

First Baptist Church of Central Square

701 North Main Street, Central Square, NY 13076


www.fbc-cs.com T: 315-668-2138

Prayer Concerns: Ken Bird, Melody Clark, Jacob House, John Alberry, Steve Pumphrey, Bernadette Lynch, Morris Reels, Smith Family, Central Square Schools, Frank VanBuskirk, Hurricane Matthew Victims, Ken Bird, Moore/ Pumphrey Family, Rev. Dr. John Kuiper, Gagnon Family, Scott Heer, Watkins Family, Bradigan Family, Mark Roth, and those unspoken.

Birthdays:

Aubrey Biddle 2	Alexander Springer 8	Stephen Springer 8
Ken Bird 10	Heather Bettinger 12	Shaylee Woolson-Smith 15
Meg Biddle 19	Joshua Heitmann 26	Dale Bort 27
Nicholas Heitmann 31		Nathan Heitmann 31

Anniversaries:

Cheryl & Karl Backman 12		
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Mystery Member

November Mystery Member: Liz Rotundo

December's Mystery Member met their spouse through a personal ad in the newspaper, was once was in a band called "The Spatulas," and once met Elijah Wood in a gas station. Guess who it is?!

Edit While "Courtney Cuny" was published last month, I would like to correct the mistake and name **Courtney Balch** as October's Mystery Member.



Upcoming Events

December 1

Tree Set-Up (5pm)

December 2

ABCNYS Board of Missions Meeting (9-4)

December 4

Craft Day (after church)

December 11

Children's Christmas Play

December 13

Deacon's Meeting (6:30pm)

December 17

Deacon's Christmas Gift Bag Deliveries and Caroling

December 18

Christmas Cantata, Carry-In Lunch, Wise Men Visit

December 21

WIC

December 24

Christmas Eve Service (7pm & 11pm)

December 25

Christmas (Church @ 10am)

December 27

Free Lunch (11:30 – 1:30)



Witness Articles

Please send anything you would like published to the email Kahminder@gmail.com by December 26th!

Free Lunch

This month's Free Lunch will take place on December 27th. The menu includes, Baked Ziti, Italian Bread, Tossed Salad, & Cookies. Everyone is welcome.

Bible Study

Don't forget to check out Bible Study every Thursday at 6:30pm! Come as you are!

100 Days of Prayer

Our New Year begins on a Sunday for 2017, please consider starting your year off right; in church. On January 1st, I am asking you to join me in 100 days of intentional prayer. This prayer will be focused on God's mission and vision for First Baptist Church. I believe there is still much work to be done for God's Kingdom, here in Central Square. I would welcome you to join me in this time of intentional prayer for our church. I will go into more detail about this project in the next article of The Witness.

-Pastor Meg

Christmas Gifts

Please come join the Diaconate Board as we continue a great First Baptist tradition. On Saturday, December 17th we'll be meeting at the Fellowship Hall at 1:00PM to assemble the gift bags, and we expect to leave to deliver the baskets at about 1:45PM. If we have enough people willing to sing, we will do caroling as well! Shut-ins and the others we visit greatly enjoy and appreciate these visits, and you will too!

The Board of Deacons

Board of Christian Education Update

The children are working hard on their Annual Christmas Play! Come support the children of the church on December 11th, 2016!

Reflective Quotes

The longer I live, the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and the wonder of the world. I hardly know which feeling leads: wonderment or admiration.

-John Burroughs

All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Church Officers

Reverend

Meg Biddle

Moderator

Lynn Bort

Church Clerk

Rebekah Springer

Treasurer

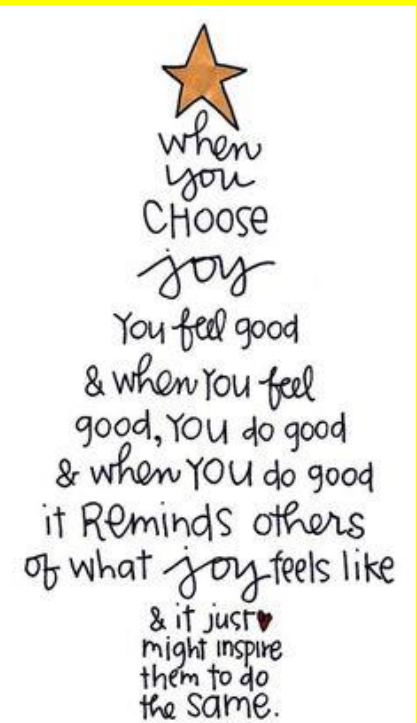
Elizabeth Rotundo

Financial Secretary

Grace Fuller

Sunday School Supt.

Misty DeFalco



Trustees Report

It is true, we are still waiting for the siding on the north side of the church to be completed. When I spoke with Ken Halsdorf, the contractor, last week, he stated that residential homes were still being completed. Ken is on vacation the week of Nov 20-27. So hopefully when you read this December Witness, the siding will be done. Or almost done!

As far as the Fire and Safety Inspection is concerned, we are still negotiating with the zoning officer and Doyle Security. No-one, more than I, wants to get this wrapped up. I can tell you though, that this job is probably going to be done piecemeal (due to the price). The necessary and important parts will be done first, with the rest of the job to be divided up over the next 2-3 years. It will happen!

Thank you to the vendors, the AB Women, and to Cheryl Backman for a very successful craft fair. The AB Women donated their profits to the Church. And thank you to everyone for your prayers and giving to our Faith Proposal.

Randi Driesen, Chair of Trustees

Craft Show Update

First I want to thank all who helped in any way for making the Craft Show a success. It took many hands to pull this event together. The funds raised for the church were as follows:
\$420.00 from the vendor tables, which was deposited directly into the Church general fund.

The women's society raised:
\$257.00 from the basket raffle
\$261.10 from the bake sale/handmade gifts table
\$ 76.10 from the lunch

So total profit was: \$1,014.60

The women's society decided to donate \$580.00 to the \$420.00 that the Church made from the vendors, to make the Church's general fund profit \$1,000.00.

- Cheryl Backman

Constitution Review Committee Report

The Constitution Review Committee is proud to announce they have completed the final draft of an updated constitution. It will be emailed out shortly. We do not have the funds to print hard copies for everyone, so please email kahminder@gmail.com if you would like the church secretary to print you a copy.

Through the Eyes of Peter Woodin

By Delores Olin

A continuation...

A study and office were built into the church building. A new organ was given as a memorial. The Iroquois Association was established. Always fresh maple syrup for Easter Breakfast thanks to the Holland's tapping the maples.

Rev. Anderson was ordained at First Baptist. This pastor was never bothered by the fire siren because he was a firefighter. See that sanctuary – it's been beautifully refurbished.

Another celebration, 140 years! Makes Peter Woodin proud to see how this church has progressed in the good works for God.



December

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Tree Set-up (5pm) Bible Study (6:30)	2 ABC NYS Meetin g (9-4)	3
4 Family Craft Day (after church)	5	6	7	8 Bible Study (6:30)	9	10
11 Children's Christmas Play	12	13 Deac onMe eting (6:30p m)	14	15 Bible Study (6:30)	16	17 Deacon's Christmas Deliveries & Caroling
18 Cantata Carry In Wise Men Visit	19	20	21 WIC	22 Bible Study (6:30)	23	24 Christmas Eve Service (7pm & 11pm)
25 Christmas Service (10am)	26	27 Free Lunch (11:30)	28	29 Bible Study (6:30)	30	31

Pledges

Our church is still accepting individual and family pledges. If you have not received a pledge form, email Pastor Meg at meg@fbc-cs.com to get one. Remember that we are not only looking for monetary pledges. Everyone has gifts and we would love for pledges of time and talent. The First Baptist Church benefits from people working together and anything you can devote to this church will only make us stronger. We also have church board positions open if you are interested!

A Christmas Poem

Let us keep Christ
as the heart of our Christmas,
the reason for all of our joy.

Let us reflect
on the season's true
meaning....

the birth of a dear little boy.

Whenever we see
decorations that sparkle
and tree lights that glimmer
and glow,

Let us remember
the star that shone brightly
and lit up that night long
ago.

Whenever we wrap up
our presents to others
and dream of the gifts we'd
like best,

Let us remember
God's gift of a Savior....
the gift that outshines all the
rest.

Let us keep Christ
as the heart of our Christmas
and take time to think of His
love --

The secret to feeling
the true Christmas spirit
and knowing His peace from
above.

Submitted by The Leamons

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His*
presence

From The Reverend

Let the Holiday Madness begin! Turkey has been consumed, the first major snowfall has come and mostly melted, and now it is rush, rush, rush, onto Christmas. Some people love Christmas, others, not so much. I fall somewhere in the middle.

Growing up, Christmas was not my favorite Holiday. When you are someone with a birthday six days before Christmas, you get robbed. My family always said, "I put your birthday and Christmas present together." Only, they never did. My parents both worked full-time jobs, but they were the working poor. Christmas was a struggle for them to be able to afford gifts. My mom's extended family always gathered together on Christmas Eve for dinner, but we left before the festivities were over so we could go to Christmas Eve service at Church. It has always been my favorite service of the year, and still is.

As an adult, things have changed. This is now my third holiday season here in New York. I miss seeing my nieces and nephew open presents and going to my parent's house on Christmas day, but we have made our own traditions. On Christmas Eve, I am more than ready for bed after two services at church. Because I am up so late, my family lets me sleep a little before making me get up to see what Santa left under the tree. After the gifts are done, I make monkey bread for breakfast.

I truly love the Christmas Eve service with candles and carols filling the sanctuary. It is beautiful to see families gathered together, and the anticipation that fills the air. At the 11:00 p.m. service, as we draw near to midnight, I love wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas.

I am grateful that my attitude toward Christmas has changed. Now it is focusing on the real reason for the season, the only gift that really matters, the gift of Heaven that came wrapped in human flesh and placed in a manger. As we rush from one event to the next, and search for that perfect gift, take time to focus on the gift that really matters.

Praying that you all will have a blessed Christmas Season filled with peace and love,

Pastor Meg

