is a response to Christ's call to "make disciples of all nations." Through the efforts of our missionaries in partnership with others, ministries of evangelism, healing, education and development have made Christ's love known in the U.S. and around the world.

## **6 American Baptists support religious freedom and respect the expressions of faith of others.**

As a people whose forbears came together in response to intolerance, American Baptists have cherished freedom and pursued it for millions around the world. Manifestations of that ideal include supporting separation of church and state, advocating for people everywhere to be guaranteed the right to worship free from discrimination, and lifting up respectful dialog as a healthy means to understanding.

## **7 American Baptists acknowledge that God's family extends beyond our local churches, and that god calls us to cooperative ministries.**

Early Baptists saw that the effectiveness of their ministries would be greater through cooperation with other believers. Today within our American Baptist regions, churches work with each other and with denominational staff and in local and regional ecumenical arenas to increase the vitality and scope of their ministries, that outreach extends worldwide through our relationships with the Baptist World Alliance, the National Council of the Churches of Christ, the World Council of Churches and other groups.

## **8 American Baptists have been called to be Christ's witnesses for justice and wholeness within a broken society.**

American Baptists have been led by the gospel mandates to promote holistic change within society, as witnessed by their advocacy of freed African American following the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement, women in church and societal leadership, ecological responsibility, and many other issues. While not all of one mind as to how to deal with challenges, American Baptists do affirm the need to follow Christ's example by being actively involved in changing society.

## **9 American Baptist Churches USA celebrates the racial, cultural and theological diversity witnessed within its membership.**

American Baptist Churches USA today is the most racially inclusive Protestant body. Represented in our churches are equally diverse worship styles, cultural mores and approaches to Scriptural interpretation . The resulting challenges and opportunities have made us stronger – through fellowship, respect, mutual support and dialog, all based on a belief that unity in Christ involves growth and understanding.

**10 American Baptists heed the biblical call to renewal and the need for a vital witness in a new millennium.** As people of faith, American Baptists seek renewal and revitalization. Informed by their history and tradition, motivated by contemporary needs and challenges, and strengthened by god's leading and the example and sacrifice of their savior, American Baptists seek to bring a transforming witness to an uncharted future.

## ***February Holidays, Traditional And Some Not Traditional!***

February 1, 2014: National Freedom Day. The root of this day comes directly from the end of slavery. President Lincoln signed the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865. On June 30 1948 President Harry Truman signed a bill proclaiming February 1<sup>st</sup> as National Freedom Day.

February 2, 2014: Groundhogs Day! The groundhog wakes from a long winters nap and goes outside to see if he can see his shadow. If he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winters. If he does not see his shadow, spring is just around the corner.

This comes from German roots. German immigrants used the groundhog to predict the arrival of spring. It is based on Candlemas, the day that is midpoint between winter and spring. Only 6 more weeks.....

February 3, 2014: The day the music died day. Many of us remember the singers Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper. They died in an airplane crash on February 3, 1959. These 3 singers were among the top of the 1950's generation.

Winter Olympic Games: Opening Day Ceremony: February 7, 2014. Closing Day Ceremony: February 23, 2014. This year's games will be held in Sochi, Russia, and will be the XXII Winter Olympics

February 8, 2014: Boy Scout Day. This celebrates the birthday of scouting in America. On February 8, 1910, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce filed incorporation papers in the District of Columbia to create the BSA.

February 12, 2014: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday. In modern times, we celebrate Lincoln and all of the US presidents, on Presidents Day. Lincoln was born in 1809 and became the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the US. Although he hated war, he believed it was the only way to save the nation, after the southern states declared their secession from the union. Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in the US forever. He also wrote and gave the Gettysburg Address, memorializing the most important battle of the Civil War. Gettysburg proved to be the turning point to the war. Shortly after the war ended, Abraham Lincoln became the first US President to be assassinated. He was shot on Good Friday April 14, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre.

February 14, 2014: Valentine's Day. The roots of this day goes back to ancient times, when people paid honor to the Roman God of Fertility. Even then, it was celebrated on February 14. Over \$1 billion of chocolate is purchased for this day. But don't forget the flowers or jewelry!

February 17, 2014: Presidents Day. Since 1968, it was observed on the third Monday in February. Generally we think of the two presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln as it falls between their birthdays. We should observe, honor, and pay tribute to all of the persons who have served in the office of the President of the United States of American.

February 22, 2014: George Washington's Birthday. The Father of his country was born in 1732. He became commander in Chief of the Continental Army in 1775, and fought a long war for freedom from British Rule. The war of finally over in 1781, when the Continental Army, with the help of the French, forced British General Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown. In 1787 Washington was elected president by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. He took the oath of office in 1789. Washington served two terms of office until 1797. He retired to his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia. Washington died on December 14, 1799.

“Help to bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

The following story is from one of our e-mail friends, Debbie Coon, who was Nancy’s boss when she was teaching at Keuka Lake School.

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse, but, if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

If you listen closely, you will hear the sound of a bell. The sound comes from a little bell on the smaller horse. Attached to her halter is this small bell, which lets her friend know where she is and allows the other horse to follow her.

As you stand and watch these two friends, you’ll see how she is always checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is. He trusts that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn’t too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others to see.

Jesus said, “I do not call your servants...I call you friends.” John 15:15

When we are stumbling about in the dark and are scared and confused, God often sends someone with a “little bell” to show us the way.

Pastor John

## Come and Worship with us in February

2<sup>nd</sup> Building the Saint Louis Arch (lessons in good foundations)  
I Corinthians 3:10-17  
(We will show the video of this enormous structure during the fellowship time.)

9 <sup>th</sup>	Faith Comes by Hearing	Romans 10:10-17
16 <sup>th</sup>	Finding the Truth	Matthew 7:13-23
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Choosing Hope	Psalm 22:1-5