

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, Smith Family, Jacob House, Roxanne Spink, Donnie O'Neil, Frank VanBuskirk, Michelle Heitmann, Richard Alberry, Sean Borayi, Scott Heer, Pat Harrington, Ken Leamon, Melody Clark, Libby Abbott, Service Men and Women, and those unspoken.

Birthdays:

Benjamin Springer 5	Aaliyah Ripley 5	Lynn Cuny Jr. 6
Ken House 12	Jillian Biddle 29	Ken Leamon 30

Mystery Member

Mystery Member of the month is back again! This month's person is someone who rarely misses a Sunday service. They love to participate in Sunday School and Bible study. In their free time, they love to garden and fish. This person's favorite color is green! Can you guess who this is?

Verse of the Month

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way."

Proverbs 3:5,6 (GNTD)

Witness Articles

Welcome to the updated Witness! Hope you enjoy the new format. The more updates you have the better! Please send anything you would like published to the email

Kahminder@aol.com by May 28th!



Upcoming Events

May 5

National Day of Prayer Service at Mallory Wesleyan Church @ 7pm

May 8

Mother's Day

May 15

Senior Appreciation Luncheon after church

May 21

Spring Clean - Up

May 31

Free Lunch (11:30 – 1:30)



More Important News

Board of Christian Education Update

Missions:

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries and the America for Christ Offerings both fell short of their goals. Additional contributions will be gratefully accepted if anyone forgot and still wishes to make a donation to this offering. If anyone would like the envelopes for these offerings, please see Roxanne.

Senior Appreciation Day:

Will be held during the spring this year and is scheduled on May 15, 2016 to allow our senior "Snow Birds" time to come home for the summer and available to participate in the day. The menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes, along with macaroni and cheese which will be provided by the Board of Christian Education. Other side dishes and desserts will be supplied by non-senior members of the congregation. A sign-up sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

School Supplies Needed:

The Board of Christian Education is also exploring ways to support youth in our community. A school supply donation box has been placed in the Fellowship Hall to allow members of the congregation and others to bring in pencils, pens, colored pencils, crayons, notebooks, etc. that can be distributed to schools throughout our school district.

Camping:

Plans for the "No Bake / Bake sale" have been put on hold because, at this time, we do not have any youth that will be attending camp. We will continue to work on developing fund raisers in hopes of establishing an ongoing fund to assist families with defraying the costs of camp.

Children's Day:

Our youth have picked their favorite hero's of the bible and are preparing a skit to present for Children's Day!

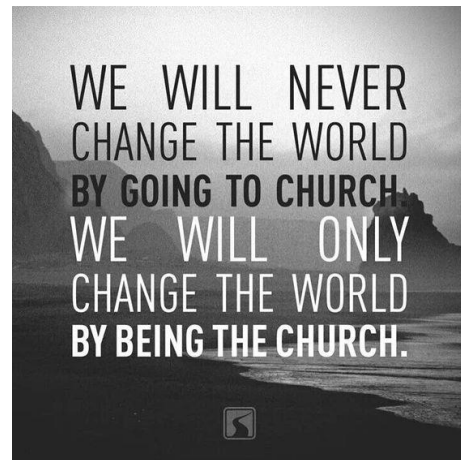
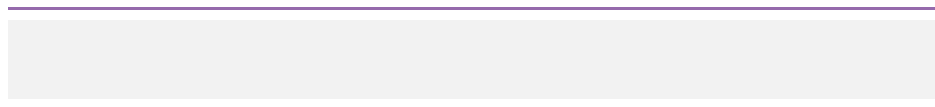
Vacation Bible School:

We have decided on the theme "Safari" and look forward to expanding the idea more!

Junior Church:

Volunteers are needed to staff Junior Church. Please sign up on the large white board calendar in Fellowship Hall.

Roxanne L. Spink, Board of Christian Education Chairperson



Church Officers

Pastor

Meg Biddle

Moderator

Lynn Bort

Church Clerk

Margaret Heitmann

Treasurer

Elizabeth Rotundo

Financial Secretary

Grace Fuller

Sunday School Supt.

Misty DeFalco

Free Lunch

Have you been to First Baptist of Central Square's Free Lunch Yet?! If not, you are missing out. If home cooked food isn't enough to persuade you to come, you'll be overwhelmed by the warm welcome you will receive from the people serving you and God simultaneously. The next FREE lunch is May 31st from 11:30 pm – 1:30 pm. They will be serving yummy pulled pork and coleslaw. Mark your calendars!

The Magic Bank Account

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has Rules.

The set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time, it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

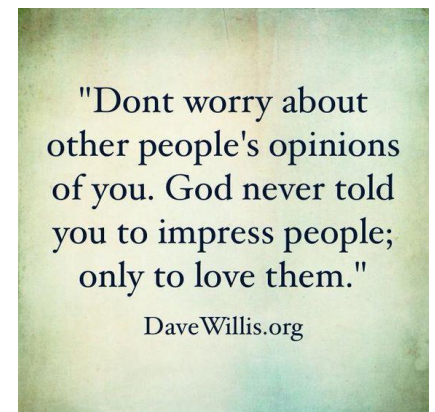
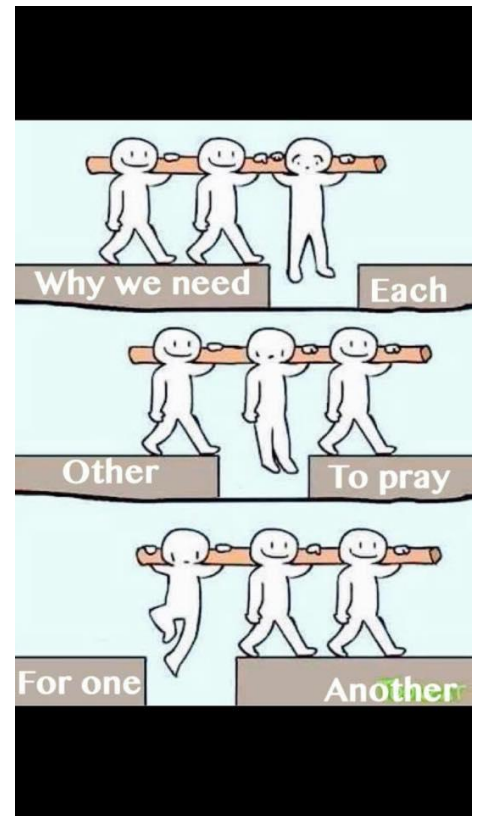
You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

This game is real.

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it. The prize is time.

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is Not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is Refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING.

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?



From The Pastor

The mission statement that is supposed to represent the church hangs in the fellowship hall. I read it at least once a week. The word that pops out at me is, "welcoming." What does it mean to welcome anyway? The dictionary says it means, "to greet in a polite way." Since we are adults, I hope that we can be welcoming to everyone who visits as well as those who attend on a regular basis. What if we stopped being a welcoming church, and became an inviting church instead?

Being an inviting church is a different, because it takes so much more effort. We could be the most welcoming church on the planet, and it would not matter if no one new ever shows up. We welcome the stranger, which is wonderful, but what happens if we never invite the stranger to come and worship with us? As painful as it is for us to admit, people just do not come to church any more. There are those who just do not have the desire to be a part of a church because they have been hurt before someone in the church and they are afraid that will happen again, or because they are just far too busy and Sunday is their day to relax. That does not mean that the church is going to die out and be forced to close the doors. It means that we are going to have to change the way we do church.

Consider the free community lunch for a moment. It has grown tremendously since it began. Sure, some of those people are members of the church, but not all of them. Month after month they show up because they have been invited, and they feel welcome as a guest. They also come because the food is really good. This month we had people from Scriba join us for lunch, because someone took the time to invite them.

Last month I wrote about the church that was planted specifically for senior citizens, but had to add on a nursery because those seniors told others about how much they were loved in their church. They invited others to come to church and learn what it is to be loved no matter who you are. Those who were invited stayed, because they felt welcomed. I challenge each and every one of you to invite someone to worship. Tell them why you come to worship. First Baptist Church is not the same place it once was, and that is okay. It may be very different than the place they once knew. Invite them to try it again. When they come to see this church that you are a part of, when they come to worship our Lord, when they come to learn what it is to be loved without conditions, welcome them.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Meg

