

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 May mystery member remains a mystery. If you recall, the clue was left out!!

Our mystery member for June is someone who was involved with the planting of a new church. 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; 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



“Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters.”

- Colossians 3:23

“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”

- Mother Theresa

Men’s Breakfast



Because of a schedule conflict on July 4th – it’s the same day as the Missional Church Learning Experience at Eastwood Baptist Church – we will not have our Men’s Breakfast this month.

We will have our breakfast in July, although it will *not* be the first Saturday of the month. Due to the July Fourth holiday week-end, it will be on July 9th.

See you then!

Prayer for June

God, we thank you for gardens, both at home and in our communities. We thank you for the abundant earth, which you continue to create and over which have given us the responsibility of stewardship. May we tend and care for it with greatest respect and humility as the source of sustenance and well-being for all whom you have given the breath of life.

Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Christian Education will meet immediately following our time of worship on **June 5th**. Our Diaconate (6:30) and Trustees (6:15) will meet on **Tuesday, June 14th** followed by our Executive Committee at 8:00.

Witness Articles

All articles for the July / August 2011 Witness will be due in the church office by **June 23rd**.

CANNED GOODS SUNDAY

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

*** VBS NEWS ***

NOTICE!! The date and location for our VBS has been changed. It will take place on Saturday, August 6th, on our church property. The theme for this year will be

Trustee News

Much of the time, the committed work of stewardship undertaken by our Board of Trustees is behind the scenes and often goes unnoticed. And such might be the case of two sizable improvements that have recently been completed.

As you know, during the winter months, our classrooms, music room, and Sunday School Superintendent's office has had water damage as a result of ice dams. Our Trustees contracted for the installation of roof vents and soffit vents along with the repositioning of insulation with the expectation that those problems will be a thing of the past.

Also, after a lengthy, low-profile campaign, the goal of raising the money required to install an emergency back-up generator was reached! Our new generator will respond automatically to a power outage. It was not possible to provide power to all circuits (for instance, the sanctuary was not included), but the critical functions will be powered.

This means we can function as a warming station and even a cooling station, especially for our elderly neighbors, the next time we have an extended power outage. This is just another way we can be a blessing to our community.

AB Women's News



Friday, June 10th [2:00 to 7:00] and Saturday [9:00 to 2:00]

Rummage Sale! Please bring the *clean and serviceable* items you wish to donate for this cause to the church. You may put them in the first classroom on the right or take them to the basement.

If you are unable to negotiate the basement steps, you may leave them in Fellowship Hall and *please* notify the church office about

DUCK RACE

Community Wide Dialogue is a ministry within InterFaith Works that has the mission of working to end racism. Because racist attitudes are frequently incubated in a person's home environment, their efforts will be a necessary part of our society for many years to come. As the longest-running dialogue program on ending racism in the nation and has received national attention, it has shown its effectiveness with the results of their program operations.

Their annual Duck Race fund-raising event will be held from noon to 4:00 on Saturday, June 11th at the Inner Harbor in Syracuse. It includes a free family festival that features music, ethnic dancers, and more. There will also be ethnic food vendors.

"It is easier to produce ten volumes of philosophical writings than to put one principle into practice."

- Leo Tolstoy

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, June 14th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. In case you're wondering, our Lunch Bunch is open to anyone who can be there. A person doesn't have to be a Senior Citizen to attend. You just need to be ready to eat and have a great time.

Church Picnic

Our Worship-by-the-Lake is scheduled for 10:30 on **Sunday, August 14th** at David C. Webb Memorial Park (Taft Bay Park) in Bernhards Bay. As in years past, our Diaconate is sponsoring a church-wide picnic immediately following our time of worship. They will provide meat and beverage, and each family unit is invited to bring a dish to share. Our Board of Christian Education will lead us in games and entertainment following our shared meal.

Although we do not have candidates for baptism yet, Pastor Bud would be thrilled to meet with anyone who feels baptism is their next step in their journey of discipleship. So if you have reached a point where you are ready to allow Jesus to influence your life and has made a would like to make their

Flood Buckets Needed

Church World Service (CWS) is no stranger to us. In the past, we have responded to special requests from CWS as they pursue their mission of providing humanitarian aide to disaster victims world wide in the name of Jesus. In addition, one of our members assmbles and donates Hygiene Kits to CWS on a regular basis.

As they are now responding to the unprecedented weather-related disasters in midwestern United States, they have a great need for Flood Bucket

Kits. Here are the compoents and instructions from CWS:

Flood Bucket value: \$56

Bucket Contents:

- One five-gallon bucket with re-sealable lid
- Bleach (two 1-quart or one 82 oz. bottle)
Please note: Only include bleach if you will be using or distributing the buckets locally. Do NOT include bleach if you are shipping through the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx.
- Five scouring pads
- Seven sponges, assorted sizes
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen cleaning towels (reusable, like Easy Wipes®)
- One 50-78 oz. box dry laundry detergent
- One 12 oz. bottle of liquid concentrated household cleaner (like Lysol®)
- One 25 oz. bottle liquid disinfectant dish soap (like Dawn®)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs latex gloves (like Playtex®)
- One pair work gloves
- 28-bag roll of heavy-duty trash bags (30-45 gallon)
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of insect repellent (pump, drops or lotion, not aerosol)

Please provide all liquids in new, unopened plastic bottles. Be sure to send only new materials. Place all items in the plastic bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment, and seal lid with packing tape. Note: If the requested item size is not available, go down to the next available size. If nothing is available in the requested or smaller size, put masking tape on the outside of the bucket saying, "This bucket contains no _____"

Completed kits may be brought to the church office and Pastor Bud will deliver them to the CWS office in Syracuse.

For more in-depth information, visit the CWS web site www.ChurchWorldService.org

To Your Health



If you're a parent with a toddler, or know someone who is, you might like to know that two are better than one when it comes to chicken pox shots. First made available in the U.S. in 1995, these injections are able to prevent the disease in 80 to 85 percent in children who get one dose.

But now, following earlier studies analyzed by the Centers for Disease Control, another study just completed by the Yale School of Medicine shows that when a child receives a second vaccination, the prevention rate jumps to over 98%. The second dose can be given as soon as three months after the first one. You may want to discuss this with your pediatrician.

As reported in Science News, "Better Coverage with Second Shot", Nathan Seppa, January 29, 2011.

Haiti Mission Trip

In case you haven't heard, the ABC/NYS mission trip to Haiti in February was an incredible success! The stories that came back with the volunteers indicate a genuine difference was made by this group.

If you feel you missed out – which you did – here is an opportunity to make up for it. Rev. John Buskey will again lead a trip for volunteers to work with our ABC partners in Haiti. The dates are October 19-26 and the plan is to continue to build rubble housing in Grand Goave.

The cost of the trip, \$1,750 per person, will cover airfare from NYC, food, lodging, translators, and project costs. Needed are: a \$750 deposit due July 28th, a passport, money for a visa and incidentals, and for transportation to and from the Port-Au-Prince airport.

For more information, including immunization requirements, contact Rev. Buskey at jr.buskey@gmail.com or call 469-4236.

AIDS WEBINAR FOR SENIORS

The first cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed 30 years ago this year. On Tuesday, June 14, from 2:00 to 3:30, the Administration on Aging will hold a webinar on HIV and aging to explore facts associated with aging with HIV/AIDS as well as prevention.

The misconception that older adults do not have sex and cannot get HIV has led to a lack of HIV testing among this population. Over 10% of all new AIDS cases in the U.S. occur in people over the age of 50. In 2005, older people accounted for 24% of people living with HIV/AIDS and 35% of all deaths of people with AIDS. Lack of public education about HIV/AIDS targeted at older people means this demographic is less knowledgeable about how to protect themselves against infection.

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=668461782&t=a>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

Please note: Space is limited, so please register as early as possible. This webinar will also be recorded and posted on the AoA web site (www.AoA.gov) soon after the webinar.

Directory Update

Please make the following change to your directory:

Mark & Margaret Heitmann
Phone: 668-8004

In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action."

- Dag Hammarskjold

Disaster Response

“The floods along the Mississippi River have caused great damage within the areas served by American Baptist Churches. Currently four Disaster Relief (DR) teams from Illinois are engaged in clean-up work in Southern Illinois and Northwestern Kentucky. Mac Shotwell, of the Great Rivers DR, sent out an email asking other DR regions to be on stand-by because “We may be out of man power soon”. They are presently cleaning houses in Olive Branch, Illinois and are working with Methodist and Southern Baptists in that area. Our need right now is to be ready to go and help clean flood damaged homes if and when we receive the call to go. Please give this your prayerful consideration.”

John R. Tharp
Director of Disaster Relief ABMen/NYS
(315)536-8490

Our Graduates



Sunday, June 19th will be a special day for our graduates. During our time of worship, we will be honoring those who have reached a significant milestone in their lives. For some, it signifies the achievement of gaining the education and training that will bring them the opportunity to gain new skills as they try to apply what they have learned.

For others, it will be an even more significant marker in their life. Yes, it signifies the multiple achievements of growth that are bundled into graduating from high school – academic, social, emotional, and physical. In our culture, it also indicates a transition from dependence to the opportunity for independence, a transition from childhood to adulthood, a transition from a controlled and structured environment to an environment that is wide open.

In both cases, the graduate will face challenges that will indicate the nature of their faith in and

commitment to God. And in both cases, the graduate’s faith community – meaning us, their “church family” – have an important role to play.

The challenges for our graduates will be to use the opportunities their education brings them in ways that will benefit others and bring glory to God. The way our culture functions, this in itself is a huge challenge since it in no way represents the values or standards that are operational.

So as we celebrate the achievement of those who graduate, we also encourage them to be mindful that wherever their life journey takes them they will have this choice. And when life gets tough for them – which we know it will – we, their church, will be available to them.

Our graduates are:

Ian Brooks (Mexico H.S.)
Anthony Funke (Central Square H.S.)
Rebekah Springer (Central Square H.S.)
Courtney Cuny (OCC)
Merrill House (CCC)
Genie Rotundo (Roberts Wesleyan)

Our Teachers

Perhaps the single most important activity in the pursuit of our mission (see our mission statement in our masthead) is that which is undertaken by our teachers. Although there are many opportunities for Christians to develop as disciples of Jesus, Sunday school and adult education are the ones most active. Since it is but a one hour session and people have the entire week to deal with the ways of the world, it’s easy to see just how critical it is to have committed teachers.

So we will honor and give thanks for those who teach during our time of worship on Sunday, June 12th.

“Sit with God as you might with the ocean. You bring nothing to the ocean, yet it changes you.”

- Sean Caulfield