

THE WITNESS

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Baptist Church of Central Square

www.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.”

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 Summer mystery member is Nancy Flower. Before Nancy’s career as a nurse, she baked doughnuts at the same local bakery for which Bruce Herrick once delivered doughnuts. (But they didn’t work there at the same time.)

Our mystery member for September is someone who volunteers many hours as a Fire Policeman. 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



“Then John gave this testimony: ‘I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy

Spirit.” I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.”

John 1:32-34

Men’s Breakfast



We will not have our Men’s Breakfast in September. Our time of sharing our lives and our faith will resume again on Saturday, October 2nd – the first Saturday of the month.

Prayer for September

O God, take my hand. Help me this month, as I strive to be more like you and show your lovingkindness to those around me. I need your guidance; I need your strength; I need your love. Give me the presence of mind to see those in need of your care, a compassionate heart to feel the pain of others, and a willingness to be a witness through all of my words and actions. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Now that Summer is behind us, our Christian Ed, Deacon, and Trustee boards will resume their usual schedule as they meet at 6:30 on **September 14th**, the second Tuesday of the month. Our Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00.

Charity is no substitute for justice withheld.

- St. Augustine

Deadline for Witness Articles

All articles for the October Witness will be due in the church office by **September 22nd**.

To Your Health



For several years the conventional wisdom was to avoid the fats contained in dairy products such as milk and cheese due to the risk associated with cardiovascular disease. Now comes an ironic twist. A recent Swedish study now correlates intake of dairy foods with a decrease in heart attack risk, especially in women.

Although the long-term study doesn't conclude that dairy fats are the reason for these results, since milk also contains proteins, hormones, and hundreds of trace nutrients. But it appears as if, at least for women, they do not pose the danger they had long been suspected of.

This is not a recommendation to tank up on ice cream and brie. But a daily glass of milk might not be a bad idea. Of course, you would want to discuss this with your doctor if you're on a restricted diet.

As reported in "Dairy Foods May Cut Heart Attack Risk", Janet Raloff, Science New Online, August 27, 2010.

Baptist News

July 2, 2010

Following an unsuccessful time of searching for a person to fill the position of Executive Minister for the past year and half, the Search Committee returned to the Board of Mission for more guidance. On June 4, 2010, the Board of Mission of ABC/NYS gave the search committee a new charge - to search for a part-time interim minister for administrative, supervisory and

representational responsibilities and for individual(s) to shepherd a process of envisioning and transformation for the region. This interim time would be seen to not exceed 3 years.

As a result, the search committee has developed a position description for an interim minister for administration and has begun to task to bring clarity about what we want to accomplish with a "consultant-shepherd" and how we will go about that.

We are pressing forward, hoping to fill these positions as soon as we can find those persons who we believe will give the leadership needed as we move forward. We are grateful for your patience and faith in us, and to the staff and volunteers who continue to advance the work of the region in this time of transition. We continue to ask for your prayers and will keep you informed of our progress.

Rosemary Oaks-Lee, chair
ABCNYS Executive Minister Search Committee
abcnyssearch@gmail.com

BAPTISM SEPTEMBER 19TH

Have you been feeling as if God is becoming more important to you – like God is drawing you closer – and Jesus is occupying a larger part of your heart than before? Are you almost to the point that you want to let everyone know that Jesus is important enough to you that you want to become a follower, but you're not sure what to do about it?

Maybe it's time you speak with Pastor Bud about the possibility of being baptized on September 19th. The Baptist view on baptism is that it's an outward announcement of an inner change that has already taken place and marks the beginning of a life-long journey of becoming. Becoming what? Becoming a follower, an apprentice, of Jesus.

"When I feed the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why so many people are poor, they call me a communist"

- Dom Helder Camara, late archbishop of Recife, Brazil

NOT JUST FOR KIDS

September 12th marks the beginning of our 2010 – 2011 Sunday School / Adult Education program. And if you think this is just for our children and youth, think again. The classes we offer are age appropriate for both presentation *and* content. Just like education in our public schools, as we mature and gain life experience, our education moves to deeper levels.

We know that becoming the person God wants us to be is a life-long process. It's a process that involves – among other things – challenges, reading, study, and discussion. In other words, everything our Sunday School and Adult Education offers.

You still get to sleep in. Our classes start at 9:00. See you then!

RUMMAGE SALE

Our ABWomen will hold their famous Fall **Rummage Sale and Chili Hut** on **Friday October 8th and Saturday the 9th**. They are asking for whatever clean, serviceable items and articles of clothing you may wish to donate. You may take them to the Jude classroom, down to the basement, or leave them in Fellowship Hall.

As always, proceeds will be used to help fund their many mission projects.

Small Group

You may have been involved in groups that were small in number that met on a regular basis at some point during your life. A lot of us have. But that only describes a superficial aspect of what Small Group Ministry is all about.

Perhaps there was a spiritual or religious aspect to some of those groups. But even that is not what describes Small Group Ministry.

So if a group of people that numbers about seven or so meet on a regular basis for Bible study, or a

book study, or for mission-oriented tasks is not a Small Group, then what is? What's the difference between something like this and Small Group Ministry?

The defining difference is the purpose of the group. The mission of Small Group Ministry is to provide a structure, an environment, and focused intent to help people become apprentices of Jesus. Stated in church jargon, to make disciples. Period.

Many Christians have been involved with church life for a long time and have learned a lot about how churches operate. Many have learned about the Bible. Many have been exposed to 'situation ethics' sessions.

But when it comes to the most important thing Jesus expects of us – to become disciples – we've mostly been left to do this on our own.

On Sunday, September 26th following our Fellowship Hour we will have a session to introduce Small Group Ministry. Pizza and soda will be provided, so why not plan on staying? It just may lead to something that will change your life.

Lay Study Program

With Summer almost gone, school days are upon us. And this includes courses offered by our Iroquois Association's Lay Study Program. A course in Spiritual Development will be offered in Meridian on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 beginning September 13th. Also, an Introduction to Christian Counseling will be presented at Eastwood on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 with the first class on October 2nd.

For more information consult the flyers posted in our hallway. Or speak with Pastor Bud.

Vision Community

Our Vision Community will meet on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:30.

INTRO TO STEPHEN MINISTRY

As you know, one of the distinguishing characteristics of a church is that it is in the process of becoming a community of believers. The ‘becoming’ part indicates that being a believer is a life-long journey that only comes to an end when we draw our final breath.

It also means we continue work at being a fully-formed community. This, too, is a life-long effort. Part of being a Jesus-directed community is that we care for one another. One of the most tangible ways this is lived out is through the ministry of visitation.

This is another of the many instances where common English dilutes the full intent and purpose of the church. Although it does involve spending personal time with one in need, Visitation Ministry is not the same as a social call. Discussing the weather, SU basketball, or the goings on at church may be fun, but it’s not the focus of Visitation Ministry.

The Stephen Ministries organization provides high-quality training to church members on the art and practice of caring ministry. There will be a half-day workshop conducted by Stephen Ministries on Saturday, October 2nd from 9:00 to 1:00 at the Cicero UMC church at a cost of \$15 per person.

For more details, speak with Pastor Bud or consult the flyer posted in our hallway. If you would like to catch a ride with Pastor Bud, let him know.

Book Study



Our book study of Annie Chapman’s Letting Go of Anger, is still open to new participants. The reading so far has stimulated deep and helpful conversations regarding anger and its impact.

For those who are interested but have missed the Summer meetings, we encourage you to obtain a copy of this book [www.bookfinder.com is a great source for books], read through the end of the first chapter, and review the study guide in the back of the book. For more details please call Jill Gillette.

Our Web Site

Our web site is up and operational. To take a look, go to www.fbc-cs.com. We’re still making adjustments and will have new pages to add as time goes by. Please keep in mind the primary purpose of this is to connect with those who are not involved with any church.

Farewell, Sarge and Bev!

Our long-time friends, Bev and Sarge Mitchell, are making their annual trip to Arizona. Only this time, their move will be permanent. To help us all bid our farewells and express our love and fondness for each other, we will have a **carry-in dinner** following our time of worship on **September 12th**.

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRY

The Rural and Migrant Ministry of Oswego County, based in Richland, provides a free “Open Hands” medical clinic on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 7:00. RMMOC is a good place with good people that do good things serving underserved rural and migrant residents. It came into being 11 years ago when the group Women Religious identified this need and collaborated with other community agencies to provide this ministry.

Unfortunately, the number of volunteer nurses for this weekly clinic has decreased substantially due to illness, retirement, etc. If you know of a licensed nurse that would be interested in volunteering their skills for this clinic, please ask them to call Penny or Margaret at 298-1154 – or e-mail them at rmmoc@yahoo.com. For more information, please consult the flier posted on our bulletin board.

“Since when do you have to agree with people to defend them from injustice?”

--Lillian Hellman

DEEGAN FUNKE'S WITH GOD



After a long, brave battle with cancer, 6 year-old Deegan Matthew Funke breathed his last late Wednesday afternoon, July 28th while a patient at the Gallisano Children's hospital with his mom and dad, Joy and Kyle Funke, at his bedside. His parents bravely kept us informed of Deegan's ups and downs during this year of turmoil through the web site CaringBridge.org.

Deegan was a vibrant part of the life of our church. In the few short years that we were blessed with his presence, Deegan made his way into the hearts of us all. He was central to our prayer life, strengthened our sense of identity as a community of believers, and – in the words of his dad, his loss “got a lot of people talking about God.”

Please continue to hold Deegan's family – Joy, Kyle, and his brother Anthony in your prayers that they may always feel the comforting touch of the Spirit of God.

ABWomen's News



This month:

Saturday, September 11th –

Our ABWomen's Annual Retreat will be held at the home of Genie Rotundo, beginning at 9:00. Come prepared for inspiration, planning, sharing, and lots of fellowship followed by food and conversation. Please bring a Bible, pen, and a dish to pass. *All women are invited.*

“Masculinity ought to be defined in terms of relationships, and taught in terms of the capacity to love and be loved.”

Joe Ehrmann - Football Coach.

SHARRYL BAKER CALLED HOME



Early on Saturday, July 31st Sharryl Baker, widow of Jack Baker, breathed her last while waiting for her son, Rick and his fiancée, Erica to arrive at her home for a week-end visit. Sharr had been receiving treatment for cancer for almost two years, having traveled to Sloan-Kettering on a regular basis.

Sharr was actively involved with ABWomen, our Vision Community, the Board of Christian Education, and our Music Committee. She had volunteered as our choir director for many years and was serving as our Church Clerk at the time of her death. Sharryl also participated in our Sunday school program, prayer meeting and Bible study, Lunch Bunch, and other aspects of our community life.

Please continue to hold her son, Rick and her sister, Ronda in your prayers as they, and we, mourn our loss.

Improvements

Have you noticed? Our wooden **front steps and landing** have been replaced with tough, durable vinyl, thanks to the expertise of **Kyle Funke** and funds from **Ken Faulter's** memorial fund.

To go along with this beautiful improvement, the Trustees also had the tall spruce trees along the north side of our sanctuary taken down. Although they were beautiful, they had reached full maturity. Under expert advisement, our Trustees felt we were risking very serious damage to both our building and the one next to ours if we allowed them to remain standing

Late Witness

If you're wondering why this is so late getting to you, the mother board on our church computer burned out just as the finishing touches were being applied to the September Witness.