

*ADVENT *ACTIVITIES

For those who like to plan their time early, our Board of Christian Education has scheduled several events that we all look forward to.

On Sunday, **December 5th**, we will enjoy a light lunch following our time of worship and then move into our **Family Craft Day**. Every year, we are presented with new, creative ways to make a variety of Christmas decorations. The materials will be provided as well as expert guidance in making your lovely decorative creations.

White gifts will be collected this year to help a local family or two enjoy the gift-giving season with their children. We will have more details in the December Witness.

December 19th marks the Sunday when we expect to have three special visitors from some far-away land reported to be **Three Wise Men**, bringing gifts to give to our young ones. A **carry-in meal** following our time of worship will help us set the stage for our guests from afar.

Advent Communion

Although we traditionally observe the ordinance of Communion the first Sunday of each month, we have varied from that on occasion. Communion is about remembering why Jesus came to Earth and Advent is a celebration of his first coming.

So, this year, we will celebrate the first Sunday of Advent, November 28th, with a Communion service. We hope this will help us make the transition to Advent more meaningful for us all.

OUR NURSERY

You probably know how much of a blessing Rebekah Springer and Courtney Cuny continue to be to us. Courtney will soon receive her Associates Degree from OCC in Early Childhood Development after having taken related courses at BOCES during her high school years.

Rebekah, a senior at Paul V. Moore High School, is taking the same courses at BOCES that Courtney had and will be off to SUNY Cortland next year to pursue a degree in Early Childhood

Development. In addition, she is currently employed at a childcare center in Cicero during her after-school hours.

Their commitment to serve us in this way has been more than a blessing to the parents whose children they supervise. They have been a blessing to the children as well. The love and attention they receive from Courtney and Rebekah week-in and week-out are making a difference in their lives.

The care and attention of our nursery staff goes even further than that. Next time you're in our building, take a look inside our nursery. You will notice it is well maintained, clean, cheery, and inviting. They have worked hard to sort through all the items that had accumulated there over the years and have gotten rid of items that were broken, beyond their useful life, and out of date and have brought in items that are more entertaining for the kids.

You'll also notice a little sign on the door, just below the one that asks adults to *please* not wear high heels upon entering. It's a list of suggestions for those who would like to make a donation to the operation of our nursery. And those you would should speak with either Rebekah or Courtney beforehand.

And when you do, make sure you let them know how much you appreciate all they do for us.

ABCUSA 2011 Biennial

It may seem like a long way off, but attending the American Baptist Churches USA 2011 Biennial, scheduled for June 24th – 26th in Puerto Rico will require some long-range planning.

You may not realize that the rich diversity within our denomination makes it unique in with world-wide Baptist family. Racially, ethnically, linguistically, and theologically, American Baptist Churches offers a slice of heaven.

Highlights will include missional experiences, the 50th anniversary of the Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico, inspirational music from around the island, great speakers with powerful messages, and several workshops and Bible studies.

For more information, please visit the ABCUSA web site at <http://www.abc-usa.org>.

STANDARD TIME BEGINS

Another reminder. Before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th, turn your clocks *back* one hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

To Your Health



Studies have shown that having a pet can be beneficial to the overall health of a human being. It stands to reason that the healthier our pets are, the healthier we can be. The picture above should probably be of a dog, because this month we will focus on their health.

Perhaps you've heard that dogs should not eat chocolate. It's true, and here's why. Cocoa beans contain stimulants, like caffeine and theobromine. Because dogs metabolize theobromine slowly, it can build up quickly in a dog's system.

Also, dogs are gluttons and can put away huge amounts of whatever they feel like eating. The overload of stimulants, should they get into chocolate, will affect their cardiovascular and nervous systems and their kidneys, it can cause them to be hyperactive, to vomit, and to lose control of other bodily functions. In severe cases, respiratory failure is possible as well as cardiac irregularities and death.

So, be good to your dog and you eat the chocolate.

NO THANKSGIVING SERVICE

There has been a steady decrease in interest in supporting a community Thanksgiving service in recent years. So, it has been decided to set that tradition aside. Pastor Bud presented this to our Church Council and offered to hold a service here

if that's what people wanted. Because of the lack of interest, we encourage you to enjoy family time this Thanksgiving eve.

Deegan Funke Bracelets

Jill Gillette still has a few Deegan Funke bracelets available. They have been provided by teachers from the Hastings-Mallory Elementary School as a fund raiser to enable them to provide a memorial for Deegan at the school. They are asking for a donation of \$2.00 (+) for each bracelet to help them memorialize their time with Deegan.

Directory Update

Please add this temporary address to your directory:

Hazel Schaff
4176 South Old Windmill Lane
Tucson, AZ 85735

520-883-9215

Bereavement Support Group

Our Bereavement Support Group has restarted and is now meeting on the **last Monday** of every month, starting at **6:30** and ending by **8:00**. It is open to anyone from the greater community.

When someone close to us dies, the adjustment to life without our loved one can involve a difficult roller coaster of emotions. We may really want to "just get over it", as many people think we 'should' do, but that is much easier said than done.

Each person experiences grief differently and works through their grief differently. One thing that often helps is to share thoughts, feelings, and coping mechanisms with others who are going through similar situations. This, then, is the purpose of our support group.

If you would like to participate, or would like more information, please speak with Pastor Bud.

Blue Christmas

For so many people, the Advent season is a time of internal conflict. Many who have experienced the death of a loved one suffer through Thanksgiving and the Christmas season as a time of mourning, a time of being reminded anew of their loss and the pain they have suffered through.

The feeling of loss can be renewed every year, as memories of holidays past flood a person's mind at the aroma of pumpkin pie, the sound of a special Christmas carol, or the aroma of a freshly-cut Christmas tree. The wound is worsened when those around them appear to be having a happy, joyful time while, inside, they are having a difficult time just keeping it together. They can hurt even more when someone who is not aware of what they're going through chides them, saying "C'mon, my friend. Cheer up! It's Christmas time. Don't be such a humbug!"

If you or someone you know might experience the holidays in such a way this year, you or your friends may find our "**Blue Christmas**" service on **Sunday evening, November 14th at 7:00** to be helpful as Advent arrives.

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Those who have been around churches for a while recognize the word 'pledge' to be a request for a financial commitment to the church. The importance is that our Trustees devote a lot of effort to make sure we use all we receive wisely. Pledges help them as they prioritize our expenses for the coming year.

Our Trustees will be distributing **Pledge Sheets** for the year 2011 the beginning weeks of November. During our time of worship on **November 21st** we will then receive those pledges and our **Faith Budget Proposal** will be presented immediately following during a **carry-in lunch**.

You will notice that half of our Pledge Sheets give you an opportunity to express how you would like to pledge your time and talent to our church. Please carefully consider this portion as well. God has granted gifts to each of us – and our church can benefit from every one.

City – Suburban Partners

InterFaith Works of CNY is working in cooperation with the Onondaga County Executive's Office to begin building relationships between city and suburban congregations. Joannie Mahoney, the County Executive, recognizes that the only effective way to make real, substantive, positive change in our community is to begin at the grass roots. She also knows that in order for this to happen, it's necessary that the faith communities be a vital part from the very beginning.

The planning breakfast, which you read about in October's "Pastor's Corner", is the kick-off event where representatives from area churches will gather and find partner church to pair up. Each team will then begin discussing the type of project they would like to undertake that would make their community a better place.

Besides the obvious, our neighbors may begin to see the religious community in a different light as we work together, emphasizing what we have in common, and working for the good of others.

Add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall and join us on Thursday, November 4th from 8:00 to 10:30 at Tucker Missionary Baptist Church, 515 Oakwood Avenue in Syracuse. For more details, please consult the flyer on the bulletin board or speak with Pastor Bud.

Musical Notes



Our choir is already revving up for this year's cantata, "O Holy Night" by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. It's not too late for you to add your voice to our ensemble. But ye be forewarned: our director, Lynn Bort, will have you doing more than standing still while you sing. So come out and join the fun every Tuesday evening at 6:00 from now until Sunday, December 19th.

Baptist News

Our Iroquois Association of American Baptist Churches will have its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 7th at the Fabius Christian Church. Registration starts at 2:00 and the program begins right at 2:30.

Why might you be interested in attending? The speaker for the day is the dynamic Rev. Dr. Ray Schooler, formerly an ABC pastor in the Buffalo area and presently serving as Director of Development and Church Relations for International Ministries (IM).

The way IM funds and supports missionaries has undergone a radical change and has not yet settled down. But far from being the crushing load many thought it would be, the approaches developed have been very successful. In fact, IM is currently commissioning new missionaries!

So, make plans to take part in this very timely an informative session. And let either Lynn Bort or Pastor Bud know you plan to be there. P.S. – Pastor Bud will have room in his car for a few more.

THAT HORRID "E" WORD

“Evangelism! That’s a job for – someone else, but not me!” Almost anyone reading this will react to the word ‘evangelism’ something like this. But it doesn’t have to be this way. Really, it doesn’t.

We react this way because almost all of us have come to think of evangelism as knocking on the door of some stranger – and arguing with them; or walking up to some stranger in a parking lot and shoving a tract in their face – and arguing with them; or standing on a street corner and asking complete strangers questions about where they think they’ll spend all of eternity – and arguing with them.

None of these will be discussed or encouraged during this workshop. And we will not be taking and evangelism field trip afterwards.

What we will be taking a close look at is the way Paul approached the Greeks in Athens. It’s not about the words he used – those were his words, not yours – but the approach he took, why it worked, and when and why it failed.

If you would like to interact with people outside the church in a way that will not reinforce the negative image the Church has earned for itself, add your name to the yellow sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

CANNED GOODS SUNDAY

Just a reminder. Our Diaconate has begun receiving canned goods the first Sunday of every month. All the donated food will go to the food pantry ministry of the Downstairs Scotty at St. Michael’s Church to help our neighbors in need.

Small Group Ministry

A new small group will be forming soon that will meet on Wednesday evenings. The date of the first session will be announced as soon as it has been established. It’s still not too late to become a participant in this spiritually challenging endeavor. The only qualification is that a person be willing to change and grow.

Poinsettias

It is our delightful custom to beautify our sanctuary during the Advent season with poinsettias. We have received prices from our poinsettia supplier early this year and are pleased to announce that the price will again be \$7.00.

Janet Bettinger will announce when she will be ready to receive your orders. As always, when Advent is past, you may take your plant home.

“Live like Jesus did and the world will listen.”

Mahatma Gandhi

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
Lynda Heer, Interim 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 October mystery member is Gary Wood. Gary moved into a mechanic position at the facility in Mexico a few years ago. And when the supervisor’s job came open, Gary was awarded for his excellent work and became supervisor.

Our mystery member for November is someone who once had their own business as a costume designer. 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; Stewart Smith; Jackie Willmer; Jan Rogacki; 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



“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

-Matthew 6:24

Men’s Breakfast



Our Men’s Breakfast offers a time of sharing our lives and our faith along with a hearty meal. So, men, plan to be in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 6th at 8:00 – and bring a buddy.

Prayer for October

Lord, we sing a song of rejoicing to you today. You have embraced our brokenness and offered us wholeness. You have seen our anxieties and given us rest. You have been heartbroken by our denial and yet welcomed us back time and time again. We rejoice in your goodness, O God.

BOARD MEETINGS

All boards will meet on Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30. Our Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00 the same evening.

Deadline for Witness Articles

All articles for the October Witness will be due in the church office by **November 21st**.

“If you desire peace, cultivate justice. But, at the same time, cultivate the field to produce more bread. Otherwise, there will be no peace.”

- Norman Borlaug, from his Nobel Lecture