

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 December mystery member is Laura Lowe. Laura recently graduated and received a veterinary technician degree and is working at a large small animal practice in Liverpool.

Our mystery member for January is someone who is a manager at our local Wal-Mart. 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; Phyllis Smith; Jackie Willmer; Ray Olin; Hazel Schaff; Arlene LeBeau; Eva Kairis; Sarge Mitchell; Peter Bailey; Peggy Sue Ashby; Patrick Bort; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

Verse of the Month



“It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as servants, for Jesus’ sake.”

-2 Corinthians 4:5

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.

Because the first Saturday in January is also New Years Day, our breakfast will be held the following **Saturday, the 8th**. So, men, plan to be in Fellowship Hall on January 8th at **8:00** – and bring a buddy.

Prayer for January

O God, strengthen and equip us to practice hospitality to our neighbors. May we give ourselves freely in service to others, as Jesus gave of himself when he lived on Earth. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Trustees – January 11th at 6:15

Deadline for Witness Articles

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

Home Mission – Global Impact

Most people think of Bible studies, food kitchens, and homeless shelters when they hear ‘Home Missions’. Not to discount those actions, the world has changed dramatically over the last few decades – and our home missionaries have kept up with it all.

It’s no longer practical to think of nations in isolation from one another. Because the world of commerce, finance, communications, etc., doesn’t function that way, neither does the impact of what actions we take as people committed to being apprentices of Jesus. So we cannot afford the laziness of thinking that it does.

The war in Congo is the deadliest war since WWII with roughly 45,000 persons dying each month for the last decade. A primary motive for that conflict is the millions of dollars received from US electronic companies. The connection between Congo and electronics are the raw material ‘conflict minerals’ involved in their manufacture.

To learn how you can help our Home Mission Societies put a dent in this money link, see the November / December issue of their “Mission in America” newsletter in our reading rack. On the web, www.raisehopeforcongo.org is also a helpful resource.

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.

Introducing: Journals

As presented at our October Church Council, we will embark on an experiment on Sunday mornings where we will not distribute a printed order of worship.

Because we are now projecting each element of our worship time – which is frequently different from what is printed anyway – it seems to be of questionable value. Even though most of them end up in our recycling container – which is a good thing – and even better step would be to eliminate the waste.

So instead of investing in the bulletin jackets and copier toner, we will distribute a blank journal to each of our regular attenders. This will enable them to take notes during the sermon which can be referred to later in the week and even months down the road.

We will continue to distribute prayer concerns and announcements on a half-sheet of paper which, if you wish, can be taped into your journal for future reference.

Our guests will be given a bulletin jacket with announcements and prayer concerns, but the order of worship will be missing. Instead, that space can be used for note-taking.

We will continue this practice through the month of April and decide whether to continue with it permanently, continue for a few more months, or drop it altogether.

Deegan Funke Bracelets

We recently had a couple of inquiries about the “In Memory of Deegan”. The powder blue bracelets, for which the Hastings-Mallory Elementary School staff are asking \$2 or more a piece, are a fund raiser to help support a memorial at the school in Deegan’s honor. There are still several bracelets available. Just contact our church office.

ABWomen

The ABWomen will gather in Fellowship Hall on **Monday, January 10th at 10 am** to work on the White Cross bandages project. Please check with Delores Olin for more information.

Musical Notes



As anticipated, our Christmas cantata was a moving and beautiful presentation of the Christmas story. Lynn Bort, along with technical help from Lynn Cuny, Jr., once again brought the seemingly impossible out of our choir. *Thank you for a job very well done!*

Although our choir will be taking a break, our Praise Chorus will return to their usual Tuesday evening practices. Along with the obvious leadership they provide us with our opening music, our Chorus provides an opportunity for our worshipping community to be active participants.

Regardless of what you may have heard, public worship is not an individual experience. Individual connections with God can and should be part of everyone's daily life. Public worship is a shared, communal event.

We encourage anyone who wishes to share their love of music on Sunday morning – either instrumental or vocal – to speak with Lynn Bort or Pastor Bud.

ANNUAL REPORTS

This is a last minute reminder for all Board and Committee chairpersons. The fun and festivities of the holiday season end much too abruptly for us all. And that means annual reports need to be written and submitted to the church office.

Our office staff asks that you *please* get your reports turned in *not later than* Monday, January 10th so our annual reports may be produced and published in time for our Annual Meeting.

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

To Your Health



Vitamin D [which is actually a hormone precursor and not a vitamin] has been in the news lately concerning how much of it does a person need. The government recommended dose of 400 IU per day seems to fall way short of what the medical and research communities believe to be necessary. Perhaps this is why a vitamin D level test is the most frequently ordered assay in the United States.

Guidelines they would like to see are 400 to 1,000 IU for children and 1,500 to 2,000 for adults. Why is this important? Because vitamin D deficiency has been linked to increased risks of cancer, autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases like flu, tuberculosis, etc., heart disease, and cognitive decline among other ailments. This is particularly important for breast-feeding women because if they are D-deficient, they pass that deficiency to their babies with their milk.

“Every cell in the body has a vitamin D receptor protein. It’s estimated that upwards of 2,000 genes are directly or indirectly regulated by Vitamin D.” It’s that important.

As reported in Science News, “Vitamin D is essential to the modern indoor lifestyle”, interview with Michael Holick, October 23, 2010, pg 32

BOARD TRAINING WORKSHOP

Just a reminder about the ABC/NYS **Board Training Workshop** on **February 12th** at their Whitesboro Conference Center. The seminars this year will cover **Christian Ed, Trustees, Deacons, Pastoral Relations, Mission & Stewardship, and One Board System.**

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.

2011 Directory Updates

As usual, we will be publishing an updated church directory to be available at the same time as our Annual Reports. But **we need your help!**

Posted on **the back wall in Fellowship Hall** are the draft pages for our 2011 directory which is based on the information currently in our database. Kindly check all contact information relating to you and your family and either write in updates or initial to verify.

Our directory will only be as accurate as you help us make it.

backup generator (funds already raised), parsonage roof (\$10,000), building insulation (\$20,000) along with church siding repair and new fellowship hall furniture.

As your Board of Trustees *we need your input* for our 2011 financial challenges. Some additional income sources we've discussed or heard of are monthly public dinners and more building use. Do you have other fund-raising ideas? Can you suggest expense reductions we should review? We know times are difficult for all of us but with mutual support, prayer and ongoing outreach our goals *can* be met.

Please let any of your trustees know your ideas!!!

Trustee Concerns - 2011

As a wonderful, caring fellowship of First Baptist Christians we have kept our church and its mission very alive during 2010. We have reached out to the community, shared our benevolences locally and with the world, kept our properties in shape, supported our Pastoral and support staff, made our building more energy efficient, and more.

Now, however, as we look to 2011 there are *real financial concerns!* Pledges to date are \$14,000 *less than* last year; year-to-date income is up \$3,600 but expenses are up \$13,000(+). The Faith Proposal we all adopted for the New Year totals \$83,372.00. If we look at how to fund that budget amount, here is where we are right now:

Total pledges to date:	\$32,076.00
Unpledged Givers:	\$ 9,473.00*
Building Use (WIC & Zumba):	\$ 2,770.00*
Plate Offering:	\$ 1,150.00*
Sunday School Collection:	\$ 566.00*
Balance Forward:	\$ 885.00**
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	\$46,920.00

*- Based on anticipated income at beginning of 2010

** - Actual General Fund balance as of 11/30/2010

Actual expenses for 2009 totaled \$70,107.00. Therefore, we are now more than \$23,000 *under* funds needed to meet expenses and more than \$36,000 *under* funds needed to meet our adopted Faith Proposal. We still face major expenses of: a

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.

"Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary."

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Baptist News

The Mission Advocates and Pastors Retreat this year is being dubbed as the “Be Astonished” Missions Conference. The theme is based on Habakkuk 1:5 “Look at the nations and watch – and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe even if your were told!”

Save these dates: March 11th & 12th. Besides a great retreat, this will give you the chance to experience the Whitesboro Baptist Conference Center. Watch for more information.

Greening of our Building

Perhaps you have noticed a difference in the lighting in our building. On December 7th, all our fluorescent light fixtures were replaced with newer, more efficient fixtures, ballasts, and tubes. The difference?

- Brighter light
- Lower electric bills
- Lower “carbon footprint”

The greatest news is that the savings in just one year alone will offset our cost for having the work done. National Grid is paying 2/3 of the total cost with our share being paid over a period of 24 months, interest free. It’s as if we’re being paid to have this done!

And, by the way. The lights in our rest rooms now are activated by motion sensors. But for them to work, the light switches must be left *on*. Now, when was the last time you were asked to keep a light switch turned on when you left a room?

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.

Personal Notes

“Hello,

I just want to say “Thank You!” You were all so very considerate and kind when we said “Goodbye” to Fred Schaff. Your love is greatly appreciated. God bless you all!

Sincerely, Sylvia Schaff.”