

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 Summer mystery member is Bob Abel. Bob worked in almost every job there is in foundry work, from laborer, to molder, to supervisor and all jobs in between.

Our mystery member for September is someone whose dad had been a barber. 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; Ken House; Hazel Schaff; Jerry Maynard; Arlene LeBeau; Eva Kairis; Peggy Sue Ashby; Patrick Bort; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

Verse of the Month



“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

-John 15:12

Men’s Breakfast



Labor Day week-end and schedule conflicts will delay our regular Men’s Breakfast until the first Saturday of October, which happens to be the 1st. But we have news of a “**Bigger Breakfast**” to be held at **Eastwood Baptist Church on September 24th**.

What is this ‘bigger breakfast’? Briefly, Baptist Men in the United States and Canada will be joining Baptist Men in Europe and Africa that day for a “somewhat” simultaneous men’s breakfast. The purpose? For fellowship, yes, but more than that – to challenge men to develop as spiritual leaders.

Reservations can be made through our church office or by phoning Eastwood directly at 463-1930 or by email: ebcabc@twcny.rr.com. Please let the office know, though, so transportation can be co-ordinated.

Prayer for September

God, soften our hearts so we are moved to develop relationships with those who see things differently than the way we do: in politics, in faith, in culture. May we be open to seeking out relationships with those "different" in thought and practice, so we don't isolate ourselves from any of your people. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

All our boards, Trustees (6:15), Christian Education (6:30) and Deacons (6:30), will meet on Tuesday, September 13th with our Executive Committee meeting at 8:00.

Witness Articles

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

Meals, Rwandan Style

Several of our younger members have been involved with the Central Square Science Club and its gorilla safety efforts during their high school years. We even had one of our students speak to us about that work during one of our Spotlight Moments. Now we have the chance to support their efforts in a different way – and more.

The Science Club is partnering with Partners in Conservation of CNY to help raise funds to support gorilla safety along with two Rwandan humanitarian efforts: the Imbabazi Ophanage and the Ubumwe Community Center. A Rwandan-style meal will be served on Wednesday, September 20th at PV Moore High School in addition to music, dance, and other cultural presentations for a \$10.00 ticket.

For more information, see the flyer on our bulletin board, or call Darlene Baker at 657-6909.

Exit Doors

Please use caution whenever opening any of our emergency exit doors that you make certain they are securely closed.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, September 13th at 11:45** in Fellowship Hall. This month, we'll have a seasonal picnic theme, featuring pizza.

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.

Spotlight Moment

Throughout history – particularly the during the church's infancy – the foundation of church as a gathering of believers has been the intimate sharing of what God has been doing in a person's life. Without that type of witness and evidence, The Way of Jesus would have fizzled.

Our weekly Spotlight Moment offers those in our congregation an opportunity to participate in this ancient tradition – with a bonus! The sharing is done among friends, in the presence of others who are followers of Jesus or curious about Jesus. There may be no better way to find and speak the words about their experience. They might then be the same words you use to share your good news with your friends outside of church.

When you feel lead to share with us during our time of worship, please speak about it with Pastor Bud. He will work with you to plan what you will speak about and to schedule a date. We all look forward to hearing from you.

To Your Health



Sometimes we need an extra kick to get us moving in the right direction. The results of recent studies on the impact of obesity may be the motivation some people have been waiting for.

The findings are that “obesity subtly diminishes memory and other features of thinking and reasoning even among seemingly healthy people” with a large portion actually falling into the impaired range. Findings show that obesity causes actual physical damage done to the white matter. The good news is that “at least some of those impairments appear reversible through weight loss.”

As reported in Science News, “Obesity Impairs Brain Performance”, Janet Raloff, April 23, 2011, pg 8.

September 11th

Nobody reading this needs to be reminded what 9/11 means. And nobody needs to be reminded that many in our nation have suffered personal and cultural attacks by people who feel the need to vent their anger. The trouble is, targets for that pent-up anger are adherents to Islam, Seikhs (because of the turbans worn by men), and people with brown skin who “look like” they might be Muslim.

The Way of Jesus does not include the use of violence. And when Jesus directs us to love our enemies, he really wasn’t kidding. Throughout his ministry, he gave constant reminders that following him wasn’t a matter of convenience – that it’s something we could do when it was easy for us or when the cost was low. Anyone can do that. Living the Way of Jesus has to be all the time or not at all – meaning when it’s difficult and when we don’t want to.

So on September 11th, we will have a speaker from the Islamic Center in Syracuse deliver a joint

message with Pastor Bud. All are urged make your presence for this a priority.

RALLY DAY

Rally Day marks the end of Summer and the beginning of a new year. “End of Summer?” you ask. “Summer ends on September 21st And the new year doesn’t start until January 1st.”

OK, OK. We’re not talking about scientific definitions here. This is societal definitions base on the reality of our educational system and vacation traditions. This is a common occurrence for us in our culture just as it was for the biblical writers in ancient Palestine.

The significance for us is that we almost always mark this transition on the second Sunday of September. But because this year that day is the tenth anniversary of the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the intended target of the White House, we will devote our time of worship to that subject. (*See more about this in a related article.*)

So on September 18th, we will celebrate the beginning of Sunday school / adult education that will have already begun the week before.

This year, our VBS staff will present the puppet show that was used to help communicate part of the story of the Exodus to our young participants.

But this does not mean it has no value to adults. Unlike most materials written for young folk, this script has been designed to be accurate to the biblical story. It is by no means the complete story. But it will provide information that is new to many adults – and done so in a way that is fun entertaining.

AB Women's News



Saturday, September 17th at 9:30

Planning retreat at Genie Rotundo’s. Please bring a Bible, pen, paper, and a dish to pass.

Beds Needed

Our congregation has a lovely history of providing much needed items to the Center for New Americans to aid in their Refugee Resettlement Program. We have just been made aware of an immediate need for beds - twin and double sized mattresses and box springs. They will be happy to arrange for pick-up of your donations. For more information, or to donate, contact Housing Manager Patrick King at (315) 474-1261, or pking@interfaithwoekscny.org.

Witness via Internet

You may not be aware that our Witness is available on-line – not just the current issue, but all issues going back to January 2009. Just visit our web site at fbc-cs.com and click on the appropriate link from the left-side menu.

If you would prefer to receive an e-mail notice along with clickable links to our newsletter when it is available instead of waiting for a paper copy to come to your mailbox, please let our office staff know.

Have You Seen?

In case you missed it, the first classroom on the right as you enter from the parking lot is being transformed into our new Meditation Room. Much work has been done over the summer months – repairs from last Winter’s ice damage, a new floor donated and installed, new furniture donated, window dressings donated, and suddenly we have a room that is comfortable for meetings with visitors, pre-marital counseling, sessions with bereaved, and small meetings. When you step into the room, it feels as if you’re entering a different structure.

But you may also notice that something seems out of place. We will tell you what that something is in next month’s Witness. Meanwhile, if you think you know what it is and wish to make a donation

of some kind to “fix” that something, please speak with Genie Rotundo.

Fire Exits are Critical

Our building is the site of many activities that draw people throughout the week: Sunday worship, zumba, WIC, Lunch Bunch, Bible study, choir, board meetings, and many more. Although we have never experienced a fire (and never hope to) it is of vital importance that access to our fire exits are kept clear. Except for the front doors that open onto US Route 11, all other exits are marked with red-lettered EXIT signs that are lit 24 hours a day.

From time-to-time, the fire exit in the rear hallway is blocked by our chair carts. Yes, those carts may make getting to the rest rooms a bit awkward, but it’s an inconvenience we must live with. Having a blocked fire exit is not.

So please be aware. If you are involved with clearing our Fellowship Hall, please do not push our chair carts so far that our exit is blocked. And, if you see that someone has accidentally done, so, make it your responsibility to reposition them so access to the fire exit is clear.

OUR COLLEGIAN ADDRESSES

Rebekah Springer
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Cortland, NY 13045-2451

Anthony Funke
Clarkson University
10 Clarkson Ave - Box 6796
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Ian Brooks
609 Walnut Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13210

These are our college freshmen. We will have more addresses in our next issue. Meanwhile, get writing!

Personal Notes

“Thank you so much for putting on the lunch today. First Baptist Church has been like my second home in Central Square – it is so friendly and caring!

May God bless each of you.

Love, Beverly Mitchell”



“We’d like to take the time and thank you all for welcoming us into your church. You’ve made us feel accepted from the beginning. The way you embrace new guests amazes us.

Our boys love coming every week, and it’s something we look forward to as a family: the joy of coming to worship with all of you.

We’re thrilled to have recently become new members, and we look forward to volunteering our time and participating in the many things you offer. Most of all, we’re excited to watch the church grow. It’s very exciting! Thank you for letting us be a part of it.

GOD BLESS!

Nate and Misty DeFalco”



“Dear Friends at the First Baptist Church of Central Square,

On behalf of Walton First Baptist Church, thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous expression of concern and support as we recover from the loss of our church building. We have been overwhelmed by the love that has been extended to us by the community and by the body of Christ, both near and far.”

. . . see bulletin board for the entire letter.

“Gratefully yours in Christ,

Pastor Jay O’Connor”



“Church Members,

Thank-you for allowing our Girl Scout Troop to stay overnight at the church. The Zumba group did a program just for us and we were able to invite our moms and grandmas for brunch on Saturday morning. We had a great time! Thanks for supporting us.

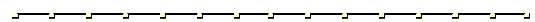
Girl Scout Troop 795, Hastings”



TEN REASONS WHY I NEVER WASH

Do any of these sound familiar?

1. I was made to wash as a child.
2. People who wash are hypocrites. They think they’re cleaner than other people.
3. There are so many different kinds of soap, I could never decide which one was right.
4. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped.
5. I still wash on special occasions, like Easter and Christmas.
6. None of my friends wash.
7. I’m still young. When I’m older and am a bit dirtier I might start washing.
8. I really don’t have time to wash.
9. The bathroom is never warm enough.
10. The people who make soap are only after your money.



Musical Notes



Lynn Bort has given notice that September 27th at 6:30 will be the first gathering for this year’s Christmas Cantata. This will be a production that *everyone* will want to take part in. So get here early that evening to make sure you have a parking place.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Kyle & Joy Funke 7

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paul Ayre - 2	Mavis Cooter - 5
Susan Fenton - 8	Joan Haury - 8
Jack Chesebro - 8	Tanya Adams - 16
Bruce Herrick - 20	Bev Mitchell - 22
Anthony Funke - 22	Carol Chamberlin - 23
Bob Hutchinson - 23	Lynn Bort - 24
Janet Bettinger - 25	Pastor Bud - 27
Joy Funke - 27	Nate Defalco - 30