

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 October mystery member is one of our newest members, Roger Eisinger. Roger runs his own HVAC business getting his customers just by word-of-mouth – and keeps very busy.

Our mystery member for November is someone who used to do a lot of clowning around. 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



“Whoever says, ‘I am in the light’, while hating a brother or sister, is still in the darkness. Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling.”

- 1 John 2:9-10

Men’s Breakfast



Because of the rummage sale, there will be no Men’s Breakfast this month.

Prayer for October

God, we pray for the country of Tunisia, following their first democratic election. Instill within them visions of peace and harmony, that they would not settle differences with violence but with words and wisdom. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Trustees will meet on **November 8th** at 6:15; Diaconate at 6:30; and Executive Committee at 8:00.

LUNCH BUNCH



Our Lunch Bunch gathering this month will be on **Tuesday, November 8th 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.

To Your Health



Gardasil is a vaccine which provides immunity from two types of human papillomavirus, or HPV. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recently recommended it routinely be given to pre-teen girls and is now expanding that recommendation to include pre-teen boys. Even though the initial recommendation ignited a political maelstrom, the dangers of HPV-induced cancers are real and life-threatening.

Although HPV rarely causes symptoms, it is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States with more than 6 million new infections each year. And the on-going research indicates that males are susceptible to contracting cancers as well as females.

As reported in Science News Web Edition, "HPV Vaccine Recommended for Boys", Nathan Seppa, October 26, 2011.

The Parsonage

We had a lengthy discussion at our October Church Council about the disposition of our parsonage. Of the four options proposed by our Board of Trustees, the Council voted to narrow the choices to these two:

1. Retain and maintain in vacancy
2. Sell to the fire company, which would demolish the house, pave a portion, and the land between the church and the north wall of the parsonage would be retained by the church.

A two-page description prepared by Marcus Rotundo provides more detail. We are asking all who can to **pick up a copy** at the table leading into our sanctuary and **sign the yellow tablet**. We will mail to all members who have not done so.

An initial congregation-wide discussion of these two proposals will be held on **Sunday, November 13th** as we finish our carry-in meal following our time of worship.

Witness Articles

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

ABW Women's News



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



Pledge Sunday

Have you ever thought about traveling to Guatemala to do your Christmas shopping? Or to Pakistan, Ghana, Senegal, or Viet Nam? Or Burkina Faso (where's that?)? Well, you and your neighbors will have the unique opportunity to buy scarves, tableware, jewelry, stationery, linens, and more from these and other exotic locations without leaving Central Square!

Just come to our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 10th from 9:30 to 4:00 and browse through the various items that will be available for your purchase. Besides supporting the efforts of marginalized small business persons around the world, you affirm Fair Trade principles as the minimum standard of dignity. Besides that, our church will receive 10% of the sales receipts.

There will be more vendors – we have a few in the queue – and they will be announced as soon as we have firm commitments.

Please note that this is still in the planning stage! We will know for certain if this will take place by the second week in November.

RUMMAGE SALE

Cleaning out your closet, attic, or basement? During the weeks leading up to our **ABWomen's Rummage and Bake Sale** – during which our **ABGirls will run a Chili Hut** – you are invited to bring your *clean and serviceable* items you wish to donate to their cause. Just drop them off at the church – preferably in the garage or in the basement. If garage isn't open and you are unable to get your items down the stairs to the basement, please leave them in Fellowship Hall. Contact Lynda Heer for more details.

And, of course, everyone is invited to come in to browse, shop, and enjoy a hot dog and bowl of chili – and some baked goods to take home. As always, proceeds will be used to help fund the many mission projects or our ABWomen.

Dates and times:

Friday, November 4th 3:00 to 7:00
Saturday, November 5th 9:00 to 2:00

As part of our carry-in meal following worship on Sunday, November 13th, our Trustees will present the 2012 Faith Proposal Budget for our discussion. If you missed our Church Council and do not have copy of the proposed budget, please notify the church office.

Two New Members

October 2nd was a wonderful Sunday in the life of our church as we warmly welcomed two more members into our fellowship. Amber Eisinger, who was baptized here in September of 2010 and her father, Roger Eisinger, who was baptized here in September of 2011 both received the right hand of fellowship as we worshipped.

If you weren't here that Sunday, make sure you give them a warm and heart-felt welcome. And give our church congratulations for being the type of place they want to be associated with.

Organ Donation

No, this is not about a musical instrument. This is about every-day people – people like you and me. Except that these people are living with a short lease on life.

Currently there are over 111,000 individuals on organ transplant wait lists in the U.S. Approximately 10% are in New York State. However, due to the shortage of organ donors - 18 people a day died in 2010 while awaiting an organ transplant.

National Donor Sabbath is part of an organ donation initiative launched by the US Department of Health and Human Services in 1997. From Friday November 11th through Sunday the 13th, faith communities across the Nation focus on the critical need for organs, eye and tissue donation and its life-saving capabilities.

“Where there is great love there is always miracles.”

- Willa Cather

New Video Display

At long last, our new video display has been installed – and what a huge difference it makes, both in clarity and in the many new ways our worship time can be enhanced. A great big **“Thank You!” to Ed and Diana Baxter** as their donation of the TV grew into including a new laptop so we could communicate wirelessly.

CANNED GOODS SUNDAY

As Rich Mizerski reported at our Church Council, the Downstairs Scotty at St. Michael’s Church is very grateful for our generosity to our neighbors in need. Our donations of canned goods on the first Sunday of each month is more than just a good deed. It’s serving God. Please continue to support the work of our Diaconate.

Text4baby

Despite decades of public health outreach and education, more than 500,000 babies are born prematurely and an estimated 28,000 children die before their first birthday each year in the U.S. Many factors cause these negative outcomes, including health care access, poverty, and negative health behaviors.

To help more pregnant women and new moms get information about caring for their health and giving their babies the best possible start in life, a broad public/private partnership, including government, private and nonprofit partners has launched *Text4Baby*, a free texting service that provides health tips and reminders to support healthy pregnancies and babies.

Registration is easy and can be done online at text4baby.org or from your cell phone by texting the word BABY (or BEBE for Spanish) to the number 511411. You’ll be asked to enter your baby’s due date or your baby’s birthday and your zip code. Once registered, you will start receiving **free** messages with tips for your pregnancy or caring for your baby.

Messages are timed to your due date or your baby’s birth date. If you are pregnant and your

due date changes, text UPDATE to 511411 to enter your new due date. Once you have your baby, be sure to text in UPDATE with your baby’s birthday so you keep getting messages through baby’s first year. To stop receiving messages, text STOP to 511411.

“OFF” SWITCHES

Everything that uses electricity causes the meter to run when the switches are left in the “on” position. This is perfectly fine when the items are being used. But often people forget.

Frequently lights are left on, the copier in the office is left on, and the exhaust fans in our rest rooms are left running. Please try to remember to use the “off” switch on these and any other power-consuming item when you are finished using them (except the refrigerator, of course).

This will allow our Trustees to use more of the gifts we receive in ways that further our works of ministry instead of sending them to National Grid.

Baptist Sexuality Conference

The elephant in the room is sexuality. For more reasons than can be fit in this newsletter, we – like most congregations – choose to not discuss the issue until it’s right in our face. The problem with that, as you well know, is that discussion never takes place. Eruptions of emotional outbursts do. And, of course, the Bible is used as a hiding place, as a weapon, as a justification, etc., for whatever position a person might take.

Usually, though, the Bible is consulted to affirm an opinion. Although that may not change, the best time to discuss such issues is when they are not thrust upon us and can conveniently be ignored. And the Baptist Conference on Sexuality and Covenant is designed to be a forum for those discussions.

Scheduled for April 19-21, 2012 at First Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia, names of speakers will be released beginning in November. Registration and other information can be found at www.TheFellowship.info/conference.

THAT HORRID "E" WORD

"*Evangelism!* That's a job for – someone else, but not me!" Almost anyone reading this will react to the word 'evangelism' something like this. But it doesn't have to be this way. And it should not be.

Churches in our nation are closing in record number, leaving many people wringing their hands and pointing fingers of blame at everyone and everything else. It's society; it's the end of compulsory prayer in our schools; it's multiculturalisms; it's Hollywood; it's our pastor.

Years ago, the Christians gladly turned this role over to the "professionals" and never gave it a second thought. Since then, televangelists, tent revivals, street-corner preachers, door-to-door "are you saved?" campaigns have all combined to give us an allergic reaction to this most important part of what we are called to do.

This workshop, being conducted on **November 19th from 9:30 to noon** in our Fellowship Hall, is designed to give us some practical tips and perspectives on how each of us can carry out this responsibility. If you want to see the Church survive the current crisis it finds itself in, add your name to the blue sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Come - and see . . .

STANDARD TIME BEGINS

Another reminder. Before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th, turn your clocks *back* one hour and enjoy that extra hour of sleep.

Personal Note

My most heartfelt thanks to each one of my beloved friends here in our congregation, and guests, for the very thoughtful celebration of the tenth anniversary of my ordination. Besides being a big surprise, it was fun and touching at the same time. The stoll you presented me with is beautiful! I never thought I would be wearing something that I would describe using that word – but I wear it gladly and proudly.

May God continue to bless you and keep you.

Pastor Bud

Ten Ways to fight Global Warming

1. Buy minimally packaged goods
2. Wash clothes in cold water
3. Install low-flow shower heads
4. Run the dishwasher only when full and don't use heat to dry dishes
5. Use compact fluorescent bulbs
6. Plug air leaks in windows and doors
7. When replacing appliances go with energy-efficient models
8. Walk, bike, or carpool
9. Adjust your thermostat lower in Winter, higher in Summer.
10. Turn your TV off when it's not being watched

Consider Heifer

If you're scratching your head wondering what kind of gift to give to a loved one that really doesn't need anything except knowing that you love them and are thinking about them, consider making a donation to Heifer International in their name. Heifer provides people around the world with the resources and training they need to lift themselves out of poverty. From remote villages in Africa to the rural poor in the United States, gifts of chickens, goats, lambs, heifers, ducks, and other livestock are provided through donations of everyday people, like you, who care. But more than the livestock is the training in how to care for the animals and turn them into a permanent source of both food and revenue.

Go to our reading rack and pick an issue of Ark or one of their gift catalogues or stop in at the church office. For more information, please visit their web site at www.heifer.org. Give the gift of love.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Arlene Lebeau -1 Cindy Cuny - 14
Alissa Brooks – 19 Merrill House - 24
Chris Ayre - 27