

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 September mystery member is Ray Olin. Ray's dad had been a barber and, over the years, had shops in New Berlin, Pulaski, and Camden.

Our mystery member for October is someone whose primary business is HVAC – heating, ventilation, and air conditioning. 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



“Don't let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God's house there are many dwelling places otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you?”

- John 14:1-2

Men's Breakfast



We must have a lot of hungry men since we've not had our Men's Breakfast since *May*. Schedule conflicts, holidays, and vacations kept us from having a kitchen crew or a crowd of men.

But on October 1st we'll be back at it. A hearty breakfast will be served at 8:00 to get our fellowship in gear which will be followed by one of Jimmy Carter's favorite Sunday school lessons from his book, Sources of Strength, which has always sparked serious discussion about our spiritual lives.

This is open to men of all ages. So come – and bring a buddy.

Prayer for October

God, we pray for all the individuals and families in mourning. Remind us of Jesus' words, "Blessed are those who mourn: for they shall be comforted." (Matthew 5:4) Fill us all with your grace and mercy. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Trustees will meet on October 11th at 6:15.

Seniors Appreciation

One of our congregation's favorite traditions is Senior Appreciation Day. It's a loving and lovely way of honoring the elders among us. Along with a shared meal, we have a bit of fun included in the program. This year, it's on our calendar for **October 23rd**, following our time of worship.

There is a catch, though. Our seniors are *not* supposed to bring a dish. Our Board of Christian Education, as usual, will provide the main course. This year, it will be spaghetti and Italian bread provided by Mark and Margaret Heitmann. Our *non-seniors* are invited to bring a dessert or side dish to share.

Our Christian Ed folks are asking our seniors to bring photos of themselves – as individuals and / or as couples – from their earliest years. You'll find out why on the 23rd.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, October 11th 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.

The Parsonage

In the absence of information, people will supply their own 'facts' – and this is how many rumors are born. Even with facts, some folks can't resist the opportunity to float a rumor or two. Our Board of Trustees would like to think that second statement won't apply when it comes to our parsonage and would like to share its current status.

The Trustees are exploring several different options from the many suggestions that have been offered by our members. They have received estimates for repair work, they are investigating a land-lease option, and will soon meet with our neighbors at the Central Square Volunteer Fire Company to explore their desire to purchase it.

Even more important is that everyone realize that the final decision about the future of our parsonage will not be made by our Trustees. This issue will be brought up for discussion at our upcoming Church Council. A final decision will be made by the church body, not the Trustees. That decision will not be made at the October Church Council meeting but at a future business meeting of the entire congregation.

To Your Health



We've learned in recent years that coffee's caffeine supplies us with more than a morning jolt. It has other health benefits, such as (among others) conferring a reduced risk of dementia, gallstones, cirrhosis, several cancers, gout in men, and Parkinson's disease.

Now it's believed that caffeine promotes a person's mental energy by blocking "the activity of adenosine, a molecule that slows heart rate and induces drowsiness." This is true even for people who are well-rested. And if you're a tea drinker, you get the bonus of the amino acid L-theanine which acts to enhance some of caffeine's effects.

Even the Department of Defense is getting in on this, developing caffeine-laced chewing gum along with other dietary aids to help over-stressed and under-rested troops maintain a heightened sense of awareness.

As reported in Science News, "Brain Boosters", Janet Raloff, February 26, 2011, pg 26-29.

Roger Eisinger Baptized

It's been said that all the angels of heaven sing whenever a person is baptized and promises to become an apprentice to Jesus of Nazareth. It's too bad our church's windows were closed on **Sunday, September 25th** or we may have heard them when **Roger Eisinger** entered the baptismal waters in our church.

If you thing the name Eisinger sounds familiar, it should. Roger's daughter, Amber, was baptized here one year ago, September 19th, 2010. Next time you see Roger, congratulate him on this new phase of life. If you already have, go ahead and do it again.

Witness Articles

All articles for the September 2011 Witness will be due in the church office by **October 24th**.

ABWomen's News



The ABWomen's Retreat was Saturday, September 17th at the home of Genie Rotundo. It was a day of devotions, Bible Study, planning for the new year, fellowship, and a delicious meal. The new theme for 2011-2013 is "**In the Potter's Hands**", using **Jeremiah 18:1-6** and **Romans 9:17-21** for our inspiration. We invite anyone interested in one or more of our programs to please join us. *All* are welcome!

The programs and projects are as follows. Please keep this for future reference.

Monday, October 3rd at 6:15

Oswego Association fall meeting at Scriba.

Friday, October 28th & Saturday, October 29th

Rummage Sale and ABGirls Chili Hut. For more information, please see Lynda Heer or Diana Baxter.

Monday, November 7th at 7:00 pm

Baptist Women's Day of Prayer

Sunday, December 4th at 11:30

Family Crafts Day and Luncheon

Friday, January 6th at 10:30

Tear, stitch, sew, and roll bandages for White Cross requests.

Friday, February 3rd at 10:30

Finish roller bandages

Sunday, February 26th

Soup-on-Sunday for NYS special project "Break the Chains, Stop the Pain" focusing on violence.

Tuesday, March 6th

ABGirls Mission Program

April – Date TBA

Nursing Home visit – date: Grace Fuller

May – Date TBA

Spring Association dinner, Central Square hosting.

May, Mother's Day

Church World Service Blanket & Tools Offering

May, Saturday noon – date TBA

Bernhards Bay Women's luncheon

August

Association Picnic at Scriba

Book Club

A book that has generated some interest recently is The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven by Kevin and Alex Malarkey. It's the true story of a toddler who was severely injured in an accident and, as time went by, told of his experiences in heaven. People who have read it say it has changed how they think of heaven.

A couple of people have expressed their personal interest in this book and would like to be part of a group book study on this volume. If you would be interested in taking part in such a group, please make sure you add your name to the purple sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Charitable Gift Annuities

There's a wise saying that goes, "Failing to plan is planning to fail." There are many ways a person can continue to provide financial support for their church even after they die. A Charitable Gift Annuity program can benefit the the members of our congregation, our ministry, and even global missions while, at the same time, providing you with a reliable income stream.

You can relax knowing you can't outlive the income from a charitable gift annuity *and* along with their attractive fixed rates, the level of lifetime income won't change with the ups and downs in the economy. And, there are generous tax benefits for you.

For information on how you might set up such a plan, contact the American Baptist Foundation at 800-222-3872, ext. 2035 or on the internet at www.abcofgiving.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing

We have great news for you! Yes, our official campaign in support of the **One Great Hour of Sharing [OGHS]** offering will have one more Sunday left by the time you read this – but that does *not* mean it will be too late for you to turn in your OGHS gift. All you have to do is make out your check and write "OGHS" in the memo line and our Financial Secretary and Treasurer will take care of the rest!

Now, isn't that good news? And not just for you – but for those children of God unknown to you who will be helped by what you give. Our goal: \$600.

Our Charitable Donations

Unless you pay attention to the details in our annual budget, you probably don't realize that our congregation is a tithing organization, donating 10% of our receipts as benevolences to (mostly) ABC-related organizations, such as Fairport Baptist Homes, Central Baptist Theological

Seminary, Iroquois Association of Baptist Churches, the Unified Budget of American Baptist Churches, etc.

Each organization we support exhibits gracious manners by sending us "Thank You" letters, acknowledging our gifts. We post them on our bulletin board upon receipt for a few months. Take the time to read these notes of gratitude. It just may be that our gift may have made the difference between retaining or terminating a program or even a staff member.

Give thanks to God for the commitment of our congregation to be committed stewards of our finances. As you pray in this way, if you're not a tither, ask God if it may be time for you to consider tithing. If you are a tither, thank God for the guidance you received from the Holy Spirit in adjusting the stewardship of your personal finances that has allowed you to tithe.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

As announced in our sanctuary, we will be called to order for the conduct of a special piece of church business on Sunday, October 2nd. Our Diaconate will present two candidates for membership: **Amber Eisinger and Roger Eisinger**. Our Deacons will sponsor a dessert reception following our time of worship. You will want to be present for this happy occasion!

OUR COLLEGIAN ADDRESSES

Rachel Fuller
51 Alexander Hall
Box #185
Rochester N.Y. 14623

Last month, we featured our college freshmen. In hopes that you have gotten a card or letter off to them, here are the addresses for the rest of our college students. Keep writing!

New Video Display

We are the fortunate recipients of the generous donation of a big-screen TV *and* a new, up-to-date laptop that together will make the projector in our sanctuary obsolete. This enhancement will make the images and letters easier to see and allow us to use video more effectively.

Next time you see Ed or Diana Baxter, please thank them for their generosity!

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.

The Tragedy of the Unopened Gift

*To sinful patterns of behavior that never get confronted
and changed,
Abilities and gifts that never get cultivated and
deployed –
Until weeks become months,
And months turn into years,
And one day you're looking back on a life of
Deep, intimate, gut-wrenchingly honest conversations
you never had;
Great bold prayers you never prayed,
Exhilarating risks you never took,
Sacrificial gifts you never offered,
Lives you never touched,
And you're sitting in a recliner with a shriveled soul,
And forgotten dreams,
And you realize there was a world of desperate need,
And a great God calling you to be part of something
bigger than yourself –
You see the person you could have become but did not;
You never followed your calling.
You never got out of the boat.*

- Gregg Levoy

*"Since when do you have to agree with people to
defend them from injustice?"*

- Lillian Hellman

NEW ROOM

There was a lot of indoor work done during the hot summer months. The first room on the right as you enter off the parking lot has been completely refurbished. Repairs of the ice dam damage by Kyle Funke, donations of furniture from a retailer, labor donated by Genie Rotundo in painting the room, a new floor covering donated anonymously, window treatments from the Heitmans, and work and donated items from both Marcus and Genie Rotundo have transformed it from a classroom to a meditation room. It can still be used for classes and meetings, but we do need to limit the kind of activities that take place there.

Thank you, very much, to all who helped make this possible!

Fresh Paint



In case you haven't noticed, both the Superintendent's Office and the first class room on the left have received fresh coats of paint, lovingly applied by Diana Baxter.

And, in her 'spare' time, Diana donated more of her time, energy, and expertise to beautifying the flower garden by our parking lot entrance.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God ... It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

- Marianne Williamson, from *A Return to Love: reflections on the Principles of "A Course in Miracles"*

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

8 – Merrill and Cherie House

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 – Penny Faulter

14 – Courtney Cuny

18 – Phyllis Smith

21 – Randi Driesen

24 – Erin Shanahan

31 – Roseann Prouty

7 – Jim Edick

16 – Andy Bettinger

20 – Dail Mizerski

22 – Jamie Bean

26 – Nick Cuny