

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 February mystery member is Jenessa Csigi. She began her college studies at OCC and is now enrolled at LeMoyne College. Jenessa intends to then continue her education in order to become a Physical Therapist.

Our mystery member for March is someone who is a very recent graduate that is actually working in their field of study. 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; Steve Springer; 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



"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

- Luke 1:78-79

Prayer for March

In these difficult economic times, we remember those who are hard-pressed, especially those who are unable to access or afford adequate health care. O God of life, we ask that you watch over the lives of these, our brothers and sisters. Stir us to action on their behalf -- as individuals, as communities, as churches, and as a society. May we, as the body of Christ, be characterized by our love for you and our concern for others, and may both be borne out in action as we seek to see your kingdom come on earth. Amen.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our Board of **Christian Education** will meet on Sunday, **March 11th** following our time of worship. Our **Trustees** will meet Tuesday, **March 13th**, at **6:15** and our **Diaconate** Board at **6:30**. Our **Executive Committee** will convene at **8:00** that same evening.

Week-Day Bible Study

The week-day Bible study that had been meeting on Fridays is now meeting on **Tuesdays from 1:00 to 2:00**. Currently, they are using Stonecroft Ministries "Christ in the Psalms" as their study guide. For more information, please contact Genie Rotundo.

The Parsonage

The Board of Trustees and available Officers met on Monday evening, February 20th. The primary purpose of that meeting was to continue the process of completing necessary tasks for the eventual sale of the Church Parsonage property. We received a confirming letter from the Central Square Fire Company after their Board Meeting stating they had accepted our final asking price of \$50,000 for that property. We have begun the processes of contacting a surveyor, attorney, and the Village Planning Board to be sure we can proceed with this project and receive approval on the variance for our new property lines. Additionally, we have begun a physical inventory of potential items in the parsonage we want to retain before the final sale is consummated. Those items so far include: stained glass windows, porch windows, newest windows in the building, hardwood floors, air conditioner, refrigerator, electric range, kitchen cabinets & sink, inside oak window trim, paneling surrounding attic stairway, some inside doors and storm door and maybe more in the days and weeks ahead.

Please contact any of the Trustees if you have any questions.

Witness Articles

All articles for the April Witness are due in the church office by **March 23rd**.

Holy Week



It has often been said about the various Christian denominations that there is far more that unites us than divides us. Even though this is true, there continue to be forces at work that not only nourish the divisions but also promote suspicion. We can help change the image of being a church divided in many ways, and one is to give whole-hearted support to our ecumenical gatherings.

During Holy Week we will have three opportunities to worship with some of our

neighboring churches, the Brewerton Disciples of Christ, the Caughdenoy United Methodist Church, and the Central Square Community Church. We will host the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 on the evening of April 5th with Rev. Rob Dean of the Caughdenoy UMC church preaching. Mr. Craig Wilson, Pastor of the Brewerton Disciples of Christ, will preach at the 7:00 pm Good Friday service hosted by the Caughdenoy church. A community Easter Sunrise Service will again be held at Goettel Park at 6:30.

ABW Women's News



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

Danlight Savings Time

Remember to turn your clocks **FORWARD** before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10th. Otherwise, you'll be *very* late for Sunday school!

ABC/DYS Mission Advocates

Our Region's Mission Advocates Conference will be hosted by First Baptist Church of Manlius on **May 4-5**. We are pleased to have **Rev. Stan Slade**, Global Consultant and International Ministries Senior Staff member and **Rev. Jeff Johnson**, Evangelism and New Church Planting staff person with American Baptist Home Mission Societies as our key resource leaders. More details will appear in our April Witness. For now, reserve those dates!

Directory Update

Please update your directory with this new phone number for Lynda Heer:

668-1304

NEW FLOORS

By now, we hope you have had the opportunity to view, walk on, and enjoy the new flooring in our Kitchen, Utility Room, and Youth Room (basement). All of this was coordinated and overseen by Eagle Scout Candidate Joseph Smith of Caughdenoy Troop #709. The original time frame for installation was 3 days, February 10, 11 and 13. However, with some hard working assistance, it was completed in less than 8 hours on Friday, February 10th. We will have a recognition reception in mid-April to honor the generosity of Joe, his family, and other scouts and friends that were a part of his team. We're sure to enjoy these improvements for many, many years. Thank you, Joe, for all of this!

Pastor Bud Gone

Pastor Bud will be on vacation the first full week in March, leaving early in the morning on March 4th and returning the evening of March 11th. We are delighted that Wendy Simcoe will again be in our pulpit on both Sundays.

Hymns for Seniors

1. Precious Lord, Take My Hand, & Help Me Up
2. It Is Well with My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
3. Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
4. Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
5. Just a Slower Walk with Thee
6. Go Tell It on the Mountain, And Speak Up
7. Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
8. Blessed Insurance
9. Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah and Help Me Find My Car

10. Standing on the Promises, But Only for a Minute
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Inter Faith Dinner Dialogues

People who are invested in a religious tradition usually do not know very much about people who are involved in other religions. And because people rarely speak about their deepest beliefs with those of other faiths traditions, suspicion and misunderstanding fill the void that is created by such neglect. This far too often leads to fear – and sometimes even to hatred.

For those who are committed apprentices of Jesus, this should be unacceptable. What more helpful way to begin the process of loving such neighbors than to get to know them?

On Tuesday, March 20th InterFaith Works of CNY is inviting people of all faith traditions to take part in Dialogue Dinners. Several host families are opening their homes to people of a variety of faiths for dinner and relaxed, friendly, facilitated conversations.

For more information, please see the posting on our bulletin board. Or visit our web site and click on the link under “News Flashes”.

Nursery Concerns

Recently, there have been a number of instances where our nursery has been left in disarray even after our dedicated attendants and custodian have worked hard to make it a welcome place for the youngest of our church family. Mixed feelings about locking or not locking that room have been aired.

To begin addressing these concerns we must now ask that children be allowed in the nursery only when there is adult supervision. Nursery care is available during Sunday morning worship services and other planned events in our building. Beyond that, children are the responsibility of their parent(s) and/or guardian(s). We will monitor this program through the Easter Season and make a final decision after that.

MEN'S DINNER AT EASTWOOD

Tuesday March 6th is the date, **6:30 pm** is the time, and **Eastwood Baptist Church** is the place. For what? For the men's dinner they will host for area American Baptist men. Rev. Phil Taylor, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church will be the guest speaker with his topic being prayer and music will be provided by Ralph Kimbrell.

Eastwood is located at 3212 James Street in Syracuse. To make reservations, please call 463-1930.

Small Group Introduction

You may be asking, "What is a small group, anyway?" Sometimes it's easier to start by saying what something is not in order to eliminate assumptions. So, Small groups are not:

- Self help groups
- Coffee klatches
- Gossip sessions
- Study groups
- Social outings

However, during the conduct of the gatherings, socializing does take place. Sharing takes place, too. But it is not a group where a person seeks advice. One's problems are not for the group to solve.

And a small group is not just a gathering of a small number of people that get together on a regular basis, even though a small group does number about seven or so people and it does gather on regular basis

The goal of a small group is for each person to develop their spiritual nature. People have been involved with churches all their lives and never had the opportunity offered them to develop their spiritual self. So if the concept of small group ministry seems foreign to you, it may be because churches do not often sponsor it.

To learn more about small group ministry, plan to stay for our Introduction to Small Group Ministries following our time of worship on Sunday, March 18th. Please make sure your name is added to the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall so we have enough pizza on hand for lunch.

IS COLLEGE IN YOUR FUTURE?

Are you or anyone you know planning to have a college education? If so, this seminar may be for you! Jim Layhew is offering his services as a Neighbor's Foundation appointed consultant to assist area college-bound students with their college funding. Parents and students from 9th grade up to those pursuing a masters degree are invited to attend.

This is not about scholarship programs or loans that must be repaid. What Jim will present are facts and cautions about filing the FAFSA forms, tactics to use in negotiating financial aid from colleges, and what colleges are actually looking for in their prospective students.

This session will take place in our Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30. Please call Jim Layhew at 471-7833 to make your reservation.

Nurse's First Aid Kit

Thanks to the generous donation of **Randi Driesen**, we now have a **nurse's first aid kit** located in the **office**. We still have our regular first aid kits – one in the kitchen and the other in the office. But this has items that our trained nurses will know how and when to make use of. So please continue to use our general first aid kits – unless you happen to be a nurse and need something more.

Camping News

The new organization the is running the ABC/NYS-affiliated camping programs at Camp Vick and Pathfinder Lodge is inviting all potential campers, parents, and anyone else who is interested in our camping program to a Dessert Discussion in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 4th at 7:00 pm. People from the northern Iroquois Association churches have received this invitation to learn more about how our camping program will operate under this new structure.

FAMILY-STYLE SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are many young parents who would love for their children to learn about the Bible but do not feel equipped to do the teaching. And for a variety of reasons, they often do not feel comfortable just dropping them off at a local church having no idea what their children will be taught.

So beginning Sunday, April 15th – the Sunday after Easter – Pastor Bud will begin a family-oriented Sunday school class. Because parents will be present, age will not be an issue. But if little ones become too restless, our nursery will be available.

If you know of a young family or two that fits this description, please invite them to call Pastor Bud to find out more about this new offering.

Junior Church - Helpers

During the Lenten season, our Junior church will focus on the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It will be an opportunity for the children to see Jesus as he walked on this earth. The schedule of lessons is:

March 4 – Jesus and John the Baptist (Luke 3:7-22). Jesus' baptism was the first public declaration of his ministry and the appearance of the dove signifies God's approval.

March 11 – Jesus prays (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's Prayer

March 18 – Loving Father (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus told this story to help people know what God was like.

March 25 – Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40). Jesus teaches that the first and greatest commandment and the second commandment actually summarizes all the commandments that were included in the Law of Moses.

April 2 – Events of the Holy Week (Mark 11:1-11, Matthew 26:17-29 & Matthew 28:10) Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, and his Resurrection.

If anyone would like to participate and help with Junior Church, please contact Genie Rotundo at 675-8646.

RUMMAGE SALE

Although May is still a two months away, plans are already being made for the spring rummage sale. The dates are set for **May 4th and 5th**. Please contact **Lynda Heer** at **668-1304** to make arrangements for dropping off items to be stored in the garage.

Musical Notes



“The King is Coming” is the title of this year's Easter cantata. Another collaboration by co-creators Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith, this production includes some well-known music – including the favorite of the same title by Bill Gaither – along with some newer tunes. And, as has become our custom, the dramatic presentation that accompanies this cantata delivers the Easter message in a fresh yet riveting way that delivers more than just a few surprises.

Time is quickly running out for those who may wish to participate. So, if you're interested and have been dragging your feet, please speak with Lynn Bort. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

23 – Lynda Heer

27 – Lizzie Rotundo

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

25 – Rich and Dail Mizerski

26 – Jim and Pam Edick