

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 March mystery member is Hunter Gillette. (Aptly named, don’t you think?) We could tell you the details, but a story like this is best told personally by the hunter. So, next time you see Hunter, ask him to tell you about his first deer.

Our mystery member for April is someone who is currently finishing up their course work for a Masters degree. 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



“Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.”

-Psalm 106:3

Men’s Breakfast



Sadly some men have been misled to think that ‘manly’ men don’t think about God, or talk about God, and never have anything to do with those who do. But just the opposite is true. Real men know that the weight of the world rests on God’s shoulders, not theirs. They also know that much internal strength can be gained by engaging in unguarded discussion about how God has been at work in their lives and in the world.

Our Men’s Breakfast offers a time of sharing our lives along with a hearty meal. We will continue our practice of using Jimmy Carter’s book, Sources of Strength as a discussion starter.

So, **men of all ages**, plan to be in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, April 2nd** at 8:00 – and bring a buddy.

Prayer for April

O God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. Amidst all the violence, social upheaval, and catastrophes, we pray that you watch over refugees and exiles, those separated from their loved ones, and those who have left or run away from their home. Amen.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Our Church Council will convene on **Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00.** Church Council members include all members of our boards, chairpersons of each committee, and all elected officers. Please make every effort to be present for this session. The primary purpose of our Council is to facilitate communication among the various boards and committees and to co-ordinate activities.

See you there!

Witness Articles

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

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.

Camping News

Summer staff opportunities are available at Camp Vick & Pathfinder Lodge. Both camps have opportunities for Nurses/EMT, female & male counselors, cooks, kitchen workers, maintenance workers and waterfront directors.

The camping season begins the last week of June and runs through Labor Day. Attendance at staff orientation (the last full week of June) is mandatory. Workers are expected to stay for the entire summer, though early departure for college is acceptable. The normal workweek is a six-day workweek, typically from 12:00 p.m. Sunday to 8 p.m. Friday. There will be some weekend duties assigned on a rotational basis. Room and board is included as well as monetary compensation.

Can't commit to the whole summer? Perhaps volunteering for a day or a week would work for you. We could use your expertise in coaching,

sailing, Bible study, worship, music, arts and crafts, and wilderness camping.

To apply download the following form along with three references or call the ABC/NYS Outdoor Ministries office at 315.469.4236 x11 or kshevchuk@abc-nys.org.

Church and State

The issue of separation of Church and State has become a perennial topic of conflicted discussion in the last decade or two. The conflict is rooted in the lack of understanding of one of the most significant aspects of our nation's history. The First Amendment, which formalized this separation, also marks a defining moment in Baptist history.

"Report from the Capital", the monthly newsletter from the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, has some excellent articles to help us understand this bold step taken by our nation's founders. You can find them in the reading racks in Fellowship Hall. Or, when you're on-line, you can go to bjconline.org and type "myths" in the search box.

Musical Notes



Our Easter cantata, "God of the Empty Tomb", created by Joel Lindsey and Tony Wood, is a production using several new songs combined with Easter favorites that we all know and love. Under the creative direction of Lynn Bort, our choir is eagerly preparing to present the most important event in all of human history

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!

ABC Women's News



Monday, April 4th at 10 am

Women's Association managers' meeting here.

April – date to be announced

A nursing home visit.

Monday, May 2nd

Women's Spring Association Meeting

Sunday May 8th

Blanket Sunday. Donations received will be directed to the **Church World Service** project that supplies blankets, tools, and other emergency supplies to help people in the wake of disasters.

FROM OUR TRUSTEES

Our wonderful congregation, like many others, is facing a real financial challenge. Our year-to-date giving through February is now nearly \$6,000 *less* than in 2010! As a congregation, we adopted a faith budget of \$84,000+ and we are far from contributions to support that. Your Trustees are now faced with making difficult and challenging decisions re: possible budget adjustments, using some of our savings to pay bills, building use, fund-raising efforts, and more. Additionally, there are church building and parsonage repairs which *must* be made.

Do you have suggestions for directions to take? Our church belongs to all of us, so please let any Trustee know what you have in mind. A lot of hard work and prayer is ahead of us and many good things and programs to keep viable and vibrant!

Easter Offering

Our Board of Trustees has decided to use the gifts received in our Easter Offering envelopes, like the one attached to this Witness, to support two

initiatives in equal measure: a new parsonage roof and to help recover from water damage in our classrooms caused by melting ice.

Baptist News

Our Iroquois Association of American Baptist Churches will have their annual Spring meeting on **Saturday, May 14th** at the **United Church of Auburn**. One of the defining actions and clearly distinctive features of the Baptist movement in America was the formation of associations. In 1707, five Baptist churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware voluntarily entered into an association relationship called, **The Philadelphia Baptist Association**, for the purpose of assisting each other in such areas as spiritual advice, discipline, ordination, fellowship, and worship practices. Today, we continue to freely associate with sister ABC churches for the same purposes.

Isn't it time you become more acquainted with the greater American Baptist family? Reserve this date and look for more details in the May Witness.

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.

"Peace for humanity is not only the absence of war, or the end of violence. ... For us Christians, peace is based on a fundamental new relationship between [humankind] and God. That is why Christ said he brought peace, 'not as the world gives.' He brought a different peace."

- Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, April 12th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. The main course this month will be a **tater tot casserole**. 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.

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.

Besides speaking with Pastor Bud about what you hear these Sunday mornings, we have scheduled discussion sessions for the first Saturday of the month – which this month is **April 2nd – 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.

To Your Health



Real progress has been made in recent years in the treatment of stroke patients. New clot busting drugs administered within the first three hours of the onset of a clot-based stroke can work wonders on people.

Now, experiments on rats show that stimulating a single whisker on a rat for less than five minutes

yields dramatic effects. "Brain imaging later found no evidence that a stroke had even occurred in the whisker-brushed rats."

This is more than just good news for rats. Although researchers do not yet know if a similar link between sensory stimulation and stroke protections exists for people, it wouldn't hurt a thing to give it a try.

Human analogs to rat whiskers are the lips and finger tips. So, if you are present when someone appears to be suffering from a stroke, stroking their lips or finger tips may be quite helpful.

As reported in Science News, "Stroke Damage Halted by a Tickle", Laura Sanders, December 4, 2010.

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.

April 21st at 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday at the Community Church. Preaching will be Pastor Craig Wilson of the Brewerton Disciples of Christ.

April 22nd at 7:00 pm - Good Friday at the Brewerton Disciples of Christ Church. Bringing the message will be Pastor Bud.

April 24th at 6:30 am - Easter Sunrise at Goettel Park. Speaking will be Rev. Genett Timlin of the Caughdenoy United Methodist Church.

Immediately following the Sunrise Service, our Diaconate will provide a hearty breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. To help them plan for this act of service to us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend.

"Work is the worship of the Lord. Do not make any distinction between menial and respectable work."

- Swami Sivananda, Indian spiritual teacher and writer

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Hopefully, winter is on its way out and we can enjoy Spring and its beautiful season. Speaking of beauty, our church needs to look its best for the Easter Season! With that in mind, the Trustees are having a Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 9 beginning at 9Am until? Rain date will be the following Saturday, April 16, if necessary. Please bring your own cleaning supplies for indoor and outdoor cleaning, raking, etc. There are some at the church, but it helps to have back-ups.

Personal Notes

“First Baptist Memorial Committee,

“Thank you so much for an amazing reception for Jane ‘s memory. It was such wonderful food and a great time together.

“We are so grateful for your time and energy. It was a wonderful afternoon!”

The Family of Jane Root

For Our Texters

If God texted the Ten Commandments, they may have looked like this:

1. no 1 b4 me. srsly.
2. dnt worship pix/idols
3. no omg’s
4. no work on w/end (sat 4 now; sun 18r)
5. pos OK – ur m&d r cool
6. dnt kill ppl
7. :-X only w/m8
8. dnt steal
9. dnt lie re: bf
10. dnt ogle ur bf’s m8 or ox or dnkey. myob.

If you don’t get it, find a teenager and they’ll fill you in.

OGHS Funds to Japan

\$20,000 in One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) funds is starting to be distributed among the churches and schools damaged by the tsunami and earthquakes, according to the Japan Baptist Union

(JBU), an ABC International Ministries partner in Japan. Eight churches will receive \$2,500 each of the OGHS relief funds sent on March 14. There is damage to Shokkei School buildings as well and, as funds are available, help will be given to them. The gifts are being delivered personally to the churches by a JBU team.

The JBU has established an English language website to keep the world up to date on news and information regarding earthquake and tsunami relief efforts. US churches are invited to the site at any time by going to:

<https://sites.google.com/site/crisistohoku2011>.

Makoto Tanno, general secretary of the JBU, expresses gratitude for worldwide Christian response, “We have heard from so many people about your prayers for the people of Japan. We are overwhelmed with the feeling that we are not alone. We are still reeling from the shock of the events of the last few days but continue day and night to respond as best we can.”

For more information, go to the “Recommended Links” page on our web site fbc-cs.com, click through to ABC’s International Ministries site and type “OGHS” in the search box.

Public Pork Roast

By now, you most likely have reserved **April 9th** for our public **pork roast dinner**. Not only will it give those in our community a chance to enjoy a great dinner without having to prepare it, it will help us raise much needed funds to support our the vital ministries of our church.

In the menu for the evening is: Roast pork, mashed potatoes, applesauce, vegetable, dessert, and coffee / tea. **Cost: Adults: \$9.00; Kids (5-12): \$5.00, under 5: Free**

There are **sign-up sheets** in Fellowship Hall so each of us can help contribute to the efforts being put forth by Mark and Margaret Heitmann in preparing the meal.

“Nothing true can be said about God from a posture of defense.”

-Marilyn Robinson from her book, [Gilead](#)