

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
Lynn Bort, 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 January mystery member is none other than Art Brooks. Art spent his growing up years in Oley Valley, Pa, and lived a good part of that time with his grandmother in her log cabin.

Our mystery member for February is someone who once lived in Greenland. Do you know who this person is?



Prayer Concerns

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: 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



“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways!”

- Romans 11:33

Men’s Breakfast



This winter weather is good for one thing: being inside with your friends. So, **men of all ages**, we have just the thing for you. On Saturday morning, February 6th, we 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.

If you have thoughts about a movie you think our group would enjoy watching at our March gathering, bring those suggestions with you.

Prayer for February

O God, our hearts cry out for the people of Haiti: for the millions affected, for lost loved ones, lost homes, and lost livelihoods. Lord, have mercy. Draw us together as your people to help in whatever ways we can, and we ask your grace on the emergency rescue and aid workers. Bring relief, bring restoration, bring rescue. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Deadline for Witness Articles

Please have all articles for the Witness in to the church office by **February 22nd**.



Pairs and Spares

Our Fellowship Hall will be the setting for a “Pairs and Spares” outing on Friday, February 13th. And because this seems to coincide with Valentine’s Day, this is a great way for husbands to treat their wives to a delicious meal and a night out.

This year’s menu will have an Italian theme, with lasagna being the main course, thanks to the kitchen wizardry of Mark and Margaret Heitmann.

Hors d’oeuvres will be available at 6:00 with dinner being served at 6:30. Tickets are \$10 per couple and can be purchased from the Heitmanns. Each couple is asked to bring a chocolate dessert to share.

The Heitmanns are looking for a trellis archway that could be used as a setting for photographs. If you know about something like this that we could use for the evening, please contact Mark or Margaret at 676-3473.

Church Directory

The updates and additions made to our draft 2010 Church Directory have been received and the directory has been published and is now available. It has the same color cover as our Annual Reports, light purple. You may wish to recycle last year’s directory (with an orange cover) to avoid confusion.

RMMO

Our Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering began in mid-January and will continue through mid-February. Roxanne Spink, also known as our Special Offerings Lady, has been showing DVD testimonials from RMMO “Thank You Gift” recipients, supplying bulletin inserts, and telling us about the help that is being given on our behalf to

many who have committed their lives to the service of God and for the benefit of others.

Please give what you can to help our church reach its goal of \$610.

To Your Health



You may have been aware of the on-going debate over bisphenol-A (BPA), a plasticizer used in many polymer-based products to make them soft and pliable. The argument has been regarding the perceived health risks of ingesting this chemical.

Now researchers have linked behavioral abnormalities in children whose mothers were exposed to BPA during the first 16 weeks of pregnancy. [Earlier studies have determined BPA to be an “environmental estrogen”.]

Among the many sources of BPA – e.g., can lining, baby formula and bottles, dental fillings, plastic beverage and food containers – researchers were surprised to discover what they believe to be the greatest exposure risk: cash register and credit card receipts.

So if you’re pregnant or plan to become pregnant, handle those receipts as little as possible.

As reported in “BPA in Womb Linked to Childhood Behavior”, Janet Raloff, Science News, Nov 7, 2009, pg 12.

MEETING NIGHT FEB 9TH

Our newly elected Boards of Christian Education, Deacons, and Trustees are all scheduled to meet at 6:30 on Tuesday, February 9th. These meetings will be followed by our Executive Committee meeting at 8:00.

OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Among the items of business at our Annual Meeting, our congregation adopted the proposed Church Covenant that was included in January's Witness. A copy will be fastened to the inside cover of our hymnals and it will be the focus of our time of worship on February 7th.

Constitutional Review

Our congregation authorized the formation of an *ad hoc* Constitutional Review Committee at our Annual Meeting. Even though the issue to be addressed is concerned with details regarding membership, our entire Constitution is open for revision.

Unlike our nation's Constitution, we are not forever bound by the terms of our document. It is here to serve us, our works of ministry, and our needs. As social changes impact us, and as our awareness of who God expects us to be changes and grows, so must the way we define how we will organize ourselves and function.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact our new Moderator, Lynn Bort, or 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.

ELIJAH'S CORNER

Sunday, January 24th marked a significant day in the life of our AB Youth ministry here at First Baptist Church. Although it had been in use during the time work was in process, our renovated youth space in the basement – known as

Elijah's Corner – was formally dedicated to the service of God that morning.

Eagle Scout Kevin Hamon was introduced during our Spotlight Moment by **Mark Heitmann**, his Scout leader, that morning and was on-hand, along with his parents Joe and Sue Hamon, for our service of dedication, which took place in the basement at the closing of our time of worship. Everyone then moved back up to Fellowship Hall for cake and punch to honor Eagle Scout Hamon and to celebrate this event.

Kevin undertook the huge project of removing the unusable items from the basement, moving the youth items to the north side of the basement, cleaning, erecting a wall to keep the youth space separate from our storage space, and applying a fresh coat of paint.

We are thankful to Eagle Scout Hamon for his accomplishment. Youth for many years to come, many whom have not yet been born, will benefit from his commitment to God and to Scouting.

“The matter is quite simple. The Bible is very easy to understand. But we as Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand we are obliged to act accordingly. Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined.”

- *Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher, theologian, and ethicist (1813-1855)*

Baptist News

American Baptist International Ministries (IM) has been keeping us up-to-date with their direct relief efforts as well as the work being done by other agencies they partner with, such as IMA World Health, which provides health care services and supplies primarily in the developing world.

The details will change from day to day, and you can keep up by going to www.InternationalMinistries.org and typing **Haiti** in the search box. Among other things, you will learn that IM has already released **\$65,000** of One Great Hour of Sharing funds for Haiti relief and that Kristy Engle is leading a 75-person team of mostly medical people. And you will have access to the journals of our missionaries. Please take the time to read what they have written.

You can help in this effort right now by praying – by giving “Haiti Relief” money with your regular Sunday offering – by donating through IM’s web site – and by contributing funds for medicine / medical supplies through IMA World Health’s web site, IMAWorldHealth.org.

In the months ahead, there will be opportunities for volunteer work crews to help in Haiti. Contact BIMVolunteers@abc-usa.org for details.

AB Women's News



Monday, February 1st, 10:00 –

Meet to finish our White Cross roller bandage 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.

LAURA CORLISS CALLED HOME



Long-time member, Laura Corliss, lost her years-long struggle with Alzheimer’s disease at the age

of 89 on Friday, January 15th in the home of her daughter, Janet Mazza. Since her husband, Art, died Laura has been living with family members.

Almost from the day the Corliss family moved to their home on State Route 49 in West Monroe in 1950, they were a vital part of this congregation. Laura served our church many years as Deaconess, was very active in our Women’s Society, and was well known for the pies she baked.

In keeping with Laura’s wishes, services will be private. However, there will be a spring burial with a graveside service in Collamer Cemetary. We will announce the date when it is established.

Parents' Night Out

You may be asking yourself, “Wasn’t Parents’ Night Out in December?” And the answer is, “Why, yes it was!” But our industrious AB Youth and their tireless leaders are determined to raise enough money so they can attend “Kingdom Bount” at Darien Lake this Summer. And the December experience was a good one – so they are making the same offer to our friends throughout the Central Square area.

Even if you don’t have children **age 10 or under**, you can help. Just make sure your friends and neighbors know that for **\$5.00 per child**, our AB Youth – along with adult advisors and volunteers – will watch, play with, and entertain children from infants through the age of 10. The games, crafts, and puppet show will keep the children busy – and they’ll even get a snack.

Here are the important details:

Date: February 19th

Time: 6:00 pm until 10:00 pm (the same night)

Place: Fellowship Hall

Just ask them to please call the church at **668-2138** to leave a message with their **name, phone number, number of children, and their ages**. This is, however, on a “**first come, first served**” basis.

Sunday School News

In case you missed this at our Annual Meeting, our Board of Christian Education is going to try a different approach in administrating our education program. The job of Superintendant is a big one with a lot of responsibilities. When Lynn Bort (who also is our choir director) accepted the position of Moderator, she had no choice but to give up her Sunday School duties.

Since our CE Board is well-staffed, each member is going to pick up certain responsibilities and will work together as a team to make sure we have all our bases covered all the time. And, of course, they all know how to get ahold of Lynn – just in case.

This is a bold move and is a challenge to every member of our CE Board. If one of them asks you to help with Children's Church once in a while or to help with one of their plays, consider saying, "Yes! Gladly!"

Annual Reports

If you missed our 164th Annual Meeting and did not get your copy of our Annual Reports, you may pick yours up from the table outside the Fellowship Hall entry to our Sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday



February 17th marks the beginning of the Lenten season. As we have in past years, we will observe it with our friends from the Brewerton Disciples of Christ, Caughdenoy United Methodist, and the Central Square Community Churches.

WEB SITE COMMITTEE

We are still seeking a interested persons to help our church develop this critical means of communicating both with the world and with our

own community of believers. If this interests you, please contact Pastor Bud or Lynn Bort, our Moderator.

The Community Church will be the host church and Pastor Bud will deliver the message. Time, 7:00.

KINGDOM BOUND



You may have heard of Kingdom Bound being a goal that our AB Youth have been planning and working towards attending this Summer. But you may not know much more about it than that. Here's your chance to learn more about it.

Kingdom Bound Ministries is an annual, four-day, family Christian music festival. It takes place at Darien Lake Theme Park and the dates this year will be August 1st through the 4th. There will be over 45 artists and speakers, challenging seminars, extreme sports demos, and more.

The cost is \$85 per day for both the park and the Kingdom Bound event. Camping on site is an option, costing \$805 for the entire four days, which includes camper hook-up and six (6) tickets to the park and event.

This is not just for our youth, but for anyone who would like to take part in the fun and see what's going on in the Christian youth scene.

Please speak with Jill Gillette if you even think you might be interested.

"This hour in history needs a dedicated circle of transformed non-conformists. The saving of our world from pending doom will come not from the actions of the conforming majority, but through the creative maladjustment of a dedicated minority."

- Dr. Martin Luther King.