

# 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, 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 February mystery member is Dail Mizerski. For many years, Dail’s smiling greeted class after class of little ones as they got their start in our public schools. What a lovely introduction to education!

Our mystery member for March is someone who got their very first deer this past hunting season. 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; Jerry Maynard; 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



“Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed -- with no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power -- with no one to comfort them.”

-Ecclesiastes 4:1

## Men’s Breakfast



Our Men’s Breakfast offers a time of sharing our lives along with a hearty meal. We will return to our practice of using Jimmy Carter’s book, Sources of Strength, a collection of 52 of his favorite Sunday school lessons, as a discussion starter.

So, **men of all ages**, plan to be in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00 – and bring a buddy.

## Prayer for March

Dear God, we are often divided, unloving, and inclined to misunderstanding. Make us instead united, loving, and open to learning. May your spirit be in us. Amen.

## BOARD MEETINGS

March 8<sup>th</sup> is the second Tuesday of the month. And that means our **Trustees will meet at 6:15** and our **Deacons at 6:30**. Our **Executive Committee will then meet at 8:00**.

## Witness Articles

All articles for the April 2011 Witness will be due in the church office by **March 21<sup>st</sup>**.

## *New Member Class*

Our New Member Class is well under way and will be at the halfway point as of the last Sunday in February.

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## **CANNED GOODS SUNDAY**

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

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## **Prayer Chain**

The prayer chain list has been updated. If you have any prayer concerns please feel free to contact any one of the people below and they will begin the prayer chain. We know prayer works, so please do not hesitate to make that call.

Pastor Bud	668-2138	church
	676-4204	home
Delores Olin	668-2179	
Gene Rotundo	675-8646	home
	952-5424	cell
Lynn Bort	317-3864	
Dail & Rich Mizerski	675-3271	
Lynda Heer	668-1691	
Mavis Cooter	452-4693	
Art Brooks	668-7064	
Grace Shetler	427-6875	
Roseann Prouty	668-0253	
Phyllis Smith	668-6478	
Carol Chamberlin	676-7461	
Diana Baxter	668-7296	

When you get a prayer request please pass the message on to the next person on the list. If they are not at home feel free to leave a message and then continue down the list till you speak to someone in person.

If you would like to join in this prayer chain, please contact Rich Mizerski.

## **Mission Advocates**

Our ABC/NYS Region will hold its "Be Astonished!" Missions Conference, also known as the Mission Advocates and Pastors Retreat. And it's coming up fast, scheduled to begin Friday, **March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** through Saturday, **March 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00**. Speaking at our conference this year will be **Corenne Garrison** who ministers to homeless children in Brazil who are rescued from the streets.

Along with Corenne we will hear from **Rev. Marilyn Turner** who serves as Associate Executive Director of Program Ministries for our American Baptist Home Mission Societies. And, as a bonus, we will hear from our Region's mission team that recently returned from Haiti.

There will be other activities and speakers that will make this an event you won't want to miss. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes three meals. **Registrations must be received by March 4<sup>th</sup>!** Registration forms are in the church office along with information on motels near the **Whitesboro Conference Center**.

For more information, contact Mary Schwarz at **469-4236 ext 10** or by e-mail at **MSchwarz@abc-nys.org**.

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## *Musical Notes*



Our choir has a few rehearsals under its belt in preparation for our Easter cantata, "God of the Empty Tomb" which was created by Joel Lindsey and Tony Wood. This is a production using several new songs combined with Easter favorites that we all know and love.

Please note that our choir practice has shifted back to **Wednesdays at 6:00**. Rehearsals have only just begun and there is still room for more voices. Please don't allow shyness to keep you away! *All are welcome!*

## *AB Women's News*



**Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**

AB Girls present a mission program

**Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30**

“Soup-on-Sunday” for the entire congregation.

All are invited to join us immediately following our time of worship for a variety of tasty soups, crackers, Italian bread, dessert, and beverage.

We encourage you to donate the amount you would normally spend for Sunday lunch to benefit this year's NYS special mission project – the Mintendo Women's Center of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The overall goal is \$16,000, of which we hope to give a goodly amount.

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## **PATHFINDER NEWS**

Outdoor Ministries of American Baptist Churches of New York State and Rev. John Buskey are pleased to announce the new Associate Director of Pathfinder Lodge: Mrs. Cana White. Cana is a member of the Burlington Flats First Baptist Church. She grew up in the Edmeston Second Baptist Church, as and attended Pathfinder Lodge as a camper. She also has experience as a staff worker. Cana has been a youth pastor and is currently working in the insurance business.

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## **Directory Updates**

Please change the following phone number:

**Jean Hart      380-4290**

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## **Parsonage Thoughts**

Now that our parsonage will soon be vacant, our Board of Trustees has begun considering how that building might be used. If you have suggestions,

please put them in writing and get them to Don Haury, Chairperson of our Board of Trustees, either by US Mail, e-mail, or hand-delivered.

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## **Baptist News**

The Rev. Dr. John R. Buskey is the 2011 recipient of the Kenneth L. Cober Regional Discipleship Award. The purpose of the award, given by the American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) each biennium, is to give national recognition to an individual for outstanding service in discipleship education or camping at the regional level. Those who know John and his ministry in camping, leadership development, and with youth will certainly agree that he is well deserving of this award. Since November 2001, John has served on the ABC/NYS staff as Executive Director of Outdoor Ministries & Youth Ministries and Area Minister to the Mohawk-Oneida Association.

The last few years, ABHMS has been doing the official award presentation regionally, rather than at the ABC/USA Biennial. The presentation will take place at the Spring gathering of the Mohawk-Oneida Association to be held on Sunday, March 20, 2011, at First Baptist Church, Main St., Newport, New York, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Brenda Halliburton, from the ABHMS staff, will be presenting the award.

The March 20th gathering includes a catered meal at a cost of \$6 per person (to be paid at the door). If you plan to be at the meal, please contact Mary Schwarz to make a reservation (315.469.4236, [MSchwarz@abc-nys.org](mailto:MSchwarz@abc-nys.org)) and she will pass on that information to the meal planners.

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## **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.

# LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. The main course this month will be pizza. In case you're wondering, our Lunch Bunch is open to anyone who can be there. You don't have to be a Senior Citizen to attend.

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## LIGHT BULBS

Small changes in the way you handle your trash can have a big impact on the health of our planet.

Fluorescent lamps, both the tube type and the compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) should never go into the regular trash because they contain mercury, which is a serious environmental contaminant. Alkaline batteries, nickel metal hydride (NMH) batteries, and rechargeable batteries, including lithium ion and nickel-cadmium contain heavy metals and should also never go into the regular trash. Large retailers, like Lowe's and Home Depot, will accept batteries and lamps for recycling whether you bought them there or not.

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## Kingdom of God

Pastor Bud's sermon series focusing on the Kingdom of God will continue for several more weeks. This has allowed us to give more than a superficial "oh, by the way" treatment to a topic that is mentioned at least 85 times in the Gospels.

As a result, many things are coming to the surface that many, if not all, of us have heard for the very first time. And with new information comes new questions.

As always, you are always welcome to speak with Pastor Bud about anything that you hear on a Sunday morning. But that might not be good enough for this series. So he has scheduled

discussion sessions for the first Saturday of the month – which this month is March 5<sup>th</sup> – at 10:00. For our men, that means shortly after we finish our Mens Breakfast. For our women, that means shortly after the men finish their breakfast.

To help the questions and discussion flow, coffee and doughnuts will be available. If you expect to take part, please inform the church office so adequate preparations can be made.

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## To Your Health



Are you a 'power-talker' with cell phones? If so, you may want to start limiting the amount of time you spend with it pressed to your ear, use the speaker option, or hook up a hands-free device.

Why? A brain-scanning study published in the February 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* shows that after just a few minutes on a call, cell phone radiation by itself causes changes to take place in the user's brain activity.

It's not yet known if the radiation-induced changes are a hazard or if the radiation is dangerous. But if you are concerned about having your brain or your child's brain stimulated by things not natural in origin, consider the options listed above.

*As reported in Science News web edition, "Cell Phones May Affect Brain Metabolism", Laura Sanders, February 22, 2011.*

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*"Spirituality sometimes becomes the invention of a life that makes us emotionally comfortable, and thus does not address the real demands of a religion. Serious engagement with any religion requires the adherent to acknowledge its demands and difficulty."*

*- Marilynne Robinson*

# THE LEAF

*In memory of Jane Root*

The world of a leaf is huge and magnificent! Just look out your window and see. Some leaves are paired, some are individuals, some grow in rosettes. Every single one exhibits its own unique charm.

All leaves depend on each other and arrange themselves and their business to maximize the potential given to them, for a time, from the sun.

How a leaf functions determines what it looks like and its shape. It is this characteristic that sticks in one's mind and allows us to differentiate all the different kinds of leaves that we meet. Some are wavy and smooth, supple, and flexible, and we just want to touch them because they are shaped like our hand and make us feel good. Some have jagged edges and are sharp and live in hostile environments so that we might not want to meet them very often.

The nature of competition, and of place and time, mixes this one with that one most often creating and striving for harmony – and sometimes conflict that is ultimately to be resolved. Once in a while a gap occurs and the leaf siezes upon the opportunity to fulfill a particular niche.

One leaf at the very top is dominant and controls the growth of the whole plant. Without this leaf, all the others would go in different directions for their own purpose.

The leaf is both worker and factory that produces nourishment for the plant and for all the life forms of earth. It provides the following benefits: it cools the air, filters things that would pollute, and protects the foundation of mother earth from being washed away in heavy rains. It takes in the bad along with the good, controlling and releasing – for the benefit of everyone in the community – life-giving water and pure, clean oxygen.

Some leaves store up water for use when times are hard, using guard cells to protect from loss when the situation demands. All the while that the leaf works, it stores up light energy and resources from the sun for itself precisely at the place of original beginning, so that it can be reborn again in the Spring.

It's real beauty is more than epidermis deep. It starts to show its true self later in life when it bursts forth in the colors of internal self. Its texture and shape, holes and all, tell many stories.

And when the course of life is run, when it has fought the good fight and kept the faith of those who came before, the leaf gently begins to form a thin wall between itself and the rest of the plant. At the appointed time, it falls to earth, setting out joyously on a new road of continued giving of itself, in universal service for the life of others.

Indeed, upon the service of the lowly leaf, most life upon earth depends.

*Submitted by a member of First Baptist Church*

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## Ash Wednesday



**Ash Wednesday** is **March 9<sup>th</sup>** which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. We will be host church of this solemn observance for our friends from the Brewerton Disciples of Christ and the Central Square Community Churches. Bringing the message will be **Rev. Mike Grinnals of the Community Church**.

Our time of community worship will start at 7:00. Of course, all are invited. So bring your friends.

## Holy Week Events

Holy Week is the third full week in April, but to give you a head start in planning your week, please reserve the following dates. [More details to appear in the April Witness.]

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** - Maundy Thursday at the Community Church.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Good Friday at the Brewerton Disciples of Christ Church.

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** - Easter Sunrise at Goettel Park.

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*“Humility is attentive patience”*

*Simone Weil*