

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 November mystery member is Tanya Adams. For quite a number of years, Tanya employed immigrant women from Asia as she researched, designed, and produced costumes for traveling opera troupes in Chattanooga. She also created gowns and dresses for wedding parties, banners for major cities and events, and other assorted projects.

Our mystery member for December is someone who is a veterinary technician. 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; 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



“Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

-Luke 2:14

Men’s Breakfast



Our Men’s Breakfast offers a time of sharing our lives along with a hearty meal. We will then consider the implications for our own lives of the message from one of Jimmy Carter’s Sunday school lessons printed in his book, Sources of Strength. So, men, plan to be in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 4th at 8:00 – and bring a buddy.

Prayer for December

God, thank you for endowing us with a spirit that longs to be connected to you. We praise you for giving us a thirst that can be quenched only by your Spirit. Continue to gently draw us near you Lord, in mind, body, spirit, and action. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

All boards will meet on **Tuesday, December 14th** – the Trustees at 6:15 and Christian Ed and Diaconate at 6:30. Our Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00 the same evening.

Deadline for Witness Articles

All articles for the January 2011 Witness will be due in the church office by **December 21st**.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Please come join in the fun with our Diaconate Board and AB Girls as we continue a great First Baptist tradition. On **Saturday, December 18th**, we'll be meeting at **Fellowship Hall at 1:00** to assemble fruit baskets, and we expect to leave to deliver the baskets – with caroling – at about **1:45**. Our shut-ins greatly enjoy and appreciate these visits. The larger the groups the better we sing, so please join us this day! (As always, we'll have cookies and hot chocolate for nourishment).

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.

O Tannenbaum - & Pizza!

Come join the Worship Arrangements Committee for pizza and the fun of putting up our sanctuary Christmas tree! Date: **Friday, December 3rd**. Time: **5:00 until done**.

If anyone would like to donate small, colored, string-along type lights for the tree, we could use a few more strings. If you know you are coming, please see or **call Dail Mizerski at 675-3271** and even a message so we know how many pizzas to buy. If you decide to come at the last minute – please come. We really need your help. Hope to see you there!

New Member Class

If you've been thinking about deepening your connection with our congregation – or if you're simply curious about what it means to be a member here – perhaps you should consider this. Pastor Bud will begin a New Member class in January for you and for others like you. Speak with Pastor Bud for more details.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is a special time for us for many reasons. Along with being a time to acknowledge all the prophecies and events surrounding the birth of Jesus, it provides us with a much-needed time of transition as we leave behind the spirit-numbing secular activities in which we participate and enter the spirit-enriching contemplative hours that await us after we worship together.

On Friday, December 24th, we will as usual provide two opportunities for you and your friends and neighbors to take part in this kind of Christmas Eve experience. The first is at **7:00** and the second will be at **11:00**.

Musical Notes



Since October, our choir has been working on this year's cantata, "O Holy Night" by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith. And we think you'll enjoy this as much as you have their previous productions. And, as before, it is much more than beautiful music. It's a story told in poetic language that is sung instead of being spoken. So, if you pay attention, we believe your heart will be touched.

It will be presented twice on Sunday, December 19th. The first presentation will be at 10:00 during our regular time of worship, and again in the evening at 7:00. This will give you two opportunities to share this beautiful message with your friends and neighbors.

Our Stage Enhancement

After several years of using make-shift stage extensions for our cantatas, we have been blessed with a custom-made portable extension. We cannot thank **Morris Reals**, Margaret Heitmann's dad, enough for this most generous donation of time, talent, and materials.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes, it's that time of year again. For all Board and Committee chairpersons, the fun and festivities of the holiday season run smack into the end of our church's fiscal year. And that means annual reports need to be written and submitted to the church office.

If you start now instead of putting it off till the last minute, finishing it with the final year-end details would then be a snap. And the sooner you can get your report to the office, the happier our office staff will be.

If possible, e-mail submissions are the preferred method. Paper reports can also be turned into the office.

To Your Health



“Don't let the bed bugs bite.” With all the news about the outbreak of this ancient pest, we might wonder what can we do.

The first thing is to try to avoid staying in motels / hotels that have infestations. Although that's easier said than done, there are two web sites that can be helpful. The first is **bedbugregistry.com** which allows people to both report bedbugs and to see where bedbugs have already been reported. Clicking on an interactive map will help you find out what you want to know. Or don't want to know.

The second is a site that coaches us how to inspect a hotel room and what to look for. **www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef636.asp** was written by an entomology professor at the University of Kentucky who has had actual experiences with bed bugs.

If you think you have them, a cheap yet effective way of trapping them is documented at **sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/51188/title/Do-it-yourself_bed-bug_detector**. Basically, put about 2 ½ pounds of dry ice pellets in an insulated, 1/3 gallon jug (like the kind found at camping or sports stores) and don't quite close the lid. Place the container in a plastic cat food dish dusted with talcum powder and tape a piece of paper to the outside of the dish to act as a ramp.

This contraption is just as effective, or better than, two brands of equipment used by professionals. The best part is all the parts, including the dry ice, cost about \$15.

BOARD TRAINING WORKSHOP

ABC/NYS will conduct it's popular **Board Training Workshop** on **February 12th** at their Whitesboro Conference Center. It may seem like a long way off, but time will go by very quickly.

The seminars this year will cover **Christian Ed, Trustees, Deacons, Pastoral Relations, Mission & Stewardship**, and **One Board System**. The material presented has been very helpful to many ABC church members in our Region, including folks from our own church. Details are posted on our bulletin board.

The cost is \$20 per person *if you register by January 28th*. Otherwise, registration is \$25. Check with Pastor Bud for more information; or call Kathie at our Region office: 469-4236 ext. 11.

Directory Update

Please add these temporary addresses to your directory:

Jane Root
6830 Alta Vista St.
Port Richey, FL 34668

315-396-7532 (cell)

Vesta Lewis
7029 Garside Dr.
Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Bereavement Support Group

Our Bereavement Support Group continues to meet from **6:30 to 8:00** on the **last Monday** of every month. It is open to anyone regardless of church affiliation.

If you would like to participate or someone you know is struggling to cope with the loss of someone dear to them, or if you would like more information, please speak with Pastor Bud.

*ADVENT *ACTIVITIES

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 by our Rosebuds along with their expert guidance in making 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. Details will be announced during our worship time on December 5th and will also be posted on our web page **www.fbc-cs.com**.

December 19th will be full of our Advent traditions as our choir will present the cantata "**O Holy Night**" twice – once during our **10:00** time of worship and again at **7:00** in the evening. It also marks the Sunday when we expect three special visitors from a far-away land described as being **Three Wise Men**. They are said to be bringing gifts for each of our young ones. A **carry-in meal** following our time of worship will help us set the stage for these guests from afar.

Small Group Opportunity

The coming new year will also bring an opportunity for you to become part of a new **small group**. Don't let the name fool you into turning this down. It would be easy to think that if you had been involved with a group that was small in size that you know what a small group is.

Small Group Ministry is focused solely on the development of those who want to deepen their spiritual lives and enter into what the Bible refers to as discipleship, but what can more accurately be described as a Jesus apprenticeship. This is **not** a book study, self-help, special interest, or Bible study group.

In truth, every Christian can benefit from the growth experienced through participation in a small group. The limiting factors are one's personal commitment and, of course, timing. Our new group will meet on **Wednesday evenings**.

If you missed our information meeting and would like to learn more about this unique ministry, please speak with Pastor Bud.

Baptist News

Our Region's Outdoor Ministry has announced an opening for Associate Camp Director at Pathfinder Lodge. Their ideal candidate would have these qualifications:

1. Minimum age – 25
2. College Degree – preferably in a field related to Outdoor Ministries.
3. At least 2 years of administrative and/or supervisory experience in organized camping.
4. Direct responsibility for continuous leadership of at least one organized sustained group or organization.
5. Must live on-site during the camp season, including time pre and post season.
6. Must possess some technical, business, administrative and relational skills.

If this interests you or if there's someone you know that you think could be, you can find out more about the job duties from our Region's web site, www.abc-nys.org. Or you could call our Director of Outdoor Ministries, Rev. Dr. John Buskey at 469-4236 ext. 16.

"A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes ... and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent."

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer German theologian and pastor
(1906-1945)