

NEW BEGINNINGS

THE JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN



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January 2015
Happy 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

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"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

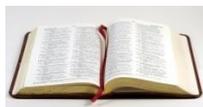


Please keep these members and friends in your prayer: Ken Bird, Ken House, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Stephen Springer, Helen Webb, Mike White, our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

PRAYER FOR JANUARY

Creator of the Universe, we thank you for another year. Let us use this year to magnify your great name, and further the work of your kingdom. Give us courage to fight discrimination, hatred, and prejudice. Bless us with compassion for those who suffer, for those who thirst, for justice and seek relief from crushing poverty, at home and abroad. May we be a light in this community, and show others the love of Christ through our words, actions and our hearts. Amen.

VERSE OF THE MONTH



You are the light of the world a city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

MEETING NIGHTS

Trustee	January 11 th after church
Deacon's	January 13 th 6:30
Annual Meeting	January 18 th after church

WITNESS ARTICLES

All witness articles for February are due by January 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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Emily Rotundo – 6 Lynn Cuny – 9

Pat Harrington – 20 Kay Springer -25

Mark Heitmann - 26

ANNUAL MEETING



January 18th we will have a carry in luncheon right after church followed by our annual meeting. Please make a dish to share and bring your own table service.(Plates ,Silverware, cups, napkins)See all of you there!!!

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MEG



I would like to express my gratitude to the entire church for the beautiful installation service. From the choir to the food, the service was something I am certain I will not likely forget. You all are such a blessing to me, and I appreciate all your hard work.

Pastor Meg

A POEM BY MAVIS COOTER



The Lily Pond

The fog has lingered all night long,
And hidden the water from view;
Now lifts with the first days of morning sun,
As a spectre in a sluice.
At last unveiled is the lily pond
With its pads and posies galore!
I watch the lilies open to the sun
As I try to reach them from shore-
And hear the croak of the nervous frog,
Who seems to say, "No More?"

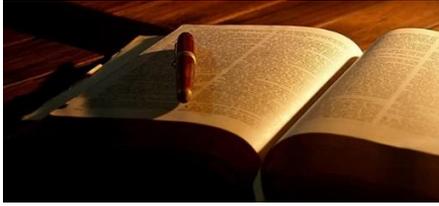
The little creatures of the pond
Pop up here and there,
And lazily go about their day
Without a worry or care.
There is a similar, sweet strain
Of slothfulness in me-
As I enter into the solitude
Of everything I see.

I will always linger at the pond,
Most any day or night,
For in all its many transient times,
It is a lovely sight!

But for now I will go my way
As the pond gives way once more,
To the rolling fog which sweep in
To protect it from shore to shore.

I forget to go my way-I am mesmerized!-
As the lilies close to the darkening skies.
I must hurry to my home-
The frog slips from his pas-
Tomorrow I will try again
To recapture the fun I've had!

PASTOR'S CORNER



As I sit in my office and write this, I can hardly believe that I left the cornfields of Indiana four months ago. Central Square is not that different from Columbus, not really. We had to drive 10-15 minutes to get to a grocery store, church, the doctor's office, or Target. I do not miss my daily hour plus commute to work 150 miles round trip. I do miss my Sunday school class and my Nana, but not much else. Okay, maybe Starbucks, but I am adjusting, and there is one in Target if I am desperate.

We are ready to begin a new year and not just any year, my first full year as your pastor. That is an honor that means more to me than I can ever clearly articulate. Since we are in a new season together, I wonder if we could all take a little time to reflect on where we have come so far, and where we dream we will be one year from now. Attendance is just a small part of vision casting, but we have noise in the sanctuary, the halls, and it is beautiful. Noise means we are alive, and I hope that God will bless us, and that we get even louder as we continue, because we are not finished yet; we are just getting started.

I understand that change is difficult, and none of us like it, but sometimes it is necessary. I don't know that I could be as effective in ministry in Indiana as I am here. You all have been wonderful, and I appreciate your love and support. Remember that sometimes we have to allow God to bring change into our lives, and actually embrace it. When we are willing to allow God to be in control, step back and watch what amazing things happen.

I have been blessed to visit quite a few of you in your homes or for coffee. If we have not yet done so, please talk to me so that we can get this scheduled. I want to have the chance to meet with each and every one of you, so that we can get to

know one another better. Feel free to use the church number to contact me. If you have an emergency, please leave a message and contact Cindy Cuny as she should know how to reach me. If you are a user of technology, e-mail me or send me a Facebook message, and I will get back to you. I am more than happy to come to your home, or if you would prefer, meet me somewhere and coffee is on me. Just a side note, I am very allergic to cats and smoke. If you are a smoker or have more than one cat, we will need to meet elsewhere.

I look forward to seeing what God has in store for our church family for 2015, and continuing to get to know you all. Don't forget to dare to dream about the future, pray about those dreams, and keep the faith, knowing that, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst" (Matt.18:20). See you in church.

Pastor Meg