



First Baptist Church
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May 2015
Happy Mother'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

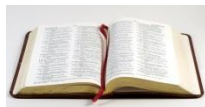


Please keep these members and friends in your prayer: Ken Bird, Ken House, Stewart Smith, Phyllis Smith, Stephen Springer, Helen Webb, Mike White, our missionaries, our nation, and our denominational and local church leaders.

PRAYER FOR MAY

Forgive me, for the numerous neighbors I still don't want to treat as neighbors. Keep guiding them into my space until I learn to welcome them as from you rather than reseating their presence Help me to love when it is difficult and to forgive when it seems impossible. Draw me near God that I may learn to become more like you. - Amen

VERSE OF THE MONTH



You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. (Lev.19:18 NRSV)

MEETING NIGHTS

Christian Ed	May 10th after church
Trustees	May 3rd after church
Deacon's	May 12th 6:30

WITNESS ARTICLES

All witness articles for June are due by May 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.

BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY



Hazel Schaff -1

Ben Springer – 5

Lynn Cuny Jr – 6

Nathan Ayres – 8

Ken House – 12

Ron Myers – 28

Jillian Biddle - 29

SPRING CLEAN UP



Saturday May 9th at 9:00 is our annual spring clean-up day. If you want to work outside please bring a rake. If you're cleaning inside bring whatever supplies you wish to help make the church look beautiful. A lunch will be provided.

ARE YOU ON THE CIA LIST?



No, I'm not talking about the Central Intelligence Agency.

I'm talking about the CIA...Christians in actions.

Do you give a helping hand where needed?

Do you smile at the lonely?

Do you reach the top shelf in the store to help someone?

Do you let someone in front of you in line?

Do you volunteer?

Do you pray for others?

The list goes on and on, but do you take action?
That is the big question.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR MAY



Cindy & Lynn Cuny -17

Linda & Sam Heer – 29

Daisy & Paul Ayres – 31

SOMETHING NEW IS COMING



A new worship program is set to launch in Sept. and now is the time to begin praying and planning for what I am currently calling, "Snic" Saturday nights in Christ. Please understand that we are not getting rid of our Sunday morning services, this is about having options for others in the community. Let's face it, Sunday is no longer sacred, Our kids are force to grow up earlier and Snic will be another opportunity for people to come, spend an hour, and worship.

I am looking for people who want to be part of the planning team for this new ministry. Please prayerfully consider being on the team. If you do not wish to plan, I ask that you at least participate by praying for us. If you would like to be a part of this exciting new ministry, please contact Pastor Meg. I look forward to seeing what God will do in this place.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



It's that time of year again!! I'm in desperate need of volunteers!! I need help with preparation, kitchen staff, registration help, teachers, and teacher assistants!! Please let Misty know if you're interested ASAP! Any capacity of help will be welcomed! VBS will be 3 days again this year beginning Friday August 7th and wrapping up at the annual picnic on the 9th. Let's show the kids a GREAT TIME!!

CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

COMMITTEE MEETING

We got off to a fabulous start!! Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 19th @ 6:00.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

BREAKFAST

Here at church on May 7th, 9am. Mark Heittman will be cooking breakfast. Prayer service following. Invite your friends!

CONGRATULATIONS

TO



Jillian Biddle for winning the grand prize in this year's Junior Church what Easter means to me diorama display contest!!! Great job to all the children who spent weeks working on their displays!

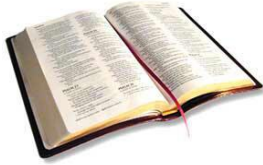
REMINDER



Often there are times that the boxes for board heads are overly full. Please check your box regularly you never know when you will have mail. It makes it difficult to put more stuff in them when there is absolutely no more room. Thank you!!

The Office

PASTORS CORNER



I grew up knowing the phrase, “Good fences make good neighbors,” all too well. My parents bought our first house when I was five years old. When they bought it, we had a church on one side, a cornfield on the other side that stretched all the way around the property, and a cornfield across the road. I never ran out of places to play. It was killer on my allergies, but it was amazing.

The amazing house did not stay that way too long. It became the house my parents loved to hate. It was not the house itself that was the problem, it was the neighbors that claimed the cornfield next door. First, a modular home was placed in the field, and then the cars began to appear. Soon, a solid metal fence that was 25 foot tall was placed all the way around the border of the field. What was once a beautiful cornfield, full of adventures and treasures had been replaced by an ugly gray fence.

My mom had nothing nice to say about the new neighbors or their fence. There was no way that my mom was going to love her neighbor. As she saw it, they had just ruined the house that she had always dreamed of with their presence as well as their fence.

I wonder how often we put up our own solid metal fences so that no one could possibly ever see what is going behind it? My parents never met the neighbors; they were just referred to in our house by their last name, which was often said as if it were a curse word. They may have been lovely people who happened to buy the cornfield and locate their salvage business there, but we will never know.

We are told that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves as the second greatest command given by our Lord. How can we love them like Jesus if we have put up a fence to keep everyone out? How can

we love them like Jesus if we are not willing to go around the barrier, and seek entrance through the gate? Let’s face it; most of us really want our privacy at home. We don’t want to let others in our lives, and we certainly do not want to let them into our hearts.

Some of us put up fences not to keep others out, but to barricade ourselves in so that no one will be able to get to us. Take some time to evaluate the fences in your life, and ask yourself why they are there. Are they being used to keep everyone out, or are they being used as a barrier to keep yourself in? What would it take for you to be willing to take down the fence, even for a while and let someone who may need a neighbor more than you know in your life?

Invite your neighbors to church, even if you don’t know them. Take the time to show them the love of Christ, it is worth the effort.

See you in church!

Pastor Meg