

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 December mystery member is Tanya Adams. In the early 1960s she roamed the park at Disneyland dressed as Snow White. She was not allowed to speak and always had at least one of the Seven Dwarfs by her side to prevent any type of harassment.

Our mystery member for January is someone who worked as a pin boy a bowling alley. 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; 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



“Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;”

- Psalm 146:5-7

Prayer for January

God, help me to pursue peace with my family and friends this year. Give me a calm heart, a patient mind, and a wise tongue. Help me to embody your love by loving those around me. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of Deacons will meet Tuesday, **January 3rd at 6:30.** The Trustees will meet **Tuesday the 10th at 6:15.**

Witness Articles

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

LUNCH BUNCH

Just as a reminder, our Lunch Bunch will not meet again until April 10th. We look forward to the return of our snowbirds to help us with our Spring awakening.

“The power of a fully lived life or a truly learned mind is not a power to be sought or contrived. It comes as we let go of what we possess and find ourselves possessed by a truth greater than our own.”

- Parker Palmer

To Your Health



It seems that vitamins are always in the news, but that's probably because they are so vitally important to our overall health. Yet many people pay little attention to their vitamin intake believing that their regular diet must be supplying all their vitamin needs.

The message from three recent studies is that a deficiency in vitamin B-12 is linked to several brain-related problems, particularly in those who are over 50 years of age. Impairment of memory, faulty reasoning, a slowing down of mental processes, the shrinkage of brain tissue, vascular damage, and even patches of dead cells.

It's not clear yet if other vitamins may be involved with these issues, but it is important to pay attention to B-12 intake.

As reported in Science News, "B-12 Shortage Linked to Cognitive Problems", Janet Raloff, September 27, 2011 web edition.

The Parsonage

The deadline for returning parsonage ballots to our Moderator has been extended to January 12th to allow a bit more time for our members in good standing to think about this issue and discuss it with family and friends. You are also invited to talk it over with the Trustees, either individually or at their upcoming meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th at 6:15.

New Thermostats

We now have two programmable thermostats – one installed in our Fellowship Hall and the other in the music room that controls the nursery. 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 follow the instructions posted next to them on the wall and try to remember to turn them back down again before you leave. And, *please* do **NOT** turn them 'off'!

In Times Like These

“The world is too big for us, too much going on, too many crimes, too much violence and excitement. Try as you will, you get behind in the race, in spite of yourself. It's an incessant strain, to keep pace... and still, you lose ground.

Science empties its discoveries on you so fast that you stagger beneath them in hopeless bewilderment. The political world is news seen so rapidly, you're out of breath trying to keep pace with who's in and who's out. Everything is high pressure. Human nature can't endure much more!”

~Atlantic Journal, June 16, 1833

AB Women's News



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

FAREWELL TO JACKIE WILLMER



On the morning of Tuesday, December 6th, our long-time friend and dedicated member, Jackie Willmer, breathed her last as she was sleeping peacefully in her room at Loretto Fahey. Jackie had been living at Loretto for several years and had adapted well to the social goings on there, as you might imagine.

Jackie was involved with the Women's Society and enjoyed the many opportunities our congregation provided for strengthening social and personal bonds.

Jackie was the last of eight children. Please be in prayer for her son, Dennis Goettel and his family along with her many nieces and nephews as they mourn their loss.

WHITE GIFTS

Our White Gifts this year were for the benefit of two Burmese refugee families who arrived from a refugee camp in Thailand just this year. To help them celebrate an American Christmas during their first Winter here and to make a connection of sorts with some 'regular Americans' (as opposed to the people from the Center for New Americans who work with them regularly), a handful of people from our congregation accompanied Grace Shetler in delivering our white gifts – with the help of an interpreter.

You will have a chance to hear all about it during an upcoming Spotlight Moment.

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.

The Work of Christmas Begins

(Howard Thurman)

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their
flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all peoples,
To make music in the heart.

Hospice Volunteers Needed

Volunteers play a vital role in the Hospice program by providing many services in a patient's home. Included are emotional support, companionship, running errands, and offering respite for care givers. In addition to helping patients, volunteers can also help with clerical duties and with fund raising events.

For more information on becoming a Hospice volunteer, contact Dawn or Vera at Oswego County Hospice at 349-8259 or 343-5223.

"The more altruism we develop in a day, the more peaceful we find ourselves. Similarly, the more self-centered we remain, the more frustrations and trouble we encounter."

- Dalai Lama

The Bend in the Road

Shianna Crary shared the following poem during a recent Spotlight Moment. It has been helpful to her and may be just as meaningful to you:

*Sometimes we come to life's crossroads
And we view what we think is the end.
But God has a much wider vision
And He knows it's only a bend –
The road will go on and get smoother
And after we've stopped for a rest,
The path that lies hidden beyond us
Is often the path that is best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow
You've just come to a bend in the road.*

- Helen Steiner Rice

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.

OUR 166TH ANNUAL MEETING

Immediately following our time of worship on **Sunday, January 15th**, we will gather in our Fellowship Hall for a **carry-in** meal as a prelude to the 166th Annual Meeting of the First Baptist Church of Central Square. We will hear from each of our boards and committees as they bring us all up to date with their accomplishments during 2011 and their dreams for the coming year. We will then elect officers and other positions for the coming year and be presented with the results of the balloting on the disposition of the parsonage.

“Unless we do change our whole way of thought about work, I do not think we shall ever escape from the appalling squirrel-cage of economic confusion in which we have been madly turning for the last three centuries or so, the cage in which we landed ourselves by acquiescing in a social system based upon envy and avarice.”

- Dorothy L. Sayers

Musical Notes



Once again, our choir director Lynn Bort brought us a *wonderful* message through the voices and characters of our choir in their interpretation of “The Ornament”. The dramatic presentation of a typical 21st century family, complete with functions and dysfunctions, brought the intended message to us in a powerful way. Several left our sanctuary drying the tears from their eyes at its conclusion.

Thank you, very much, Lynn! Thanks also go to Lynn Cuny, Jr., the technician.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 – Emily Schaefer 9 – Lynn Cuny, Sr.
20 – Pat Harrington 25 – Kay Springer