

Happy Valentine's Day



First Baptist Church
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February 2015
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

[Info@fbc-cs.com](mailto:info@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
Megan Biddle, Pastor

Linda 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

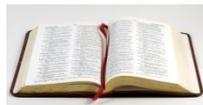


Please keep these members and friends in your prayer: Ken Bird, Ken House, Allen Koster, Cullen Pumphrey, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Stephen Springer, Helen Webb, Mike White, our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Gracious Lord, creator of all, show us your mercy, teach us how to love. When we are tired and weary, give us strength. Forgive us when we stumble and fall. Give us the peace that passes all understanding. May we be pleasing to you in all we say and do. We pray all these things in your Holy name. Amen

VERSE OF THE MONTH



He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31)

MEETING NIGHTS

Christian Ed	February 8th after church
Trustees	February 8th after church
Deacon's	February 10th 6:30

WITNESS ARTICLES

All witness articles for March are due by February 20th. All boards should submit an article and any members who would like to put an article in. If you need help with a topic just ask.

A POEM BY MAVIS COOTER



“Time”

Time passes and is no more.
We hold it for the moment.
Ours to foment,
Or simply lament.

It will not linger.
It cannot stay.
It must march on..
Be on its way.

What we do, we must do now.
We must make it count, or simply bow
To the loss we bear,
When we do not care
For the passing of time.

It's a precious commodity.
One to taste,
Not treat with scorn
or use in haste.

Use it well, and it will reward in kind.
Bring richness, joy,
And peace of mind.
Use it poorly,
And all we find
is what a waste it is,
to misuse time.

(Boast not thyself of tomorrow....”)

Mavis E. Cooter

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is to be an avenue where the Pastor can communicate openly her needs. It is also to provide a vital link between the congregation and the Pastor. This type of ongoing dialog can foster a more effective witness to the church family and the community at large we are here to share your concerns in an open dialog with the Pastor, therefore, we hope that you will contact one of us on the committee so that we can advocate for you too. Our goal is to deal with conflict, foster understanding and work together to be an effective witness for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Pastoral Committee: Genie Rotundo, Delores Olin, Linda Heer, Grace Fuller, Rachel Fuller, Mark Heitmann, & Janet Bettinger.

SAVE THE DATE

Feb.18th-Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service,
7pm. We will be hosting the service. Andrea
Abbott from First Universalist Church will be bring
the message.

Feb. 19th we will be having an all church sledding
outing. After flying down the hills at the school, we
will return to the church for hot chocolate, coffee,
and pizza.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Victor Vrooman -14

Jacob Biddle – 16

Bob Chamberlin - 28

A LIST OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEE HEADS

If you have questions on use of building or things needing to be fixed or cost of renting the building and making sure all the bills are paid, call either:

Trustees:

Mark Heitmann 668-8004

Nate DeFalco 935-6591

Secretary:

Randi Driesen 345-4891

If you have question about Sunday school or children programs and actives please call:

Board of Christian Ed:

Maggie Heitmann 676-2151 Home

492-0033 Cell

If you know of anyone who is in need or sick please Call:

Deacons:

Rich Mizerski 675-3271

If you have questions about the Constitution Please call:

Constitution Review Committee:

Misty DeFalco 935-6267

If someone wants to leave money to the church in memory of someone who has passed please call:

Memorial Committee:

Carol Chamberlin 676-7461

If you have any information that you feel would help us learn more about our church history or would like to know more information about our church history please call:

Historical Committee:

Delores Olin 668-2719

If you would like to be an usher or think the pews are not kept up well please call:

Ushers:

Nate DeFalco 935-6591

If you would like to sing or help with choosing the music or have suggestions on things we can do during our worship to improve our music please call:

Music Committee:

Lynn Bort 471-1561(ext.3) work
317-3864 cell

If you would like to help decorate and do flowers for the church or donate flowers for our service please call:

Worship arrangements Committee:

Dail Mizerski 675-3271

If you have a problem with the minister, please contact:

Pastoral Relations:

Genie Rotundo 675-8646 Home

952-5424 cell

If you would like to learn how to do an audit, or would like to help audit the books, or if you want to know if the books balance and when the last audit was done please call:

Auditing:

Roxanne Spink 668-9851

This person knows the constitution and can help with any problems that arise. She helps to keep the church running and that we follow the constitution. She is very knowledgeable and can help with most things. So she can answer most any question just call. She also helps solve problems and keep the peace.

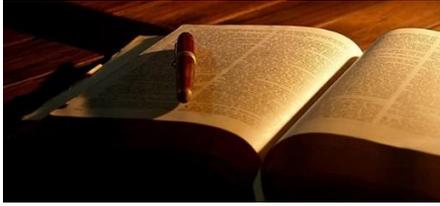
Moderator:

Lynn Bort 317-3864 Cell & Home

This is a list of the heads of, or chairperson of each board and committee so if you have questions this is a good guide. If you still can't figure it out check with Cindy Cuny the **church secretary**. I'm sure she can help direct you or maybe answer your questions.

Office number: 668-2138 please leave a message if I'm not there I will get back to you.

PASTOR'S CORNER



The dreaded warning noise that my car makes to let me know it is having an issue rang out, followed by a display that read... "Reduced Engine Power." This is not good, especially since I had been driving at slightly above the speed limit on 481 north. I made it safely to the Cicero exit, where I went to visit the friendly auto parts store and eventually made it home.

I think so often we operate at "Reduced Engine Power," because it is easy, because it is habit, and no one is going to notice anyway. Let me stop you there. People notice and they talk about it, because they love you and are concerned about you, but they are just far too nice to say anything to you about it.

Well, now you know. We notice when you pull back from the activities you used to participate in, when you come to church less than you used to, and we worry about you. We pray for you. I say we, because it is more than just me. Everyone in this church is important, and when you are not here, you are missed, not just because you are a body in a pew, but because you are loved.

If you are running at reduced engine power, take a minute to step back and ask yourself why. If your reason is age or health, then okay, but we still want you to be active as much as you can. If you can no longer drive, or are not comfortable driving, please call the office and we will arrange transportation for you. There are people who are more than willing to pick someone up for church, for a meeting, or an activity. Know that you are not a burden to anyone!

If your reason for running at reduced engine power is anything else, I want you to contact me. Unless I am aware that there is a problem, I cannot be an advocate for change. If you are upset about changes that have been made, you have to tell someone. I admit that mind reading is not a skill I have.

I feel that it is time we shift our focus. Sadly, we have lost a generation or two in the church. While I believe in revival wholeheartedly, our young people just do not have the desire to be in church. Some come back to get married or when they start a family, but then life gets busy, and there is not a commitment to church like there once was. Instead of spending all of our time and energy on people who are not coming to church, let's focus on those who we do have. You who come to church week after week and are serving, and giving, and loving are my priority. I want you to tell those you know about your church. I want you to tell them why you love this church, and why you keep coming back. Then, I want you to invite them to come to church with you! When you radiate the love Christ it becomes contagious, and my prayer is that they will want to come and be a part of a loving body of Christ. Please Contact me if you need any help or suggestions on how to go about this. See you in church!