

THE WITNESS

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Central Square

“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.”

Rev. Bud Adams, Pastor
Genie Rotundo, Moderator

Cindy Cuny, Secretary
Sharryl Baker, Church Clerk

Cindy Cuny, Witness Editor
Victor Vrooman, Organist

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



Mystery Member of the Month

Our December mystery member clue got lost in the editing. Sorry; we’ll try again.

Our mystery member for January is someone who spent his childhood in a log cabin. Do you know who this person is?



Prayer Concerns

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: Laura Corliss; Mavis Cooter; Alice Silva; Joe Silva; Bob Abel; Ken Faulter; Penny Faulter; Ken Bird; Sharryl Baker; Stewart Smith; Jackie Willmer; Jan Rogacki; Fred Schaff; Hazel Schaff; Arlene LeBeau; Eva Kairis; Peter Bailey; Peggy Sue Ashby; Patrick Bort; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

Verse of the Month



“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; God has made the one as well as the other.”

-Ecclesiastes 7:14

Men’s Breakfast



OK, men. We have our Men’s Breakfast back on the track and on the normal schedule of the first Saturday of the month – **December 5th**. **Men of all ages** will meet in Fellowship Hall at **8:00** for a hearty breakfast, good fellowship, and reflective conversation spurred by readings from Jimmy Carter’s book Sources of Strength the book White Water, Bears, Dry Flies and other ways God Speaks To Guys by Randall Cirner.

Witness Deadline for December

Please have all articles for the Witness in to the church office by **December 21st**.

Pairs and Spares

If you were part of our gala last year on February 14th, you may recall an embarrassing moment or two as the First Baptist Church version of “The Dating Game” was played. So, let this serve as a not-so-subtle reminder for you to be prepared for whatever Mark and Margaret Heitmann may have in store for us this year.

Details will be announced as plans develop and will be printed in the February Witness.

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 17th, immediately following our community worship, we will gather for a carry-in luncheon in our Fellowship Hall – and for the 164th Annual Meeting of First Baptist Church of Central Square. Along with the election of officers and board members, we will receive reports from the various ministry groups that that comprise our congregation. This includes the *ad hoc* Covenant Committee, which will present a revised church covenant for the church's consideration.

You will find an article regarding this covenant and the covenant itself elsewhere in this edition of the Witness. Please read it *in advance of* our Annual Meeting and bring any questions or concerns you may have for us to discuss.

RMMO

“Thank You Check” recipients and others who received financial assistance from the 2008 Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering were overwhelmed by the generosity of American Baptists – even as our nation was in the midst of the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression. Excerpts from the thank you notes sent to ABC from retired ministers and missionaries around the country are posted on our bulletin board.

This year we will receive this offering from mid-January through mid-February. Our Board of Christian Education has set our goal at \$610, and they have every expectation that we will once again surpass it. So do I.

Please use the attached envelope, or one from the pews, as we *Remember with Love and Give with Gratitude* to those who have dedicated their lives to the Gospel ministry.

Your gift *will* make a difference!

Love is like gravity: hard to see but easy to feel.

To Your Health



Burning the candle at both ends? Recent research indicates that cheating yourself on sleep can be hazardous to your health. There's the obvious problem of driving drowsy, which is dangerous to more than just the sleep-deprived driver.

Chronic sleep loss has been linked to obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, and shorter life span. And some evidence suggests it may even cause long-term, possibly permanent, changes in the brain that can lead to depression and even contribute to Alzheimer's Disease.

Missing a few hours once in a while is not the problem. It's the belief that one can function just fine on, say, less than six to eight hours a night. So the new slogan about sleep should be, “Don't snooze, you lose.”

As reported in “Dying to Sleep”, Tina Hesman Saey, Science News, Jan 3, 2009, pg 28-32

THANK YOU!!

“December 20th was a very meaningful day for me. I realized even before the day began that the presentation of our cantata, both in the morning and in the evening, would be something uniquely special. And, as I expected, it had an impact on my heart as we could all quite easily internalize the story line of that creation and adopt it as our congregation's very own.

But I wasn't prepared for the incredibly generous gift you presented me with that morning. Allowing me to be your pastor is a gift to me. Knowing you as friends is a gift to me. Loving you as sisters and brothers is a gift to me.

Your generosity truly is above and beyond – and Tanya and I deeply appreciate each one of you.

With love, Pastor Bud”

MEETING NIGHT DEC 8TH

All boards - Christian Ed, Diaconate, and Trustee - will meet at 6:30 on Tuesday, **December 8th**. Our Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00.

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

The Covenant Committee has been hard at work for over a year now. I would like to give thanks to several people for their efforts. First, I would like to express sincere thanks to Rebekah Springer for getting the ball rolling regarding the re-wording and updating of our covenant. Second, I would like to recognize the Covenant Committee who have persevered in order to present this proposed revision to you: Don Haury, Jack Chesebro, Marcus Rotundo, and Pastor Bud. Their task was to present us with a covenant that would both challenge and enhance our daily lives.

Their proposed covenant was presented at the Church Council in October, which unanimously approved that it be brought before the entire congregation at our Annual Meeting in January. The choices will be to continue with the existing Church Covenant, replace the current covenant with the proposed revision, or have no covenant at all.

Your duty now is to read the both the current and the proposed documents (on the reverse side of this page) and be prepared to discuss and vote upon this issue.

Genie Rotundo, Moderator

Lay Study Course

Our Iroquois Association is offering the course "Basic Christian Beliefs", beginning on Monday, January 18th at the Port Byron Federated Church. Instructing will be Rev. Neil Strong. The intent of this course is to encourage people to explore their own beliefs and to have those beliefs challenged and strengthened upon reflection on study of Scripture, of other theologians, and on input from other students.

For more details, please check the flier in our hallway, or contact Pastor Bud.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our first Lunch Bunch gathering of 2010 will be on **Tuesday the 12th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. The main course will be pork and sauerkraut.

Christmas Cantata

If you think our sanctuary was packed the morning of our cantata, you're correct. And it was almost as crowded that evening, as friends and neighbors came to be ministered to by our choir.

In case you missed it – perhaps you were out of the area or laid up that day – it was truly a beautiful illustration of how the love of Jesus can change a community. Lynn Bort had no idea when she ordered that music what was about to unfold.

As our choir moved beyond becoming familiar with the music, they began paying closer attention to the details of the narrative. As expected, it was a drama created to weave each of the musical selections into a coherent, modern-day story.

But it was more than that – much more. The details of Deegan's story and the story being told in "It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year" began to simultaneously sink into the hearts and minds of our choir. The story told by Sue C. Smith and Russell Mauldin is Deegan Funke's story.

So our choir dedicated this year's cantata presentations to little Deegan.

Miracles are provided by God – often through human agents such as doctors and nurses. But those human agents do come at a cost. If you feel you would like to contribute to our own "Miracle in the Square", you may make a donation payable to "**Friends of Deegan**" and place it in with your regular offering.

ELIJAH'S CORNER

On December 18th, our AB Youth had a very successful Christmas party in our newly rehabbed basement space dubbed Elijah's Corner. Present were 13 youth, and they gave that area a workout.

Now that the carpet has been put down and the space is usable, we will formally dedicate Elijah's Corner to the work of Youth Ministry on Sunday, January 24th. Our ceremony will include Eagle Scout Kevin Hamon, who undertook the huge task of cleaning and painting along with the installation of a wall to separate the youth space from our storage space.

Prayer for January

God of justice, we long to see your kingdom come and your will done on earth. Lift up those who are working for your glory, and bring down those structures and systems that perpetrate injustice and oppression. Lord, let it be.

Never ruin an apology with an excuse

Baptist News

Many of you are aware of who **Rev. Anthony Campolo, Ph.D.** is and perhaps you are among those who never had the opportunity to hear him speak. If so, reserve Saturday, January 23rd in ink, because Rev. Campolo will be the keynote speaker at a conference entitled "**Stewardship 2010: Keeping Faith in an Age of Uncertainty**" at the Baptist Temple in Rochester on that date.

This event, which will run from 9:00 to 3:00, offers seven different workshops, each having to do with different aspects of stewardship. If you think stewardship is a fancy name for pledging or tithing, think again. On second thought, *don't* think again. Sign up to attend this seriously important conference.

The cost is \$25 per participant – with a maximum of \$50 per congregation *up to January 11th*! From the 11th through the 19th, which is the final date for registration, the maximum is \$100.

For more information, see the flyer posted in Fellowship Hall. To register, contact our church office.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE

Our Executive Committee decided at its December meeting to commission an *ad hoc* Web Site Committee to research and recommend options for First Baptist Church to establish an internet presence. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Pastor Bud or any member of our Executive Committee.

Annual Reports

Our office staff would *greatly* appreciate receiving the annual reports from all Officers and Board and Committee chairpersons as soon as you possibly can. And because our Annual Meeting is Sunday the 17th, they ask you to *please* make sure they're into the church office **not later than January 11th**. This will give our church staff the time they will need to produce and assemble them.

Although they certainly will accept handwritten reports, typewritten is preferred – and receiving them by e-mail will make their life even easier. Thank you for your help!

AB Women's News



Monday, January 4th, 10:00 –

Meet in Fellowship Hall to make roller bandages for White Cross Requests.

Monday, February 1st, 10:00 –

Meet to finish the quota.

Come prepared to have a ripping good time and help our missionaries with their needs. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Flower, our new White Cross Requests chairperson. Welcome, Nancy. We will do our best to get the requests filled.