



First Baptist Church
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December 2014
Merry Christmas!
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

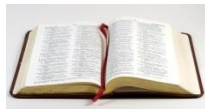
Notices Concerning Our Affiliated Denomination – The American Baptist Churches in the USA
Information to Help Live a More Fulfilled Life

PRAYER CONCERNS



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

VERSE OF THE MONTH



Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:16-17

PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

Gracious and Merciful God,

Praise be to the name of God forever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons. Help us to remember to stop during this holiday season and reflect on the real reason we celebrate, the gift of God in human flesh. Remind us to take time for those who grieve and mourn, especially during this time of year. May we be a blessing to those who grieve and mourn, especially during this time of year. May we be a blessing to those who live among the margins, who are considered less-thans by the world. We thank you and praise you almighty God for the gifts you have given us. Draw us near to you, help us to know that you are near.

-Amen.

MEETING NIGHTS

Pastoral Relations	December 3 rd	6:30p
Deacon's	December 9 th	6:30p
Trustee's	December 14 th	11:00a

WITNESS ARTICLES

All witness articles for January are due by December 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 December



Aubrey Biddle – 2 Alexander Springer -8
Stephen Springer – 8 Ken Bird – 10
Heather Bettinger – 12 Pastor Meg Biddle -19
Joshua Heitmann – 26 Dale Bort – 27
Nicholas & Nathan Heitmann -31

CRAFT SHOW



We will be having a craft show on December 6th from 9-4. We will be having a food and baked goods booth. If you can donate some food or baked goods please let us know. We will need help at the booth too!

IN SEARCH OF USHERS AND GREETERS



We are looking for ushers please let Bob Chamberlin know if you would like to be an usher. If you would like to greet on Sunday mornings please let Cindy Cuny know in the office

Christmas Family Workshop

December 7, 2014



Calling all families, friends, and crafty ladies & gents, the date has been set for our annual Christmas craft workshop. It will be held on Sunday, December 7th immediately following the church service. The AB Women have planned a light lunch for all to enjoy. We hope that you will include: three dimensional origami stars, frosting Christmas cookies, Christmas head bands, and candy cane/heart shaped suckers. It is always a fun time, filled with laughter & messy moments. Please plan to join us!!!

Children's Christmas Program



"Just a Little Christmas"

The children will begin practice on their Christmas Program on Sunday, November 23rd and will continue to practice each Sunday during junior church. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 13th at 10am-11. The list of characters include: Mary, Joseph, Angels, emperor Caesar Augustus, King Herod, Three Kings, Soldiers, & Shepherds. I will be needing help with the costumes. If anyone has an extra set of angel wings we sure would love to borrow them, or can help in anyway, I would sincerely appreciate it.

This is always a great way for the children to learn about the Christmas story and become participants in church. Please let me know if there is any way in which you would like to participate.

I strongly encourage you also to read the account of the announcement of Jesus. This is recorded in the gospel of Luke chapter one. “The virgin birth of Jesus is a critical part in God’s plan for our redemption. From the day we are born we are on a journey toward death and separation from God because of our sinful nature that has been brought on through Adam’s sin in the Garden of Eden (Romans 5:12). But through God’s immense love for us and his desire to have relationship with us, he sent his son, Jesus, to be born a virgin. Jesus was fully God, yet He was fully man. As God, Jesus had the power to redeem sinners. He himself was sinless. He was willing to die for our sins. He willingly bridged the gap between God and us when He paid the penalty of death for us. That incredible, inconceivable act of love made it possible for us to have a personal relationship with God. Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection mean that when we acknowledge and accept the price Jesus paid for us, we will no longer live under the penalty of death. We have assurance of eternal life with God.” Excerpt taken from the Stonecroft Ministries, Following Jesus with Luke, 2013. May the Lord’s great love bless you this Christmas.

Genie Rotundo

CARRY IN LUNCHEON



On December 14th we will be having a carry in luncheon after church. Please bring a dish to share and if all the children have been super good this year we may have visitors that may stop by with gifts for all the children. See everyone there!

Oh Tannenbaum! & Pizza! & Salad!



Come join the Worship Arrangements Committee for pizza and the fun of putting up our sanctuary Christmas tree! The Date: Thursday, December 4 from 5PM until done. A big part of the job is “Fluffing up the branches of the tree”. Branch fluffers get to sit in the pews and open the branches. Bring gloves so the tree doesn’t scratch your hands. If you know that you are coming, please see or call Dail at 675-3271 and leave a message so we know how many pizzas to get. If you decide to come at the last minute.....please come, we really need your help. Hope to see you there!

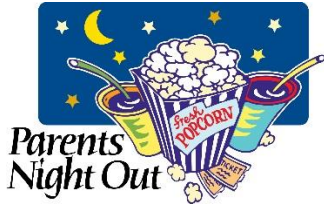
Communion



Just a reminder about Communion Sundays—we ask that the children sit with their parents or guardians when they return from junior church. Communion has been discussed with the kids during junior church, but we do want to be sure that they understand the reason we have the Lord’s Supper. Because we are American Baptists we believe that the table is open to all believers, but we do want to be certain that those who observe Communion are believers, and not just participating because everyone else is. If your child is at the point where they are participating in Communion, then we should engage in conversation about a public profession of faith if one has not been made, and possibly baptism as the next logical step. If you are not comfortable

having that conversation with your child(ren) please contact Pastor Meg. I am more than willing to come to your home or meet you in the office so we can talk.

Parents Night Out



December 13th from 6pm-10pm will be our annual “Parent’s Night Out”. The cost is \$8 per child. There is a signup sheet in fellowship hall. They need lots of help so please consider helping. This gives parents a chance to Christmas shop, or take in a movie, or whatever they like to do.

Pastors Corner



This time of year is incredibly busy with preparations for Thanksgiving and then Christmas. Our beloved snow birds are off to the warmer lands of Florida and Arizona (not that we blame them) and the first snow fall of the year has come and gone, but I am told there will be much more, not to be worried. There are some things I feel it is import to remind you about.

Check on your elderly neighbors throughout the winter months. Be willing to drive them to doctor’s appointments, pick up items for them at the store, or help keep the walk clear. It may seem like something so small, but it can certainly be a tremendous

blessing to those who are no longer able to get around as easily as they once could.

Flu shots, get one. I am not a huge fan of getting shots myself, but I would rather get a flu shot than unnecessary time with my doctor, or worse, a stay in the hospital. Don’t forget to wash hands frequently to decrease the spread of germs, and if you are not feeling well, stay home and rest!

The holidays can be incredibly difficult for some. Remember those who have suffered loss, especially if it is a death within this year. For some, it does not matter how long their loved ones has been gone, the holidays are always going to be difficult. My parents were the working poor, and so year after year, my brother and I didn’t get Christmas gifts. I remember getting a hair dryer one year, and trying to hide my disappointment. This will be our first Thanksgiving and Christmas without our family, without the Jello cake my mom has made for every holiday dinner for the last seventeen years because she learned Andy liked it. I actually asked her not to make it last year because I was sick of it, but she refused. As we make our own memories here in Central Square, forgive me if I am just a little melancholy this year.

Let us do our best to remember the reason for the season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May we not forget those in our lives who are alone send Christmas cards, everyone loves getting mail that isn’t bills or junk. Invite someone to church this Advent season. Go sit with someone at the nursing home or assisted living, find a way to be a blessing, you won’t regret it!

See you in church,
Pastor Meg