

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 June mystery member is Art Brooks. During his years in Maine, Art was involved with a group of believers that began meeting regularly and evolved into a planted church.

Our mystery member for July/August is someone who worked for many years in a foundry. 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; Peggy Sue Ashby; Patrick Bort; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

Verse of the Month (July)



“You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”

- Exodus 22:21

Men’s Breakfast



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 at 8:00!

But, due to VBS and personal vacations, we will *not* have our breakfast in August. We will pick up our shared meal again on September 10th – *not* the 3rd because of Labor Day week-end.

Prayer for Summer

“Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are particularly affected by climate change: for those in developing countries who feel the effects of increased droughts, increased floods, and more extreme temperatures, and for the political and social instability that accompanies such events. Amen.”

BOARD MEETINGS

Our boards will be taking a break this Summer and will not have scheduled meetings again until September. Boards will have called meetings to plan for summer events.

“The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn but to unlearn.”

- Gloria Steinem

Witness Articles

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

CANNED GOODS SUNDAY

The Downstairs Scotty at St. Michael's Church is grateful to receive the donations of canned goods from our congregation. Please continue to support the work of our Diaconate to collect these food items the first Sunday of every month for our neighbors in need.

*** VBS NEWS ***

Our Vacation Bible School will have a camping theme this year. But there will be a few changes this year. For one, it will take place at our church property instead of at Goettel Park. Another is that youth and leaders from the Brewerton Disciples of Christ will join us in making this a more ecumenical effort.

So let those you know who have children who fall within the Pre-K to 5th grade range to write **VBS 10:00 to 2:00 at FBC** on August 6th in their calendar. Lunch will be provided. Items to bring are a water bottle, swim clothes and towel, and a small bag for carrying items home.

Children can be registered by contacting Jill Gillette at RGillette@twcny.rr.com or by calling 506-2706. Deadline is July 16th.

Trustee News

Everyone loves to be the bearer of good news. And our Trustees have been able to bring us much good news over the years – most recently about our back-up generator. But now our Board of Trustees has something to share that is causing great concern for them and will be of great concern for us all.

Everyone is well aware of the state of our nation's economy and how it's been affecting us personally and us as a society. What might not be so evident is how non-profits are impacted – churches, for example. When people have reduced incomes, or are concerned that they may soon have their income reduced, they move quickly into survival mode.

What this means to our churches is that their receipts are way down. This is not just a hypothetical situation; it's for real.

Our Trustees have given our Treasurer authorization to use funds from our savings account to pay our regular bills this Summer if need be. As you know, our savings account is very small.

The church is not a building, it's not the Executive Committee, and it isn't our boards. The church is you – the body of Christ. We like to remind ourselves of that when it comes to deciding what color to paint the narthex walls. We also need to remind ourselves of this on an on-going basis, that our congregation cannot function effectively in pursuit of our mission, when our treasury is perilously low.

We ask you to be in prayer.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, July 12th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. This month, we'll have a seasonal picnic theme, featuring hot dogs.

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.

"Do not fear going forward slowly; fear only to stand still."

- Chinese Proverb

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 would like to make that decision public, please speak with Pastor Bud.

To Your Health



Do you think smoking among our young women is not a serious problem? Well, according to the Oswego County Community Health Assessment, 28.4% of Oswego County mothers smoked during pregnancy as compared to 13.7% state-wide and the lung cancer rate for Oswego County women was 50% higher than for the state. Broadening this to include males, nationwide, 17.9% of the adult population smoke, 18% of New Yorkers smoke, and 24.&% of Oswego County adults smoke.

We all are aware of the dangers that smoking brings to a person's physical health. And if you've ever been around a person whose life was being choked out of their body by lung cancer, you also now what it can do to a person's spiritual health.

To learn more, or to find out how you might be able to partner with Oswego County agencies to raise awareness of the dangers of smoking, to to <http://oco.org/News> and click on the link May 28, 2011 How Does Tobacco Look on You?

Haiti Mission Trip

This is one last reminder about the upcoming volunteer mission trip to Haiti from October 19-26. Just like the one in February, this trip Rev. John Buskey will lead this trip. Our volunteers will be working with our ABC partners to continue building 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.

MARILYN MALONE

After 18 years as Camp Director at Pathfinder Lodge – and many more of volunteer service – Marilyn Malone has retired. Many young people have had their lives touched by her committed service at our camp and there are two ways for us to express our gratitude to her. One is to attend her retirement ceremony:

Date: Saturday July 9, 2011
Time: 11:30-2:00 Lunch served @ 12:00
Where: Pathfinder Lodge
1041 County Rd. 31 East Lake
Rd. Cooperstown, NY 13326

The second way is to send cards and letters to:

Pathfinder Lodge
ATTN: Marilyn Malone
PO Box 350
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Hymnal Gift

As discussed at our most recent Church Council, a plate will be added to the inside of our hymnals to memorialize the generosity of a one-time guest. Please consider this proposed wording. We will vote on this at a congregational meeting in the near future.

“The Gift of an Unknown Traveler

One Summer Sunday, a vacationer on his way back to Texas stopped and worshiped with us. Upon noticing the worn condition of our hymnals, he offered a gift to help us replace them. Remembering that Jesus’ highest calling for us is to serve one another, we agreed to accept his offer of serving us in this way. His gift of half the expense was joyfully given and joyfully received.”

Disaster Response

As the Deep South and Midwest regions of our nation were being devastated by tornadoes back in May, Springfield, Massachusetts was also severely damaged by a tornado. The NYS/AB Men's Disaster Relief Team is looking for volunteers willing to accompany their truck to help in their clean-up effort in Springfield, MA.

They will be in Springfield from the 10th through the 17th of July. Most of their work will be focused on operating chain saws and cleaning up tree debris.

For more details, please contact **Art Sabourin at 518-371-0412.**

On Point for College

Although Central Square doesn't have strong connections with the Syracuse community, there are opportunities for us to serve those around us through the efforts of Syracuse-based organizations. One such group is known as On Point for College.

Because a growing number of are college students to not have access to reliable transportation, On Point is in need of faithful volunteers to provide transportation for college students so they might experience a somewhat normal college life. The areas of focus are semester beginnings and endings, holidays, placement tests, and exploratory college visits. This past Thanksgiving, On Point transported 186 students home and back to college, which truly is a labor of love.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving our greater community in this way, please contact Jamie Grillo at 575-9094 or at Grillo.onpoint@gmail.com.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Our Board of Christian Education will conduct a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention class in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, July 23rd from 9:30 till noon. All who wish to be a volunteer youth worker in any capacity are required to complete this training. Please add your name to the green sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you are interested in attending.

Verse of the Month (August)



“Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.”

- Isaiah 1:17

AB Women's News



Tuesday, August 9th

Gather at the church at 5:15 for a 6:00 picnic at Scriba. Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift for bingo prizes.

BECOMING MISSIONAL

We had a three-person team attend the Missional Church Learning Event at Eastwood Baptist Church on June 4th – Lynn Bort, Randi Driesen, and Pastor Bud. *Very* briefly, the missional church movement is a response to the realization that purpose of the Church is not to serve itself and wait for others to come to it.

Our Missional Church Team will give a presentation to our congregation on Sunday, July 10th to help us understand this direction we will be taking and what it might look like for us. Please plan to be present for this important session.

“The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.”

- Flannery O'Connor

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Lynn & Dale Bort -5
Kay & Stephen Springer - 20

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Bob Abel - 3	Jackie Willmer - 7
Ian Brooks - 7	Jill Gillette -8
Grace Fuller - 10	Don Flower - 15
Genie Rotundo - 17	Katie Rotundo Rowell - 23
Misty DeFalco - 23	Patrick Bort - 27
Cherie House - 31	

SYRACUSE CHIEFS BASEBALL

As you know, our Worship-by-the-Lake and Church Picnic will be on Sunday, August 14th. Since many of you have already reserved that date and will be spending time together socially, why not plan to spend the evening at Alliance Bank Stadium with us as we watch the Chiefs host the Wilkes-Barre Yankees?

Gates open at 4:00 and game time is at 5:00. We encourage those who plan to attend to contact the church office as soon as possible so we know how many tickets to order. If we order 15 or fewer, the seats will be in the 200 level. If we order between 16 and 30, they will be in the 300 level.

The order will be placed on Thursday, August 4th. There will be no charge for our members.

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

--- none ---

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Diana Baxter - 2	Roxanne Spink - 4
Delores Olin - 4	Ray Olin - 8
John Zelesnik - 11	Rebekah Springer - 13
Vesta Lewis - 16	Sarge Mitchell - 16
Rachel Fuller - 18	Freda Lawton - 20
Alice Silva - 27	Aleza Jo Shanahan - 31