

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 November mystery member is Jack Chesebro. One of Jack’s former hobbies was to entertain youngsters (and adults) through the medium of clowning. It’s hard to imagine Jack with makeup.

Our mystery member for December is someone who was Snow White at Disneyland for a Summer. 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



“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”

- Luke 2:13-14

Men’s Breakfast



Our Men’s Breakfast has been very enjoyable and meaningful for those who have participated and contributed over the last several years. A dwindling number of participants has made it impractical to continue in its present form.

Men who are interested in continuing to meet and engage in discussing spiritual issues over a breakfast are asked to let Pastor Bud know. We will find a way.

Prayer for December

God, we confess that we cling to many idols, whether it be money, success, prestige, our own sense of certainty, or noble causes. Free us from our bondage, that we might seek and trust you with our whole hearts. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Trustees will meet on **December 13th** at 6:15; Diaconate at 6:30; and Executive Committee at 8:00.

Witness Articles

All articles for the January 2012 Witness will be due in the church office by **December 23rd**.

LUNCH BUNCH



Tuesday, **December 13th** will be our Christmas lunch. All are welcome. **We will not meet again until April 10th**. We wish our snow birds an exciting Winter. They will be missed, but kept in prayer.

Remember, April 10th will be our awakening – ready for a Spring fling!

To Your Health



A recent study bolsters the potential health benefits of using olive oil. Those who use it for cooking, as a salad dressing, or for dipping bread in lieu of using butter have a lower incidence of strokes. The most frequent users of olive oil were 41 percent less likely to have had a stroke during the five year period of the study. So Popeye knew what he was doing, having Olive Oyle for a friend.

As reported in Science News, "Olive Oil vs. Stroke", Nathan Seppa, July 16, 2011.

The Parsonage

Following months of investigation by our Board of Trustees, discussion of suggestions from our congregation, and formal discussion and action at our October Church Council, the decision was made by our Trustees to ask the congregation to decide on the disposition of the parsonage. The two options selected by the Council were described in detail in a recent mailing.

In determining voter qualifications, our Church Constitution (Under Article 9 – ELECTIONS,

Section 2 - Qualification of Voters) states the following:

"All matters pertaining to buying, mortgaging, leasing, selling or transferring property, and investing funds shall be voted on only by members in good standing who are eighteen years of age or older."

Ballots being mailed out will offer these two options:

Alternative #1: RETAIN and maintain in Vacancy

Alternative #2: SELL house and portion of land to Central Square Fire Company

You are requested to vote for one and only one option and return your ballot in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. **Ballots must be delivered to the church not later than Monday, December 12th.**

New Thermostat

We now have a programmable thermostat installed in our Fellowship Hall. It will automatically raise and lower the heat for those activities that are on our regular, weekly schedule. There will be no need to make adjustments on a normal basis. But if you do find it necessary to raise the temperature please remember to turn it back down.

Christmas Eve

As is our tradition, there will be two opportunities for you, your friends, and your neighbors to prepare your body and soul for the celebration of Jesus' arrival. Our sanctuary will provide a space for the transition from the fast-paced, over-the-top spending of time, energy, emotion, and money to a contemplative and reflective preparation of the heart. After all, isn't that the true location of the manger, of the longed-for Jesus' place of his arrival – our hearts?

Come, then, at 7:00 or 11:00 and prepare yourself at our evening Candlelight service.

ABWomen's News



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



The Christmas Bazaar that was tentatively scheduled for December 10th has been postponed until next year.

WHITE GIFTS

Our White Gift ministry this year will be a bit different from the last couple of years. The Christmas gift project that school nurse, Sue Comstock has undertaken has become wildly successful in recent years.

This year, under the care of The Center for New Americans, we will serve a refugee family that is experiencing their first ever Christmas in our country. The Center will soon provide us with a description of the family along with some basic guidelines.

Different from other years, we are encouraged to deliver our gifts personally so the family might make a connection with people outside the refugee community.

Family Craft Day

Still working on finding that perfect ornament to make your home Christmas decoration complete? This could put an end to your search. On Sunday, December 4th following our time of worship, our ABWomen will provide a light lunch of soup and sandwiches. And that will lead into our Family Craft Day.

Besides going home with a variety of 'crafty' and fun decorations, you can count on getting a little glue on your fingers. Plan to join in on the fun!

Annual Reports

Our 166th Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, **January 15th, 2012**. Because it comes so early in the year, this means that it will be critical for **all board and committee chairpersons** to have their annual report submitted to the church office *as early as possible*. Our office staff will need to fit in the production of our Annual Reports in time for our Annual Meeting, so please be as helpful as you can in this process.

If it's at all possible, please submit your reports by way of an email attachment. This will greatly facilitate the completion of their task.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year. We will have our time of worship except that it will be at **11:00**. **There will not be Sunday school.**

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, September 17th is the day our Diaconate and ABGirls will head up the assembly of fruit baskets in our Fellowship Hall before heading out to deliver them to our shut-ins. The recipients will also receive, at no charge, the pleasure of hearing those assembled sing Christmas carols.

If you think this sounds like fun, you're right! It is! Just because the caroling is a Diaconate project does not mean they get to have all the fun. *All* are welcome – and expected – to be in Fellowship Hall at about 1:00 to join in the fun.

Although it's not necessary, you are asked to let Rich Mizerski know if you are planning to take part to help them plan appropriately.

O Tannenbaum! with Pizza & Salad

Come join the Worship Arrangements Committee for pizza and the fun of putting up our Sanctuary Christmas Tree! The date: **Friday, December 2nd from 5:00 till done.**

Anyone who wishes to donate small, colored, string-along type lights for the tree, we could use a few more strings. If you know that you will come, please call Dail Mizerski [675-3271] and leave a message so they know how many pizzas to buy. Even if you decide at the last minute to come ... please don't hesitate. Come and join us; **we really need your help!** We hope to see you there!

Religious Liberty Scholarship

The Religious Liberty Council of the Baptist Joint Committee is sponsoring a scholarship contest that is open to all high school juniors and seniors. Three winning entries will be selected.

Grand prize: \$1,000 and a trip for two to Washington, D.C.

Second prize: \$500

Third prize: \$100

To enter, the student must submit an essay of 800 to 1,200 words that addresses this issue:

The religious beliefs and affiliations of presidential candidates often become campaign issues. Is that fair? Should presidential candidates talk about their religious beliefs? Are there certain religion-related questions each candidate should or should not have to answer? **In an essay, examine the role religion should play during a presidential campaign.** In your essay, you must use and cite sources, such as the U.S. Constitution and news articles.

For more information, visit their web site at www.bjconline.org click the "What We Do" drop-down menu – education – essay contest; or speak with Pastor Bud.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering this year has a twofold purpose. It will be split between our Benevolence commitment and new fellowship hall tables & chairs.

This year, so far, has been particularly challenging to meet the ongoing regular bills let alone the Benevolence amount adopted at the beginning of this year. Additionally, since our fellowship hall tables and chairs are not in the best of shape and are pretty cumbersome to handle, the Trustees felt this is a good time to begin funding for their replacement.

So, please give this Advent Season offering your prayerful consideration.

Temporary Custodian

As you may know, Ray and Delores Olin are in Las Vegas for the Winter visiting their son, David. In Ray's absense, our Trustees have arranged for Bonnie Woolson-Smith to perform the custodial duties in our building. Next time you see Bonnie, thank her for taking on this responsibility.

Musical Notes



Once again, Lynn Bort, our creative and energetic Minister of Music has been working with our choir (and it truly is work) to prepare to present a cantata that will bring to all the message of Christmas in a fresh and timely manner. It would be a rare person indeed that is not moved by this presentation of “**The Ornament**”, a musical drama created by Phillip Keveren and Miraim Drennan.

“The Ornament” will be presented during our worship time on Sunday, December 18th and again that evening at 7:00. This will give our friends and neighbors who were not able to be with us in the morning to be touched by this new treatment of the ancient story of Jesus’ arrival on Earth.

OUR VISITORS FROM THE EAST

Sunday, December 18th will be a delightful day for us. After absorbing the Christmas message as captured by the cantata, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to share a carry-in meal. We have received word that there will be three visitors arriving after a lengthy trip both in time and distance, arriving just in time for lunch.

These visitors are royalty and have told us they will be bringing gifts for our young people. We don’t want to disappoint our guests – so, parents, make sure you bring your family and join us for lunch.

Parking Lot Drive-Thru

Traffic in our parking lot has gotten quite heavy in recent years. Several people have stepped outside from our Fellowship Hall and been surprised by a car that’s just passing through, the driver taking a short-cut to avoid the light at the intersection.

This can be quite dangerous, especially for the oldest and youngest in our congregation. Our Trustees are asking for your help in avoiding a

tragedy. As busy as our church is, it’s difficult for the chain to be up across the parking lot at all times. But if you would kindly put the chain up when it isn’t a busy time, it would help us a great deal.

Vampire Energy

Electricity isn’t cheap, yet many of our modern household items drink electricity even when we think we aren’t using them. A TV with a remote can use more energy when it’s ‘off’ for 20 hours than when it’s ‘on’ for 4 hours. Clocks on microwaves, coffee makers, etc. and lights on printers and chargers – they all use ‘vampire energy’, and that can account for 20% of your home electricity usage .

One way to combat vampires is to unplug them when not in use. Or, plug several into a common power strip and switch it off when you go to bed.

“The law becomes an ‘old testament’ only for those who wish to understand it carnally. But for those who understand it and apply it in the Spirit and in the Gospel sense, the law is ever new and the two ‘testaments’ are a new testament for us – not because of their date in time but because of the newness of the meaning. For those who do not respect the covenant of love, even the Gospels are ‘old.’”

- Origen of Alexandria

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 – Courtney Corsette	6 – Ron Gillette
8 – Alex Springer	8 – Stephen Springer
10 – Ken Bird	12 – Heather Bettinger
15 – Shaylee Woolson-Smith	
18 – Pam Edick	27 – Dale Bort

“Since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in ministry, do not lose heart.”

2 Corinthians 4:1