



Hours of happy times with friends and family
Abundant time for relaxation
Prosperity
Plenty of love when you need it the most
Youthful excitement at life's simple pleasures



Nights of restful slumber
Everything you need
Wishing you love and light

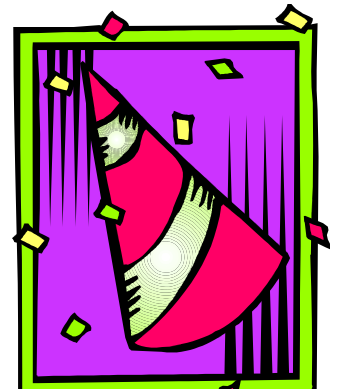
Years and years of good health
Enjoyment and mirth
Angels to watch over you
Remembrances of a happy years

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January 2014

A New Year

**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

“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,

We are at the start of a new year. Help us to walk closer with you through this year so we will remember to spread the goods news of your son Jesus Christ throughout the whole year.

Amen



MEETING NIGHTS

Deacon’s	January 14 th	6:30
Annual Meeting	January 19 th	after Church
Trustees	January 19 th	after Meeting



Verse of the Month



“The things I predicted have now come true. Now I will tell you of new things even before they begin to happen”

Isaiah 42:9

WITNESS ARTICLES

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

**Welcome To 2014
January Holidays
And Not So Holidays**



Get your Annual Reports in



By January 10th and no later. I need time to put them into a book. Be respectful of this. Thank you!

Annual Meeting

January 1, 2014: New Year's Day. It is time to relax, maybe nurse a hangover, and enjoy the start of a bright and promising New Year.... a new beginning. So enjoy everything about New Years 'Day ...it comes once a year! Watch the Rose Bowl parade with your children, and the can watch football all day with you!



Did you know that the first ball that dropped in Time Square, NY was 1908?

January 19th after church there will be a carry in luncheon before the meeting. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

January 2, 2104: run it up the flagpole and see if anyone Salutes Day. This is an expression of course. It means to float an idea to see what people think, or it they notice.

Be creative today, Use this day to try and test new ideas and concepts. Or try it in your personal life-like a new outfit or hairstyle, and see if anyone notices! No better time than early in the New Year to try something new!

January 20, 2014: Martin Luther King Day. This is always celebrated the third Monday in January. Martin Luther King was born on January 15, 1929. He became one of the greatest Social Activists the world has ever known. At age 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis Tennessee.

His birthday became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983. Many consider it a day to serve your community.

(Holiday Insights.com)

**There Back! Those Church
Women with they're
typewriters!**



The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the parks across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon

“I’m Messed Up”



I’m a messed up human being. I don’t mean that I am particularly deranged-just that I was born broken and have reached the plateau of adulthood carrying some flaws with me. The biggest flaw? I believe lies...sometimes.

Here’s a law of life that can’t be avoided or broken: **The way I think determines what I believe, which determines how I act, which creates my path and all of its rewards and consequences.** Ultimately, life’s trajectory is a result of my beliefs.

When I mess up and sin, it’s always because I’ve believed a lie. I’ll give you some examples....

- I’ll just do this once.
- Nobody knows...or cares.
- Everybody does this.
- This is just who I am.
- I’ve gone too far and there is no turning back now.
- No one could ever really love me.

Any of these ring a bell? Whether whispers from the enemy, or sad chants we’ve accidentally learned to repeat, they are destructive. So, today, tomorrow and every day thereafter, I need to start my day by ingesting truth. I believe the only source of absolute truth is in the Bible, the Word of God. But, that’s not all I need. I don’t mean God’s word is insufficient. I simply mean I need to personalize what I’ve read so I can practice and live the essence and meaning of the Word.

As for my particular struggles, there are some truths I remind myself of daily these days. The things you need to hear repeatedly in your walk will probably vary from mine, but the following are truths to cling onto.

The Truth about Me and God

1. I am not God. I am powerless, helpless, lost and broken without Him.
2. God loves me and showed how much He loves and values me by sending Jesus to the cross for me.
3. I cannot stop God from loving and valuing me because it is about his character, not my behavior.
4. In Christ, I have the limitless power that raised Jesus from the dead working in me so victory is always achievable.
5. The Holy Spirit wants to do His work in me at all times. I simply must yield at all times.

The truth about Me and Myself

1. I cannot control my circumstances, but I am absolutely in control of my responses. Blame nothing.
2. I am responsible for all my actions, attitudes and behaviors. Blame no one.
3. I am capable of accomplishing anything to which God has called me.
4. My default is to be defensive and make excuses, which flow from pride and insecurity.
5. I can always, always choose better.

The Truth about Me and My Family

1. My wife is a beautiful gift from God and deserves my attention, my affection, my protection and my devotion.
2. My wife is for me, shows me grace and respect when I don't deserve it and loves me faithfully.
3. My dad needs a son who is stable, strong, safe and loving.
4. My dad needs a son who loves him and proves it.
5. I am the one who will be held responsible for mu spiritual welfare.

The Truth about Me and My Church

1. Jesus died for His Church. It is His alone, and he values it immeasurably.
2. God has called me to be an under-shepherd of His flock, leading and feeding them on His behalf.
3. I am not responsible for the choices others make, but I am responsible for my care for spiritual maturity.
4. I am me, whether I feel adequate or not, so I need to make the tough decisions and be up-front.
5. I am here to grow spiritually. People don't exist to make me successful. I exist to help them be like Jesus.

The Truth about Me and My Culture

1. The world will squeeze me into its mold unless I fully surrender to God and choose His path.
2. Cursing the darkness is exhausting, pointless and ultimately counterproductive to God's goal for the world.
3. I need to be light, salt and a voice of truth with the territory of the deceiver.
4. Everyone needs Jesus; everyone belongs in God's family.
5. Isolation from culture helps no one. Imitation of culture helps no one. Infiltrating culture is my calling.

I so not always remember all of these truths. When I forget the, things go badly. When I am reminded of them, I can stand strong and walk confidently. Truth leaks, leaving room for the lies of the enemy. Hearing truth and applying it repetitiously is the only way to win.

Amen

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Several years ago, a professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University gave his class an unusual assignment. They were to go into the inner city and interview 200 boys and, on the basis of those interviews, predict their future. The students were shocked at what they found in that slum ridden part of the city. The college students predicted that 90 % of the boys would spend time in prison.

Twenty years later, the same professor asked another class to locate the survivors of that group of 200 and report what their fortunes had been. The students found 180 of the 200. Amazingly, only four of them had been in jail. The professor pressed the class to determine what had kept the dire predictions from coming true. There seemed to be only one common thread; more than a hundred of the boys had the same high school teacher, Miss O'Rourke. These boys remembered her influence on them.

After a lengthy search, Sheila O'Rourke was found living in a nursing home in Memphis, Tennessee. After the project was explained to her, the question was raised, "What had she done to help these boys?" She puzzled over this and then responded, "All I ever did was love every one of them."

In his last hours before his crucifixion, Jesus had something very important to say to his disciples, but, before he said it to them, he demonstrated it to them: he washed their feet. Then and only then did he say, "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – ***when they see the love you have for each other.*** (The Message, John 13:34 emphasis mine)

Loving God, serving God, loving each other, serving each other, serving each other in the spirit of our loving God, teaching the love of God to our children, living the love of God before a skeptical world, encouraging each other, worship of God spilling over into loving our neighbor, caring more for others than we do ourselves -- all these flow together, stir around, become all mixed up, are a joyous blend of the Spirit of Christ enriched by the Holy Spirit and the providence of God the Father working to build the Kingdom of God in this place and beyond.

It is as old as the Gospels; it is as new as the Spirit of Christ.

Happy New Year.

Pastor John

Worship with us in January & February

January 5 Sticking Your Toe in the Water Joshua 3:1-17

12, 19, 26 Guest Speakers

(Sorry, Nancy and I will be visiting kin folk in Florida and going on a big boat around the Caribbean.)

February 2	Building the St. Louis Arch (Ground Hogs Day)	I Corinthians 3:10-17
9	Faith Comes by Hearing	Romans 10:10-17
16	Finding the Truth	Matthew 7: 13-23
23	Choosing Hope	Psalms 22:1