

Mark Twain Quotes

“A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”

“Action speak louder than words but not nearly as often.”

“Age is an issue of mind over matter, if you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”

“Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”

“Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.”

“Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get.”

“Don’t go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.”

“Education consists mainly of what we have unlearned.”

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

**January
2013**

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

“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

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; 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.

PRAYERS FOR JANUARY

Gracious and wonderful Lord, We come to the threshold of a new year seeking your guidance and needing the assurance that the days ahead will be filled with your purpose. Let us draw from the teachings of Christ that which will make 2013 truly the year of your favor. In Jesus name. Amen

MEETING NIGHT

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Trustees | January 8 th | 6:00 |
| Deacon's | January 8 th | 6:30 |
| Executive | January 8 th | 8:00 |
| Christian Ed | January 13 th | 11:15 |

Verse of the Month



“When the servant of the man of God got up... an army... had surrounded the city. ‘Oh, my lord what shall we do?’ the servant asked. ‘Don’t be afraid; the prophet answered.’ Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

II Kings 6: 15-16

WITNESS ARTICLES

All articles for the February **Witness** are due in the church office by January 22nd. Please write an article and submit it! Thank You!

Birthdays

For January

Emily Rotundo - 6

Lynn Cuny - 9

Pat Harrington - 20

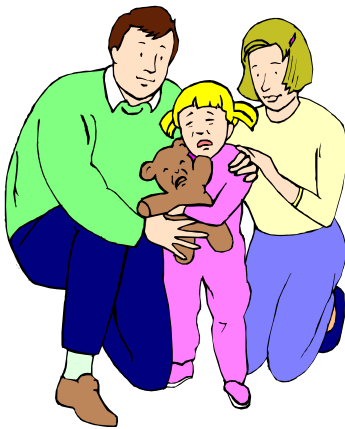
Trudy Bush - 20

Mark Heitmann - 22

Kay Springer - 25



Tragedy Strikes



We are all aware of the tragedy that took place in New Town, Con. shortly before Christmas. At this writing the details are still being sorted out, but none of that sorting will erase the pain of this senseless and tragic act. People everywhere carry burdens of guilt, fear, anger and confusion. To these and to all of us Jesus promised: "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest". Most of us stop at this point and find comfort in the promised rest but Jesus goes further; "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-29) Jesus' promise of rest comes with the challenge to join him in the task of bringing people into the Kingdom of God. Rest and yoke go together. As we mourn the tragedy of New Town, let us stiffen our resolve to share the healing love of Christ.

HEALTH TIPS!

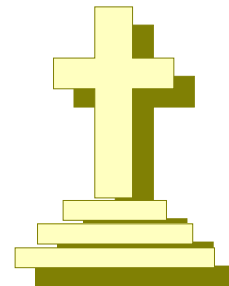


Welcome back to the start of a new year. So, let's try really hard to do better and work hard on our weight. We are past the holidays. Everyone who loves to drink. Let's cut back on drinking alcohol. It's high in calories. Those who eat their way through the holidays. Stop eating so many sweet treats. Cut way back even as far as just eating three meals a day. You will see a real difference. You must use a lot of determination! You can do it! Make this year the year you lose lots of weight! Please, don't give up! Here is to good health!

***Till Next Time ***

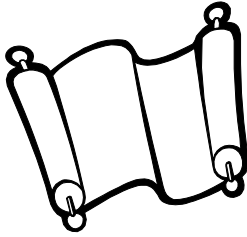


CHURCH WILL BE OPEN!



The church will be open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00. Both Rev. John Tharp and Secretary Cindy Cuny will be there during this time. You're welcome to stop in just to talk or give us your suggestions or opinions. New ideas are welcome.

Annual Reports



Please get your reports in by January 4th! This will help our Church Secretary so she has time to process them into a book. This will prevent stragglers. You know who you are! Our annual meeting is on January 20th after church. Remember each board and committee and officer should submit a report. Thank you.

Parsonage in Use



Finally...we have come full circle with a Parsonage that, at one time, was going to be sold. Now, it is a home for our Interim Pastor, Rev. John Tharp and his wife, Nancy. With the exception of a few last minute items, everything seems good.

A big "Thank You" needs to be said to our Parsonage Project Manager, Marcus Rotundo, who oversaw the range of details to get the parsonage back in shape. In addition, a few professionals and a number of volunteers have put in many hours to make this happen. It just would not have happened without this dedication along with anonymous and additional monetary and needed item donations.

Now, with this in place, all of us need to be supportive of our Interim Pastor and his ministry during this transition. We, as well, need to encourage and assist our Search Committee as they seek to find a new Pastoral Family for us.

Ongoing Church Projects



Yes, we have accomplished the primary challenge of getting the Parsonage ready for occupancy. However, we are still faced with other project needs that your Trustees and others will be working on during the New Year. They are:

- *Installation of a new phone/internet/cable system for the church and parsonage
- *Clean and paint our outdoor lighted message sign
- *Replace the 4 church location signs at the outskirts of the village
- *Replacement and/or repair of our church organ and, possibly, our hand bell sets
- *Re-activating our church library
- *Clean and reorganize the church basement storage area
- *Add capability to our church sound system to provide for the hearing challenged
- *Update/replace Nursery flooring
- *Determine installation options for old kitchen cabinets from parsonage
- *Purchase new fellowship hall chairs and arrange for sale of old ones

All these and perhaps more need the support of the entire congregation. Therefore, please let any of the Trustees know how you might help or what suggestions you have so that all of these projects can be done as a coordinated effort. Thank you!!

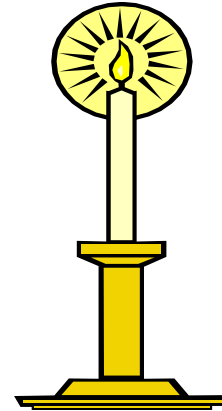
Financial Status



GOOD NEWS...all bills are being or have been paid and we are current with all expenses involving the parsonage. Of special note, we are current with and ahead of schedule on our 2012 Benevolence Giving. Based on our year-to-date giving, we should be at \$5,200.00. So far we have contributed \$5,400.00!! We have also contributed over \$2,300.00 to special annual mission offerings. Based on per capita giving across the state to mission efforts, our church remains among the highest!. Thank you to Marcus Rotundo and Grace Fuller for their excellent record-keeping.

We have also had a number of fund-raising events that have provided added finances and chances for fellowship. We're looking for more of the same for 2013. Please continue praying for and supporting efforts that are pursued. Rewarding physical and spiritual opportunities await all of us in the New Year.

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 "team", 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