

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 April mystery member is Stewart Smith. Stewart worked for Crucible Steel for many years, installing and maintaining huge cranes, mounted high overhead. And he never fell.

Our mystery member for May is someone who only learned to drive when their adult son tossed them a set of keys to the car he left in her driveway. 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; 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



“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.”

Hebrews 10:24

Men’s Breakfast



Our Men’s Breakfast will again take place the second Saturday the month [May 8th] because of the Rummage Sale. But we have a special treat for you. We have a transport trailer in our parking lot with an ABMen logo and markings designating it as a disaster relief asset. It’s loaded with tools and equipment used for clean-up operations when activated by the Red Cross.

We will have a visitor with us who had gone out with this trailer to speak with us and give us a tour. Please note: *invite your friends and neighbors to this breakfast!* Many men would love to become involved in this kind of work but have no way of making a connection with a group such as our ABMen. Just call our church office to let them know how many you will bring with you.

So, **men of all ages**, join us in Fellowship Hall at **8:00** for a hearty breakfast, good fellowship, and an introduction to our ABMen of NYS disaster relief.

Prayer for May

God of the rich and of the poor, God of the high and of the lowly, God of all people, we ask that you would stir the desire in all our hearts to allow your kingdom come in the relationships among us. May we then responsibly address the disparities we see and seek the restoration of all who are marginalized. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS MAY 11TH

Tuesday, May 11th, at 6:30 is when our Diaconate, Trustee, and Christian Education boards will meet. Our Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00.

Deadline for Witness Articles

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

Executive Minister

“Dear ABCNYS family,

“Undergirded by your prayers, the Executive Minister Search Committee has continued to move forward with the search. Our interviews with three candidates were positive and instructive. We decided to talk further with one candidate. Our conversations have helped us to learn more about the candidate and to examine and understand more fully who we are. We have scheduled another conversation with the candidate this month. We trust that God will reveal to us with clarity whether this is the right person for us at this time.

“We covet your prayers and support. We continue to seek to discern God's will in this leadership search and believe that we have often seen God's leading.”

Rosemary Oaks-Lee, Chairperson
Executive Minister Search Committee

Church Copier

We have a nice, new copy machine in our office and it works great! If you've used it, you may have noticed that it turns on automatically – as soon as you insert an original into the paper feed or lift the lid.

What you might not have noticed is that it does not turn itself off. Unless you push the **off** button, it will run for hours. So – *please* – take note of that “off” button.

To Your Health



Do you need another reason to quit smoking? Is the danger of cancer not quite enough? Try this. The tobacco in cigarettes host hundreds of different types of bacteria and fungi, most of which belong to families that form spores – meaning they can survive in the dryness of cigarettes until they reach an environment that allows them to grow.

Among the most prevalent are germs that cause food poisoning, pneumonia, and serious staph infections. [By the way - - much of this research was conducted at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.]

As reported in “Germs in Tobacco Potential Source for Infections Blamed on Smoking”, Janet Raloff, Science New, March 13, 2010.

Baptist News

Our Iroquois Association will give a great look to the past at the Spring Meeting this year. Meridian Baptist Church is celebrating its 200th anniversary, and each congregation will bring some of their history to share. Of course, there will be an “old fashioned” church picnic with barbequed chicken as the main course. Participants are encouraged to dress in period costume (the period of our church's founding), if at all possible.

Reservations are requested for lunch – which will cost \$5 per person. So *please* contact the church office if you would like to take part. The date is Saturday May 1st. The meeting will start at 9:30 and will conclude by 3:00.

For more information, please check the flyer on our bulletin board – or call Denise Myers at 626-6865.

The best vitamin for a Christian is B-1.

CAMPING SEASON IS UPON US

Why do we encourage our youth to experience camping at one of our ABC-NYS campgrounds? The purpose of Outdoor Ministries is to provide a safe environment in which to bring people of all ages into a vital, living relationship with Jesus. What better reason could there be?

But here's bigger news. Our campgrounds are not just for American Baptist youth. They are open to all – which means the children of your friends and neighbors.

And here's even bigger news. Our campgrounds aren't just for our youth. On the schedule is a rafting week-end, a men's retreat, mid-summer fun day, as well as an open house – all of which include adults.

For more information, please consult the information on our bulletin board. Or contact Grace Shetler or Pastor Bud.

AB Women's News



This Month:

Tuesday, May 4th – Association Meeting at Scriba.

Sunday, May 9th – Mother's Day / Blanket Sunday.

Coming up:

August – (date to be announced) Scriba picnic.

TRANSPORT CHAIR

Penny Faulter has graciously donated a brand new **transport chair** that can be used for persons who may need assistance entering and exiting our building. It's located by the coat rack at parking lot entrance to Fellowship Door. If you notice

someone that might benefit from its use, offer to help them with our transport chair.

HAITI UPDATE

As you know, Mark Montas Joseph, our Haitian brother in ministry, and his family survived the earthquake. But his house is now unlivable – repairable, but unlivable. Estimates for the repairs total \$8,625.

If you would like to donate money to help in the repair effort, checks can be made payable to **Haiti Employee Quake Recovery** and mailed to Dakotas Conference Treasurer, PO Box 460, Mitchell, SD 57301.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch will again gather for lunch and great fellowship on **Tuesday, May 11th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. Please come if you are able to take part in the delicious meal and heart-felt fellowship.

Save the Date

If you have children, or your neighbors have children, or your children have children, or your friends have children, convince them to **save this date: August 14th**. Why? Our VBS program is scheduled for that day from 10 to 2 at Goettel Park. More details as the date gets near.

Ken Faulter Interment

Penny Faulter would like everyone to know that the committal service for her beloved Ken will be 11:00 on Friday, May 14th at Hillside Cemetary. All are welcome.

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings.

Locked Doors

As you may know, our parking lot door is locked after our worship begins and a sign directing people to use the front entrance is put on the door. We all realize how much of an inconvenience that can be – especially when trying to manage an armload of children.

We have had incidents in the recent years where people have wandered into the back of our building while our congregation was in the sanctuary. Of much greater concern to us than the potential loss of property is the safety of our children and those who minister to our children.

We became very concerned for the safety of our children and the Children's Church volunteers. Although nothing harmful happened then, it doesn't take much imagination to realize the potential for real harm to be done, given the many instances of violent incidents at churches in recent times. We could very easily regret allowing such easy access to our classrooms and Fellowship Hall.

So, we have made it a practice to lock the parking lot and side entrances about 5 minutes after the beginning of our time of worship. Our Trustees discussed this practice again at their last meeting and will be looking into alternatives that would not compromise the safety of our most vulnerable members.

We hope you can appreciate our concern for the welfare of our children and volunteers. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Who is Lulu Fleming?

Give up? Well, Lulu was the first - - maybe we'll just let you find out for yourself. There's a great article about Lulu in the Winter 2010 issue of International Ministries newsletter, On Location which can be found in the reading rack in Fellowship Hall.

We challenge you to be the first to read about Lulu, and then write a *short* article for next

month's Witness so everyone will know what you learned.

HEALTHY KID SNACKS

Here's a nutrition tip for those who care for youngsters from nubites, the newsletter of Nutrition Matters.

Banana pop – Peel a banana and cut it in half lengthwise. Spread peanut butter on the cut side and roll it in crushed breakfast cereal. [Then eat.]

Musical Notes



In many ways, music is a gift. But those who have this gift have received it not simply for their own enjoyment. It is to be shared with the community. We have several in our worshipping community that can play musical instruments. This is an open invitation to contact either Lynn Bort or Pastor Bud to offer to share your abilities during our time of worship. Don't be shy, now.

Emergency Items

It's important that our church building have emergency items such as **fire extinguishers** and **first aid kits** on hand. It's just as important that people know where these items are when the need arises.

We have three fire extinguishers. One is mounted on the wall by the **exit nearest the Fellowship Door of the sanctuary**; one is in the kitchen, mounted **on the lower wall between the stove and the counter**; and the third is in the **basement, mounted on the wall by the outside exit**.

We have two first aid kits. One is in the church **office right behind the paper cutter**, and one is in the kitchen **on the counter next to the stove**.

Our Web Site

Although it is not yet up and running, we are moving forward with plans to establish a presence on the internet. Although this form of communication can and will be helpful to our congregation, it is not for our benefit. The purpose for this effort is to communicate clearly and directly with those who are not yet here.

Even though the Witness will be made available on-line, we will continue providing a printed version. We will have more to share with you in the June issue.

Summit Follow-up

At our Summit last October, we, along with our friends from the Central Square Community Church, began exploring ideas on how we might better represent Jesus to the Millennials in our community. The discussions were probing, thoughtful, and animated. Many creative ideas arose. The only complaint voiced was that it ended too soon.

Now that Winter is over, we and our neighbors would like to get together to continue those discussions. The suggestion is to meet for a few hours over a lunch on a Sunday, a Saturday for breakfast, or a Saturday for lunch. One suggestion is to do this in the back room at Good Golly's.

There's an orange sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall where you can rank your preference for day and time and suggest a different location.

Friends of Deegan

The Youth Group of First Baptist in collaboration with the Friends of Deegan will be preparing Gift Baskets as part of a benefit to be held at First Baptist on June 12, 2010. They are asking for donations to fill the gift baskets as well as the baskets. The Youth will begin assembling these baskets on May 21. Donations will be accepted through June 11 and can be given to Jill Gillette,

Kay Springer, Mark Heitmann, Margaret Heitmann, or any youth member.

The benefit, which will also include a dinner and a silent auction, will help offset the burdensome costs associated with Deegan's cancer treatments. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community around us to join in our ministry.

Gift Basket Ideas

Fishing Basket:

Contents: anything fish....tackle, fishing lures, fish pillows, fish t-shirt, fish hat, etc., snacks to eat while fishing....maybe even hand-warmers for those ice fishermen.

Homemade Stuff Basket:

Contents: baked goods (muffins, breads, cookies), jellies, jams, etc.

Kids activity baskets:

Contents: markers, crayons, activity books, mini puzzles, mini car games (they sell car/travel versions of monopoly, etc.)

Camping basket:

Contents: flashlight, bug spray, marshmallows, graham crackers, marshmallow sticks, chocolate bars, lighter, fire starters

BBQ basket:

Contents: barbeque sauce, apron, grill cleaner, grill brush, chips, grill tongs, oven mitts

“Master of beauty, craftsman of the snowflake, inimitable contriver ... Unknowable, as I am unknown to my guinea pigs: How can I 'love' you? I only as far as gratitude & awe confidently & absolutely go. I have no idea whether we live again. It doesn't seem likely from either the scientific or the philosophical point of view but certainly all things are possible to you, and I believe as fixedly in the Resurrection-appearances to Peter and to Paul as I believe I sit in this blue chair.”

John Berryman, from his poem "Address to the Lord"